

## Thetis Island Recycling/Garbage Report 2009

Operating since March of this year our new system of recycling including the relocation of garbage bins to the locked site seems to be great success. Many items change hands over the course of the three-hour openings Wednesday and Saturday of each week with an even greater volume of recyclable material being sorted and stored for eventual removal to Vancouver Island recycling facilities. The infrastructure to run an efficient system is now complete save the potential purchase of a compactor. Many people have expressed that the new system is a vast improvement over the old system.

Planning for the coming year will be difficult given a number of factors that come into play. When the idea for this system was first conceived the world was a different place, at least economically. At that time many recyclable materials would have had marketable value and mixed materials could be dropped off at no charge. Currently the charge to drop mixed recyclable materials is \$60/tonne and most materials have little marketable value, save metals. Consequently we've been forced to sort materials carefully or be charged to drop them at the recycler. Expenses for garbage removal have been declining slowly since a high 2006, even though a large volume of material has been diverted into recycling, due to the fact that tipping fees at CVRD continue to rise steadily. Predicting all the factors that may influence cost to run the system will only come with many years of experience.

Annual expenditures for the system are predicted to be \$23,000 for 2010 (\$8,000 garbage/\$15,000 recycling). I think that this is a generous amount as there was a significant amount of extra removal costs as the system was starting up and efficiencies were being worked out. Based on 230 contributors the fees for 2010 to cover expenditures should be \$100. To cover the deficit in the garbage fund, which was incurred largely for infrastructure, a one-time fee of \$6.50 (? Will depend on the deficit, but may I suggest that this be covered by the general fund). If considered necessary, an annual fee of \$6.50 for the biannual large item pick up, however considering the deficit situation this would need to be \$13 for 2010 to raise the necessary funds if a pick up is planned for next year.

Hope this is helpful!

Ron Bannister