

Olds Bottle Depot Recognized

The Town of Olds is a winner, according to Communities in Bloom, and the Olds Bottle Depot received special mention in their report on the town's excellence.

Communities in Bloom is a provincial, national and international program started after World War II by Charles de Gaulle in an effort to improve the war torn French countryside. The idea spread to England and then to Canada, initially in Quebec. Now Alberta communities are very involved. This year Olds is a national winner in the 5,001 to 10,000 population category.

Communities in Bloom promotes involvement and action by citizens of all ages, the municipal government, local organizations and business. The program strives to improve the tidiness, appearance and visual appeal of Canada's neighbourhoods, parks, open spaces and streets through the imaginative use of flowers, plants and

trees. A focus on environmental awareness and preservation of heritage and culture is also an integral part of its success resulting in an improved quality of life.

As pointed out by the Communities in Bloom organization, this is more than a beauty contest. There are eight criteria used to evaluate municipalities, including floral displays, turf and groundcover areas, landscaped areas, heritage preservation, tidiness effort, environmental awareness, urban forestry and community involvement. Olds scored 86.2 percent overall in the ratings for these criteria.

Much of the praise was saved for the bottle recycling program, described as a "clean cheerful facility, decorated with plants and artwork...and a model for operation of such a facility." The depot actually falls under the umbrella of Accredited Supports to the Community (ASC), but runs as a stand alone, not-for-profit business which redistributes its earnings to fund a variety of services for families, babies, children and adults with special needs.

The Olds Bottle Depot has a history of providing opportunities for employment training, filling staff requirements with both youth and disabled persons, and ensuring a pleasant and secure work environment. Their not-for-profit status also helped them as an important contributor on the Communities in Bloom checklist for Olds.

The depot prides itself on service to the community. From a state-of-the-art facility, customers are greeted by friendly, competent staff. Large volumes of bottles, such as collection from community bottle drives, can be dropped off for handling, offering a convenience and time saver that has become very popular.

Congratulations to the Olds Bottle Depot staff and to the Town of Olds! 



L to R (front row) Sheila Kozenko, David Lynch, Carrie Baldwin, Charles Radford (back row) Stevie Johnston, Carolyn Graham, Caroline Baldwin, Donna Wegner



School Program Now Includes All School Levels

The school beverage container collection program that began in 2003 for schools from kindergarten to Grade 6 has now been expanded to include junior and senior high schools in Alberta.

Some refinements have been made to the program based on feedback through an online survey completed by those who had previously registered in the program.

The schools use the green transparent container recycling bins so they are able to watch their progress as the container level in the bin – and their awareness - rises. ♻️

“BINS FOR SALE”



Beverage container recycling bins can be purchased from ABCRC at the special depot price of \$19.95 each or in bulk at 16 for \$256 (\$16.00 each). Regular price of \$32.00 each is available to non-depot purchasers.

**Adjusted CRF rates in effect
February 1st, 2006
go to www.abcrc.com for rate fees**

2nd ANNUAL DEPOT CONTEST

Waste Reduction Week Contest

The Waste Reduction Week Contest for depots and community groups ran again this year between October 17th and November 27th.

Last year there were 576 entries in the contest with 36 depots participating and a huge response from rural areas. Approximately 1,058,272 beverage containers were collected with a total dollar value reaching nearly \$75,000.

Watch for the results and the winners in the next issue of *Round & Round* or check online at www.abcrc.com ♻️

Monster Machine Improves Efficiency of Glass Crushing

Not all good things come in small packages. The new glass crushers that have been installed in the ABCRC Calgary and Edmonton plants are monsters compared to their predecessors.

The change to bulk glass bags at some depots in late 2002 was the forerunner to safer and more efficient glass handling procedures. However, the old glass crushers and conveyors were slow and couldn't handle the resulting increase in volume experienced with the use of these bulk bags. Maintenance and part replacement costs also increased with the larger volumes being processed.



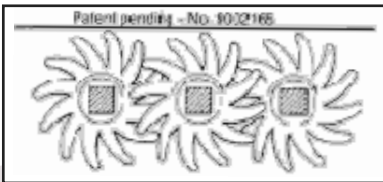
Old Crusher



New Crusher

Once the decision was made to replace the crushers, it was the beginning of an intense period of research for Mike Harvey, Operations Manager at ABCRC. A starting point was to look at a crushing machine used for materials other than glass to determine whether it might be a better option than the "hammermill" style being used. A hammermill crusher employs three rotating hammers within a larger disc to impact and crush the glass that passes through it. The challenge to locate a source for other types of crushers started with the potash industry in Saskatchewan and led to several options to be considered. This search began in the fall of 2003.

Ultimately it was Lubo Screening & Recycling Systems, a Dutch recycling machinery company that had been promoting other container recycling plant equipment to ABCRC and heard about their need for a glass crushing solution, that suggested a glass crusher that might do the job. Their model uses a "star screen," rather than a hammermill, to crush the glass (see diagram). Lubo's patented star screens work according to the following principle. A bed of rotating stars propels the material to be screened onto breaker plates. The smaller material falls through the stars, while the remaining fraction is propelled again until it is small enough to fall through the screen. The screening fraction is not only determined by the space between the stars, but also by the star diameter.



Custom size selection allows screening of different sized materials

Although this glass crusher had been installed elsewhere, it was performing jobs with different requirements from those of ABCRC. Lubo, however, was confident the machine could meet or exceed

processing requirements and that with slight modification to improve conveyancing capability, would be an ideal solution. They backed this confidence with a guarantee that their machine would meet the volume.

The installation of new crushers that could handle 8 to 10 times the volume of the old crushers also required larger feed hoppers with greater capacity. The new hoppers are four times the size of the old four foot wide hoppers. The silo storage of the crushed glass also needed to be reconsidered, along with the conveyancing system from the crushers to the silos. These concerns resulted in replacing the bucket style conveyancing systems with inclined conveyors and reducing the number of silos from six compartments to two large ones at each plant.



Conveyor installation at Edmonton Plant

With confidence that a solution had been found, the next challenge became delivery and installation. As is so often the case, unforeseen circumstances had an impact. The December 2004 order anticipated a February 2005 installation; a time when glass volumes tend to be lower. The crusher was built in Europe and shipped partly through Montreal and partly through Vancouver. Volume related manufacturing delays postponed delivery until June, four months later than hoped for. Also the estimated four day to one week installation at each plant extended to a total time of three months due to problems with international electrical specifications. So it wasn't until September that both plants were fully operational with the new machinery.

For the time being one old crusher remains in each plant to be used until the final transition from boxes to bulk glass bags takes place, since not all depots have made the full transition to bulk glass processing.

All this upheaval has required a great deal of flexibility and cooperation between the plant management and teams at each of the plants. They are to be commended on the wonderful job done of keeping up operations while such large disruptions were taking place. ♻️

Alberta Beverage Container Recycling Corporation Statistical Analysis - Weight Diverted (KG)						
Twelve Months Ending October						
2004				2005		
Sales	Recovered	Diversion Rate (KG)	SUMMARY TOTALS	Sales	Recovered	Diversion Rate (KG)
			Material			
6,705,986	5,306,045	79.12%	Aluminum	6,765,947	5,437,256	80.36%
9,113,418	6,701,198	73.53%	PET Plastic	10,447,150	7,507,969	71.87%
39,374,513	32,073,391	81.46%	Glass	41,301,077	33,899,039	82.08%
3,024,373	1,664,832	55.05%	Polycoat	3,047,673	1,726,305	56.64%
415,675	247,398	59.52%	Bi-Metal	448,393	270,696	60.37%
59,088,595	46,259,522	78.29%	Consolidated	62,576,550	49,141,806	78.53%

Promotions and New Staff...

Congratulations to Gord Boyes, ABCRC Edmonton Plant, who will become Operations Manager, Northern Alberta effective January 1, 2006.

At the Calgary Plant congratulations go to five long standing employees who have been promoted to new positions, effective January 1, 2006. Susan Williams will be the Safety and HR Supervisor, Janet Ying will be the Accounting Manager, Mark Backous will be General Accountant, Annie Luc will be Accounts Payable and Karen Harman will be the Marketing Assistant.

New faces are to be seen in both Edmonton and Calgary.

At the Edmonton Plant, Bo Kruey, Troy Brown, Tevor Brown and Aklilu Agiro have joined the team.

The Calgary Plant welcomes Thomas Tessema, Yongheng Wang and James Kulang.

Keith Luong has joined the Calgary office to handle IT, along with Sherry Bailie, Depot Clerk. ♻️

Coming Events

- January 1st Bulk Glass Handling Implementation
- February 1st CRF Fees Updated
- February 9th & 10th Central Alberta Teachers' Convention in Red Deer
- February 9th & 10th North Central Alberta Teachers' Convention in Edmonton
- February 16th & 17th Calgary Teachers' Convention
- February 16th & 17th Northeast Teachers' Convention in Edmonton
- February 23rd & 24th Palliser Teachers' Convention in Calgary
- March 2nd & 3rd Greater Edmonton Teachers' Convention
- March 9th & 10th Central East Alberta Teachers' Convention

Round & Round

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Round & Round welcomes any comments.

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