



Round & Round

The Official Newsletter of the Alberta Beverage Container Recycling Corporation

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NOW THAT WAS A PARTY!

When an event can promote itself as Canada's largest Country Music Festival, including international and local talent on the main stage, along with beer gardens, rodeo, street performers, tradeshow and casino, you can bet there's going to be a party. And that's exactly what it was from August 3rd to 6th in Camrose, Alberta once again this year. More than 87,000 people were in attendance even though they had to endure a bit of rain.

It's quite a job to collect garbage and beverage containers for a crowd that size. For the past three years the Camrose Rotary Club has played a major role by establishing the garbage and beverage container collection program for the event. The Rotary Club manages the collection of beverage containers on site, which are then taken by Daysland Bottle Depot, in partnership with Camrose Bottle Depot. Young people are hired to sort the containers that can then make their way into the beverage container recycling system.

The first year the Rotary Club used large bins boldly marked to be used for "recyclables only". They found that the system didn't work and that there was a lot of garbage mixed with recyclable containers. The next year they purchased twenty blue recycling boxes that they marked again to be used only for recyclable containers, and placed these boxes next to a garbage container. However they still found a lot of mixed use and determined that they didn't have enough bins and containers to service the crowd.

This year ABCRC was a sponsor for the event and donated 100 of their container recycling bins. Once again these bins were placed strategically beside a garbage can. When the party was over the Rotary Club found that their job was considerably easier than in previous years. The ABCRC bins are a translucent green plastic so it can be seen from the outside that their use is for beverage containers and there was little or no garbage to separate before collection by Daysland and Camrose Bottle Depots.

ABCRC received great coverage for their sponsorship as well, including signage, commercials on the big screen, an ad in the brochure and the ABCRC brochure given to all attendees. An ABCRC Mascot was also on site as well at the trade show and in other locations on the grounds.



ABCRC signage at the Big Valley Jamboree helped to spread the recycling message.



ABCRC Mascot at the Big Valley Jamboree



100 ABCRC beverage container recycling bins were located throughout the site at the event

School Recycling Program Winners

The school recycling program has now been in operation three years for the elementary schools and one year for junior and senior high schools. The program is intended to encourage communities to join in achieving beverage container recycling goals to reduce landfill accumulation.

Each school receives three recycling bins, bag liners and labels for the bins and a variety of educational material. Prizes are awarded in different categories, based on the number of students enrolled at the school relative to the number of containers collected. The program is free to the school which is able to keep the deposits collected. Entries are supported by the receipts from the bottle depot indicating the number of containers returned.

In the 2005 – 2006 program there were 284 elementary schools registered in the program, and 85 junior/senior high schools. A total of \$149,650 was refunded and 2,780,705 containers returned. This was the highest return yet!

Here are the winners: (categories indicate number of students enrolled at the school):

Elementary Schools

- <400 – Glendale Middle School, Red Deer – 40,739 containers
- 201-399 – Poplar Ridge School, Red Deer – 51,032 containers
- >200 – Yellowhead Koinonia Christian School, Edson – 25,978 containers

Junior/Senior High Schools (see category note above):

- <701 – Father Lacombe School, Calgary – 42,296 containers
- 501-700 – Onoway Junior/Senior High School, Onoway – 48,142 containers
- >500 – Consort School, Consort – 40,987 containers

Congratulations to all depots and schools for their hard work. Plaque presentations are being made with local MLA and media through October and November.

REGISTRATION FOR THE 2006-2007 SCHOOL RECYCLING PROGRAM IS NOW OPEN. GO TO www.abcrc.com 

Can Work Be Really This Much Fun?

When students scour the resources for summer jobs they never know what will turn up. For Leanne Michie, who was studying environmental resources in Waterton, and Sarah Fougere, working on a degree in Ecology at the University of Manitoba, the internet posting for mascots seemed like a fit.

Work as a mascot, or Recycling Council of Alberta (RCA) Ambassador, turned out to be a lot of fun. Leanne and Sarah were two of six ambassadors who promoted beverage container recycling at over twenty festivals and events throughout the Province this summer. Leanne and Sarah were located in Calgary and did most of the traveling south of the city, while the other four ambassadors were located in Edmonton and traveled in the central and northern parts of the province.

Shawn Searle coordinated all this activity from Edmonton.

Some of the fun involved participating in parades but kibitzing at events and trade fairs brought a few smiles as well. The work these ambassadors did has helped to promote the Community Champions Program and has supplemented the School Program, along with other ABCRC events. 



Premier Ralph Klein (L) and Guy West (centre) with the ABCRC Mascot



L-R: April Matthias, Lyndsay Haynes, Sarah Fougere, Leanne Michie, Michelle Lord, Sharon Riley and Shawn Searle, coordinator



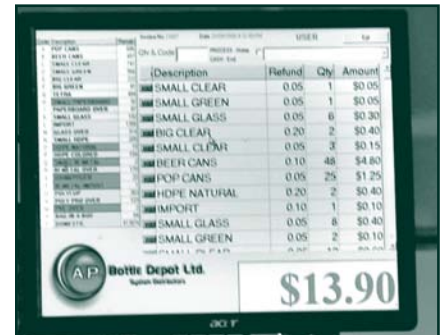
Pat Cashion of Vitreous hams it up with our Mascot

New Ideas From An Energetic Visionary

As he speeds across the concrete floor of AP Bottle Depot on rollerblades, from customer service to operations management, it is obvious that Andy Moon is a man with enough energy to make things happen. Now that his vision for his business is beginning to materialize, things are happening.

Andy is in partnership with his brother, Peter, and mother, Kyong, and he has been developing exceptional ideas for his business for a number of years. One of the first opportunities he saw for improvement was in the area of reducing employee stress which causes more turnover than he wanted to accept. He recognized boredom in job specific routines and inaccuracies from otherwise great staff whose strengths were not in arithmetic. The solution was to be found in software that Andy and Peter developed to overcome these issues. The result is an operation of teamwork where employees can change tasks throughout the day and maintain control of those tasks through computerized stations. Because the software is based on a formulated spreadsheet, the math requirements have been eliminated.

The system allows staff to select client history by organization, corporation, individual and even homeless clients. Colour coding on the spreadsheet indicates to staff when the shipment is ready to be sent to ABCRC.



Software program developed by Andy and Peter Moon



Liz (L) and Vic (R) at one of the computerized work stations

Andy says his volume has doubled in less than a year and members of his staff are active participants in a fast paced and friendly environment where ease of accuracy in doing the job contributes to job satisfaction.

AP's customer service program has helped to establish a large foundation of loyal customers. They loan their truck to community groups and have a program for them to drop off the truck without sorting the containers. That way, the group can focus on collections and AP provides the service in sorting. The group gets their cheque within a couple of weeks. A recent community group collected five times the number of containers than they had in previous drives, netted \$5,000, and met their objective of a trip to Italy! They probably couldn't have done it without AP's help. AP also recycles all the lids, caps and plastic bags that are the residual materials left from container returns.

1990 they had their first location at Atco Park. Since 1996 they have been making appeals to locate at the CFB Base, the Canada Lands area where the Calgary Farmers' Market is located. Since they had not met with success, a couple of years ago they moved into a 14,000 square foot space in Atco Park. Finally their dream has come true and they have recently moved into 24,000 square feet of space at the CFB Base. Andy is considering offering small office space to non-profit environment groups so that he can support the sustainability of environmental issues on a larger scale.

AP Bottle Depot has moved their location four times over the past sixteen years. In



One Stop Recycling

Andy's vision doesn't stop at efficiencies in beverage container recycling operations though. His goal is to be the first one-stop recycling operation, a vision that he believes goes beyond anything else being done in Alberta. Some of his ideas have come from visitors to the Province who have experience with successful programs in other provinces. He has already established partnerships to process food containers made of glass, plastic, and tin, along with a partnership with the curbside program. This new location may be just what he needs to make this happen.



AP Staff: L-R (back row) Alan, Nate, Liz, Vicki, Norm, T.J., Darren; (front row) Jeremy, Adriel and Josh

Although the staff at AP Bottle Depot may envy Andy's days on rollerblades, liability issues make it impossible for anyone else to share that part of the fun. Andy says his staff is okay with not rollerblading though - they've seen him take a few spills!

The new AP Bottle Depot web site should be operating soon. Check it out at www.keepingalbertaclean.ca.

Alberta Beverage Container Recycling Corporation Statistical Analysis - Weight Diverted (KG)						
Twelve Months Ending August						
2005				2006		
Sales (KG)	Recovered (KG)	Diversion Rate	SUMMARY TOTALS	Sales (KG)	Recovered (KG)	Diversion Rate
			Material			
6,822,499	5,388,687	79.0%	Aluminum	7,123,708	5,526,017	77.6%
10,294,736	7,278,230	70.7%	PET Plastic	12,524,379	8,571,515	68.4%
41,331,923	32,973,609	79.8%	Glass	44,632,410	34,977,374	78.4%
3,072,421	1,718,009	55.9%	Polycoat	3,252,624	1,713,782	52.7%
444,489	266,542	60.0%	Bi-Metal	516,907	287,466	55.6%
61,966,069	47,625,077	76.9%	Consolidated	68,050,028	51,076,154	75.1%

Promotions and New Staff

The Calgary office and plant of ABCRC welcome Tracy Zang in Accounts Receivable, Umed Lodhia as Accounting Manager, Lorraine Zwicker as Executive Assistant and Receptionist, and Angela Bye as Depot Clerk.

Bronwyn Stuart has moved to Product Registration.

Thanks to Hugh Kwan for helping in the Edmonton office this summer. Also, a special welcome to Thach Son's wife (Thach is at the Edmonton Plant). She arrived in Canada in August after their marriage last October. ♻️

Depot Training and Marketing Tools

ABCRC has created new depot brochures and door knockers which will be distributed shortly. All depots will receive a supply so contact Dawne Pettipas at ABCRC if they don't arrive by the end of November.

The first module of the ABDA video training series being produced for use by the depots is now near completion. Contact ABDA for more information. ♻️

Coming Events

- October 11 to 13 Youth Environmental Summit, Kananaskis
- October 16 Winnifried Stewart Association Partnership Launch, Edmonton
- October 16 to 22 Waste Reduction Week 2006
- Oct 16 – Nov 20 WRW Annual Community Champions Challenge
- October 28 ABDA Annual AGM, Edmonton
- November ABCRC External safety Audit begins
- November 7 to 9 ABCRC & UFCW 401 Union Negotiations
- November 16 to 18 ATA Science Council, Kananaskis

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