



# Round & Round

The Official Newsletter of the Alberta Beverage Container Recycling Corporation

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## ABCRC Community Initiatives

### Waste Reduction Week Depot Contest

Since 2001, Waste Reduction Week in Canada has endeavoured to educate and engage Canadians in recycling practices. The theme is "Too Good to Waste" and this year awareness will again be raised during the October 18th to 24th Waste Reduction Week.

The Waste Reduction Week (WRW) web site lists resources and contacts to assist communities, schools and business with waste minimization and conservation initiatives. The address is [www.wrwcanada.com](http://www.wrwcanada.com).

ABCRC is encouraging the bottle depots to participate in a contest as part of the Waste Reduction Week activities. Although launched the week of October 18th, the contest will run for a month following the launch. The purpose of the contest is to increase community knowledge, activity and awareness of bottle depots and the beverage container recycling system. By participating, depots will be building community relations and, as a result, expanding their businesses.

This is a provincial competition with three categories – urban, rural, and metro. Depots will give each community group (schools, bottle drives, clubs, etc.) a ballot to complete when they return their containers. At the end of the month, the bottle depot with the most groups to return containers, will win a prize sponsored by ABCRC. Depot winners will also receive a plaque stating their success as "2004 ABCRC Community Champion," which can be displayed at the depot. The community group with the largest container return count will be awarded a prize sponsored by the BCMB.

With the launch taking place during Waste Reduction Week there will be lots of publicity for the Beverage Container Recycling System and the depots alike. Coverage will take place during Waste Reduction Week and again at the end of the month when winners are announced.

Join the fun! Even if a depot doesn't win a prize or a community doesn't have the largest container return, this is a wonderful way to help our communities achieve waste reduction objectives. ♻️



John Boyd demonstrates new beverage container recycling bins.

### Elementary School Program



This program is another in ABCRC's ongoing appeal to communities to join in achieving beverage container recycling goals. Schools can register online at the ABCRC web site, [www.abcrc.com](http://www.abcrc.com), to participate in the new K-6 Elementary School Beverage Container Recycling Program.

Each school will receive three free recycling bins, teaching resources and information. The program is free to the school, which means the school will keep 100% of the deposits collected. The school keeps the receipts from the bottle depot, inputs the number of containers monthly on the ABCRC web site, and is then eligible for rewards at the end of the year.

As of October 1st 133 schools had already registered for the program. With very positive remarks from both the schools and the depots, everyone is very eager to get started. Participation will help to make Alberta's Beverage Container Recycling System even more successful! ♻️

# SUMMER CELEBRATIONS

As always, both Klondike Days in Edmonton and the Calgary Stampede provide a great opportunity for great food and a relaxing day.

Staff & Guests celebrate Klondike Days at the ABCRC Edmonton Plant



Volunteers from The Boys and Girls Club managed the ABCRC recycling bins at Premier Klein's Klondike Days Breakfast

Edmonton Staff



ABCRC hosts Calgary Stampede Lunch



Calgary Staff

# GOOD SPORTS FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Did it start as a conspiracy amongst the staff to expose...bald guy?! Whatever the inspiration, the 13 participants at the ABCRC head shaving party on September 2nd put their heads on the line for a great cause. ABCRC matched the dollars that staff contributed to the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation for a total donation of \$4,666. There were also contributions from bottle depots and industry contacts. Congratulations to participants and contributors alike.



Guy West gets bald for the cause



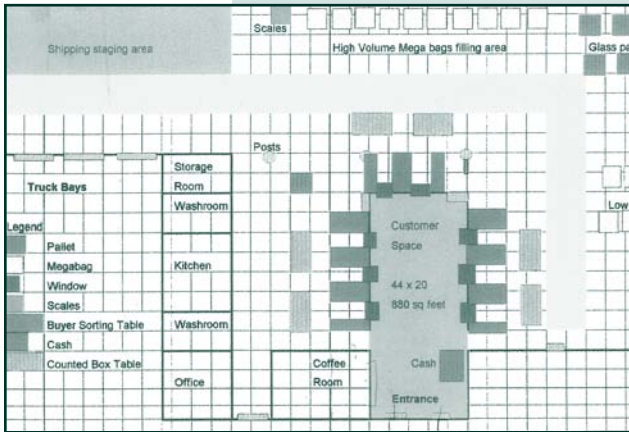
Cory Colyer cleaning up Mike Harvey



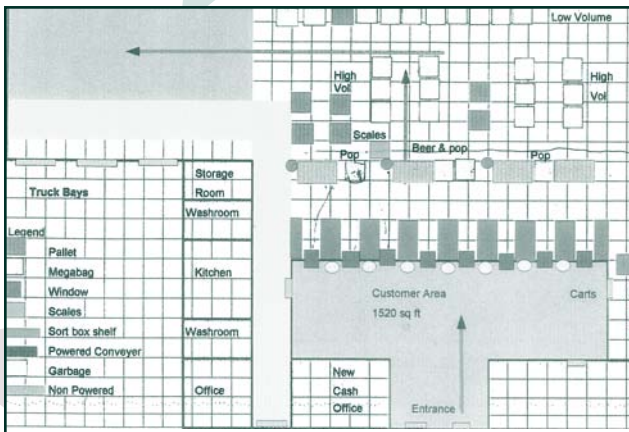
Titus D'Souza Before & After



## More Than a Facelift



Original Layout



New Layout

It wasn't just the dated appearance of the REDI Bottle Depot in Medicine Hat that planted the seed for change. The depot is part of the REDI Enterprises Society, a non-profit agency that is proud to be working with the community to provide opportunities for living and working experiences for persons with disabilities.

As part of their mandate REDI operates a bottle depot and recycling plant, which provide employment opportunities. REDI bottle depot is a totally integrated workplace where people with and without disabilities work in equal status. The non-profit nature of the organization allows revenue to be used to further help the REDI Enterprises Society objectives in assisting people with disabilities.

When Blaine Cheverie went to the depot as Operations Supervisor three years ago after working with the Society for a previous nine years, he recognized the inefficiencies in the operations. Beverage containers were being handled too many times and the distances between operations not only made the process slower, but also exhausted the staff. By reorganizing the depot space used by staff and customers, REDI Bottle Depot has been able to achieve amazing results. The original horseshoe layout has been changed to a linear nine-window plan. This change has increased the space for customers by nearly 60%, making the customer experience a great deal more pleasant. The reorganization makes the staff workspaces more pleasant as well. Each of the nine new windows has three shelves on each side for the handling of the containers. The containers then go directly to the pallets and are ready for shipping.

The objective of the new plan was to create the shortest distance between point A and point B. Where there is high volume at the receiving point, the steps are fewer than at the back where the volume is less. Blaine wanted the staff to be able to handle a 70,000 container day without over-tiring and both he and the staff believe that goal has been achieved.

The new staff requirement of 22 from a previous 40, is separated into customer service window staff and those who maintain the shipping operations in the back. Those who were no longer needed at the depot benefited from the Vocation Services division of REDI Enterprises Society and were assisted in finding other work in the community.

A secondary objective of the renovation was to create an inviting appearance for the depot. Open spaces with contemporary colours, banners and posters all contribute to the creation of a place that is pleasing to both customers and staff.

Of course this success story was not without challenges. The REDI depot is open seven days a week and maintained its usual availability throughout the renovation. With a lot of support, everyone was able to serve the needs of the customers and are now enjoying the new environment. ♻️




Well designed space presented in vibrant colours

## Alberta Beverage Container Recycling Corporation Statistical Analysis


Twelve Months Ending August

2003				2004		
Sales	Recovered	Return Rate	SUMMARY TOTALS	Sales	Recovered	Return Rate
			Material			
6,573,951	5,290,524	80.48%	Aluminum	6,737,382	5,408,475	80.28%
8,175,781	6,104,328	74.66%	PET Plastic	9,117,074	6,735,988	73.88%
38,470,695	31,664,713	82.31%	Glass	39,579,750	32,442,607	81.97%
2,832,040	1,562,190	55.16%	Polycoat	3,089,983	1,718,045	55.60%
497,220	253,699	51.02%	Bi-Metal	431,166	251,132	58.24%
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	Consolidated	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
57,031,310	45,158,966	79.18%		59,412,832	46,826,396	78.82%

## Coming Events

- October 16th is the date for the ABDA Annual General Meeting and Dinner.
- October 18th marks the beginning of Waste Reduction Week.
- On October 28th there will be a school concert at the Jack Singer Concert Hall to promote the launch of the ART school program.
- **Watch for the ABCRC display at the following events:**  
 Recycling Council of Alberta Conference October 6th to 8th in Jasper  
 Alberta Teachers Association Science Council in Banff 

## Q&A

- Q** – I used to save my pop tabs for charities to buy wheelchairs. Whatever happened to that program?
- A** – With Alberta’s Beverage Container Recycling System you can now recycle the whole can, and as a result, raise money more quickly for charity. Here’s an example:
- To raise \$5.00 for charity by pulling the tabs off cans you would need to collect about 12 pounds of aluminum. (That’s assuming you would get over 40 cents Canadian per pound; you may get much less). Since it takes more than 1,000 tabs to make a pound, you would need to collect and pull the tabs off more than 12,000 cans to raise \$5.00.
  - If you took the whole can back to a depot for the refund, or donated the cans to one of your local charity bottle drives, you would need only 100 cans to raise \$5.00. This is because each non-beer aluminum beverage can in Alberta carries a 5-cent refundable deposit.
  - There are 216 bottle depots in the province that are experts at helping organize bottle drives! 

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**Round & Round** welcomes any comments.

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