

PHOTO FEATURE

Good Old-Fashioned Fun! Students from Great Village Elementary head to "Penny's Hill" each Friday afternoon (weather permitting) for coasting. (Harrington Photos)



It is always more fun to coast with a buddy. Brooke Gamble and Patricia MacRae double up on the sled.



Fun in the fresh air! Zachary Best takes his turn on the hill.



Noel Miller is flying down the coasting hill.



Cousins Ethan Coleman, Bria Tanner and MacKenzie Slack taking a time out from coasting.



Peter Geldart was Tony's first customer at his roadside stand in Glenholme. See the full story on page 16. (Harrington Photo)

Snowshoeing Grows with Hike Series



By Janet Barlow

Now that winter is upon us, rather than hibernate indoors, Hike NS says to get out and try snowshoeing. You'll be in good company, since everyone seems to be trying it.

"Snowshoeing is probably one of the fastest-growing outdoor activities in our province," says Janet Barlow, Hike NS Executive Director. "We've had the highest number of events registered across

the province this season, even surpassing our fall hike series. Last year, people came out in droves."

Hike NS and 38 host organizations partnered up to offer the guided snowshoeing series in January, February and March.

Over 65 snowshoe hikes are scheduled province-wide. Hikes are led by local folks and participants qualify to win trail prizes. Hikes are free or low-

cost and pre-registration is required unless otherwise indicated.

The full schedule with registration details and directions is found at www.hikenovascotia.ca. Hikes are listed by date and region (Halifax, South Shore, Valley, Fundy, Highland and Cape Breton). Hike NS thanks its local partners for organizing the hikes on the ground as well as Goose Lane Editions and the NS Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage for their support.

Wondering where to find snowshoes? Not to worry,

since you can easily find snowshoes to borrow, rent or buy using Hike NS's online guide, with 75 listings. A growing number of municipalities, businesses and organizations are buying sets of snowshoes to lend or rent. There are at least 55 venues listed where you can borrow them for free.

Hike NS encourages and promotes a growing hiking culture throughout the province, striving to be the voice for those who hike, walk and snowshoe.

Janet Barlow, Hike Nova Scotia can be reached at (902) 932-6902 info@hikenovascotia.ca



\$24-Million for Collecting and Sorting

By Maurice Rees

Solid Waste collection and processing costs for all of Nova Scotia costs taxpayers \$24.1-Million and its rising quickly. Collection costs of \$11.032-Million and processing costs of \$13.07-Million were contained in a report received from Nova Scotia Department of Environment.

With all the news reports in all media following China's ban on importation of low grade plastics effective December 31, 2017, the Shoreline Journal contacted all UNSM member municipalities, but the number of reports filed by the deadline was so small our attempt to provide province-wide data had failed. With solid waste being such an important and costly matter for taxpayer, we originally thought all municipalities would be eager to share the data, since Nova Scotia claims to be a national leader in solid waste diversion.

There were two factors, which caused us to change our approach to the matter. First is it was the lack of response from many municipalities, but the one thing we found most discouraging occurred, when calling some municipalities... in some cases we were told, we don't release those figures. You will have to file a Freedom of Information request.

(Editor's note: Not sure where these people get off. The requested data is a matter of public record, not a confidential contract matter,

nor a personnel matter. Not quite sure where these people get off, but in due course, contact will be made to the Mayor/Warden and CAO in those area areas. Important information such as this should not be withheld from the public.)

In a separate story, elsewhere in this issue (page 7), you will find a story on a January 26th telephone interview with Department of Environment Minister, Iain Rankin. When discussing the large reserve fund which municipalities must have in place to take care of ongoing requirements should a municipality close its landfill, it was mentioned to him Colchester's current reserve fund is in the vicinity of \$13-Million.

A breakdown of the various categories of solid waste collected by the municipalities is shown in a spreadsheet adjacent to this story. It

shows across the province a total of 105,997 tonnes of green organics were collected, while residual waste (that which can not be composted) and must be sent to the landfill totaled 282,404 tonnes. Fibre which would include cardboard and newspapers amounted to 34,243 tonnes, while textiles, used clothing, reached 21 tonnes.

The volume of Styrofoam used in residences which occupies a lot of space reached 21 tonnes. Colchester and some other municipalities have purchased special equipment to compact Styrofoam to take up less space. Metal totalled 2,501 tonnes while discarded glass amassing a total of 3,599 tonnes.

Even though prices for the above items separated from the waste stream vary and have been dropping the most recent problem has been low grade plastics. On December

31st China who announced a forthcoming ban in July 2017 implemented a ban on low grade plastics. Previously China had been the global sole source to dispose of low grade plastics.

At the materials recycling facilities, plastics are broken down into two categories, with low grade plastics including, but not limited to, shrink wrap, single use plastic bags and plastic which covers the meat purchased while grocery shopping. Plastics totalled 3,899 tonnes, while low grade plastics reached an amazing total of 3,156 tonnes.

In effort to put less material into the landfill, the province is looking at Extended Producer Responsibility, and Divert Nova Scotia is soon expected to issue a tender to undertake an efficiency study.

See 2018 Nova Scotia Municipal Solid Waste Volume Spreadsheet



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