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Since May, Alec, Carrie and I have logged over 10,000 km and met with staff from dozens of programs from Renfrew to Cochrane through to Essex Windsor and more. Certainly the discussions have been flavoured by the release of Bill 91, and questions about its implications and possible impacts on CIF funding applications and programs abound. Despite the uncertainty, the Bill is generating constructive dialogue about how municipalities can work with their neighbours to create functional 'waste sheds' and cooperatives and we'll share some of those successes at the fall ORW along with our insights on the Bill.

On the REOI front, those who have been through the CIF application process know it takes time to flesh out the details and refine project deliverables to ensure an application's best chances of approval. We are closing in on October approvals for project applications under the 2013 REOI (with details below). Please don't hesitate to call your project manager for an update on your project's status.

CIF staff members are also working with municipalities to complete outstanding projects, release the findings and invoice the CIF for their efforts. With only a handful of 2009 projects left, we're already chasing the outstanding 2010 projects for results. If you have an outstanding project and haven't heard from one of us...you will soon! We encourage you to check out new project reports posted on the CIF website and to read through the [CIF 2008 to 2013 Review](#) a new document that summarizes the impact of this work over the past five years.

Looking ahead, planning is well underway for next month's Ontario Recycler Workshop (ORW) and the Blue Box training session that will take place in Barrie on October 8 and 9 respectively. Details about both events follow toward the end of this issue of Connections.

Last but not least, budget season is next up on our radar, with plans to present the proposed 2014 budget to the CIF Committee in early November. Over the past year, many of you have given Alec, Carrie and I excellent ideas for future initiatives and fundable projects. We've discussed funding more audits, developing multi-language P&E and working on standards and best practices

for drop off and depot operations - just to name a few. If you have ideas for next year, now is the time to put them in front of us so we can include them in the 2014 budget.

As always, I welcome your comments, questions and concerns. And...I'll look forward to seeing you at the ORW if not before.

Mike

Mike Birett, CIF Director
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Reporting on CIF 2008 to 2013 Review

Since its start up in 2008 and up to the end of the first quarter of 2013, the CIF distributed almost \$35 million in funding to 482 projects aimed at promoting continuous improvement in Ontario's recycling system. This includes a combined investment of almost \$85 million into Ontario's Blue Box program over five years, resulting in diversion of new materials, development of new programs, construction of new facilities and real cost savings.

More than 70% of Ontario municipalities with Blue Box programs have benefited from CIF funding, for a net result of approximately \$11.3 million in annual savings and nearly 30% increase in best practices compliance.

What's more important is the breadth and the impact of the projects themselves. For example:

- municipalities have purchased over 700,000 new blue boxes through the fund's joint procurement process, adding 800,000 m³ in new capacity annually and resulting in cost reductions of 37% to date
- program staff have provided support for 39 multi-res initiatives, resulting in an average increase in diversion of 29% on completed projects
- waste management personnel have taken part in contract management training courses and many more have used CIF tools to effectively manage \$206 million annually in blue box collection/processing contracts
- municipalities that have completed a total of 102 new recycling plans and another 80 communications plans have as a group, doubled their best practice scores over the past three years
- more than 40 communities are planning for anticipated changes in this industry with CIF support for regionalized collection/processing.

Through this and coming issues of CIF Connections we will report on your successes and your many contributions toward continuous improvement in Ontario's recycling system. We are also fine-tuning plans to share this information in different ways through the Centre of Excellence, through our e-news 'bulletin' and website, and have convened various working groups, focus groups and consultations to build on project results, gather new information and expand on the work you all do.

We invite you to review the [CIF 2008 to 2013 Review](#)

REOI Update

Having carefully reviewed each of the applications and worked through many of them with project proponents, the review process for this year's REOI will soon draw to a close with project awards expected to be announced in October.



While completing research for a few REOI applications, Carrie gets a first hand look at the Transtor Transfer Station in Timmins, ON. This Transtor system was installed with the assistance of CIF in 2010.

Every applicant will be contacted before project announcements are made public. The expected timeframe is as follows:

- The CIF Project Committee will review a package of approved applications with funding requests under \$250,000 at its meeting on Tuesday, October 1, 2013.
- Applications that exceed \$250,000 will be presented to the CIF Committee on October 22, 2013.
- All project awards are expected to follow, toward the end of October.



Working with Muskoka Parry Sound area reps to finalize REOI applications and crystalize findings from prior projects led to a tour of the Whitestone transfer site with Floyd Thomson, Public Works Manager, Municipality of Whitestone.

Each REOI applicant should have been contacted (either by phone or in person) by a CIF program representative to review your application and discuss any outstanding questions. If you have not received a phone call or visit to discuss your application, please email Alec Scott at archenv@sympatico.ca or call him (705) 722-0225 before October 1st.

Spring Consultation 2013 Sessions on the Blue Box Program



An early spring visit to North Bay as part of the Blue Box Consultation program – yielded a new understanding of local municipal issues (not to mention wildlife street crossing 'zones!')

During the spring, Mike and Alec had an opportunity to meet with many of you as we toured the Province to host Blue Box consultation sessions in London, Dryden, Peel, Smiths Falls and North Bay. Again this year, the Blue Box consultation sessions were extremely valuable for us because you took time to come out and share your thoughts on key issues to make sure that we understand your needs so that CIF's priorities can align as much as possible with the realities that you face every day.

We received many hours worth of great feedback. The following is just a very brief summary of the key points raised by participants:

- The new AMO payout model reflects comments and concerns expressed in the 2011 consultation and in general, is easy to understand
 - Participants appreciate the on-line version that includes formulas that allows individual programs to do sensitivity analyses for recovery rate and best practices score changes
 - Participants voiced strong support for AMO continuing as custodian of the model
 - CNA/OCNA funding needs to be capped and controlled
- Participants voiced strong support for the CIF Centre of Excellence concept with comments that:
 - As CIF funding increases, it is best directed towards Centre of Excellence initiatives and small infrastructure projects
- The annual Blue Box consultation sessions are valuable
 - They provide an opportunity for program coordinators in various areas to exchange ideas and to stay up to date on key issues
 - Participants support continuing this process in future years

We are always eager to hear your thoughts and suggestions concerning future topics. Please email [Alec Scott](#) to suggest ideas for the 2014 AMO Spring Consultations

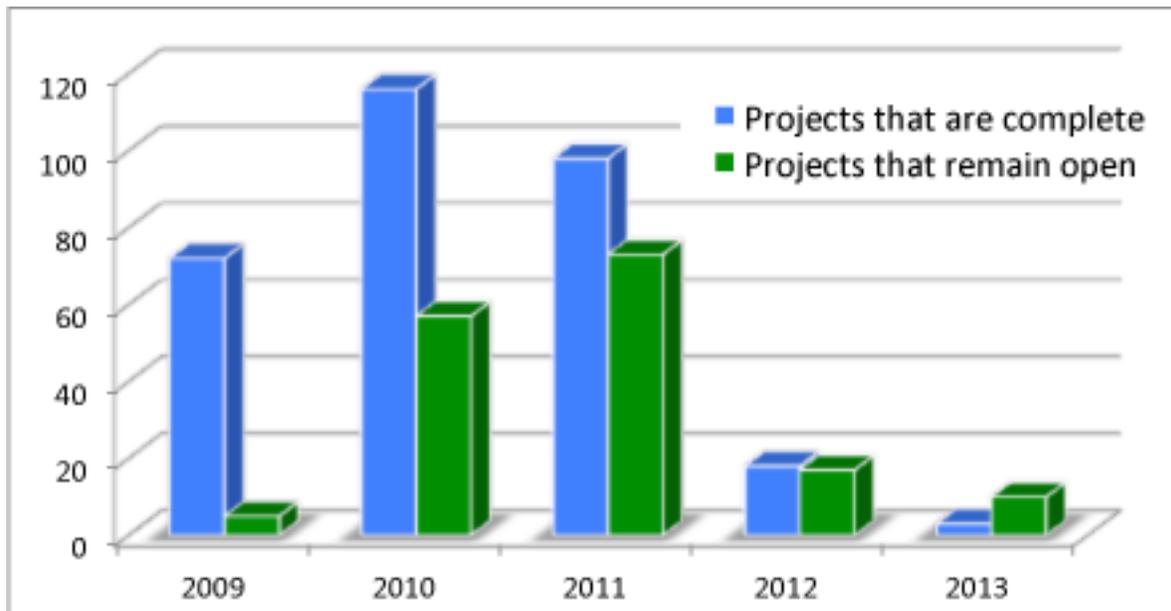
Completing projects and sharing results in 2013

CIF projects are valuable – not just to the host communities but to municipal staff across Ontario and far beyond. That's why CIF staff members have been out knocking on doors (literally!) and working with

project proponents to complete outstanding initiatives so they can invoice CIF for the hard work and share the findings with the Ontario recycling community.

As of early September, we're pleased to have only a handful of 2009 projects left to complete and we're now focusing on projects approved in 2010 through to 2012. If your program is working on a CIF project and you haven't yet heard from Carrie, Mike or Alec ... you will!

Most importantly – we encourage you to check out the new project reports that are highlighted on our website – and to use the vast resources of project techniques, tactics and findings that are archived on our projects page. Over the coming months we intend to set up a new catalogue system that will make it easier for you to search for the information you need. For now – please use the prompts at the top right of the [Projects page](#) to search for topics of interest or contact our [webmaster](#) for assistance.



Urban transfer station in Halton Region: A cost-effective solution to manage increased volumes from population growth

Facing exponential growth in South Milton and North Oakville, Halton Region needed to speed up collection services, maintain costs and manage an abundance of blue box and green cart materials flowing from the growing communities. The solution: an urban transfer station built to service the high growth urban communities and manage overflow materials from other local transfer sites and the MRF.

In 2010, Halton sited and built a 650 square metre transfer station at its Waste Management Site in the town of Milton to receive curbside Blue Box and Green Cart materials. The CIF funding was 25% up to a limit of \$175,000 + GST for project design and development costs, toward a facility that enables the region to receive, store and transfer materials to the Halton MRF.

Over its first two years of operation, the station has realized an average cost savings of \$35,500 per year while still providing the same high level of service that its residents have come to enjoy.

For more information: David Miles, Manager, Waste Planning and Collection, Phone: 905-825-6000 ext. 8288, or email: David.Miles@halton.ca

Adding Capacity to Expand Materials in Essex-Windsor

For Essex-Windsor, the time was right to expand its program to collect #3-#7 plastics but there was one problem: lack of curbside capacity for residents. Essex-Windsor residents are avid recyclers, with a 73% participation rate in its *voluntary* 2-stream bi-weekly curbside collection program.

The time was ripe to add new materials. But with 17 gallon red box for papers and a blue box for containers at capacity, the solution was clear: replace the container boxes with 22 gallon units to increase capacity and add mixed plastics to the recycling program.

With a \$386,000 grant from the CIF under the Containers Purchase program, Essex-Windsor delivered 134,000 22-gallon boxes to single-family residents, nearly doubling overall capacity from 129 to 212 litres per household. The region supported these changes with a dynamic P&E campaign that featured:



- a new campaign “We Can Recycle More,” complete with a new website and overall updated corporate ‘look’
- a campaign mascot, school posters, school door hangers, school promo (magnets, pencils, pens, tumblers for kids)
- newsletters, recycling guides, new material postcards, Facebook page
- increased community outreach with open houses at the recycling centre and more

“We were thrilled by the positive response from the public. They welcomed the new materials and immediately started to fill up their new blue boxes, as well as calling/emailing us to suggest that they would love to see other materials added to the program as well, said Cathie Griffin, Coordinator, Community Relations & Advertising for Essex-Windsor. “In all, the feedback has been very positive.”

By adding more materials and providing additional capacity, the Region has injected new life into an already thriving program and provided a welcome new benefit for its residents. The expansion of plastics collection has resulted in more than doubling plastics recovery – with an increase in plastics marketed, from 123 tonnes marketed in the quarter prior to expansion to 300 tonnes marketed just after.

For more information: Cameron Wright, Manager, Waste Diversion, Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority, 519-776-6441, ext. 394, email: cwright@ewswa.org.

City of Toronto's Tower Renewal Project Seeks to Increase Recycling in Diverse Multi-family Residences

The City of Toronto launched its Tower Renewal project in 2010 with an aim to upgrade Toronto's 1,189 multi-family residential buildings that were built between 1945 and 1984 to achieve environmental, social, economic and cultural change. An important element of this is facilitating and promoting recycling and breaking down the barriers posed by aging infrastructures and inconvenient recycling in the older units.

We're all still looking for strategies to bring multi-family recycling performance more in line with single family. Multi-family recycling currently lags behind single-family performance by as much as about 40%, according to 2011 WDO performance figures.

The 2010 Phase 1 Tower Renewal feasibility study included an analysis of current conditions and a plan to maximize recycling material at 10 pilot site buildings. This study was completed in 2010 with a \$42,000 grant from the CIF. Results of Phase 1 are available at: www.toronto.ca/city_manager/pdf/tr_waste_diversion.pdf

The City completed Phase 2 in 2013, testing options to increase diversion in the 10 diverse pilot buildings with a total of approximately 1,770 units. The goal was to match diversion options to structural, demographic and management features and supporting new approaches with promotion and education for all participants to increase waste diversion.

Just in...Findings of Phase 2 Pilot Implementation

The results from the test phase are just in, with findings that include:

1. Changes in building ownership management and staff turnover can inhibit effective recycling; while structural changes and new residents can provide added opportunities for improvement
2. Time, commitment and applying a consistent approach are vital ingredients that pay off in increased waste diversion – even in older multi-family buildings
3. Taking time to conduct outreach with building management and staff and providing promotion and education including program launch activities for residents are indispensable
4. There is no silver bullet – but in general, buildings that perform better offer increased capacity and convenience (often with 4 yard collection bins that are easier for residents, even better if recycling can be moved indoors), and ongoing education for residents and staff
5. In general, it is easier to increase recycling performance in smaller buildings, especially when programs include longer preparation/phase in times for changes to take place

By paying attention to the details, and with a modest hard cost expenditure of about \$2,000 plus about 10 hours labour per building (by building management/staff), communities that focus on this sector can yield significant results.

"Although the multi-residential sector is challenging, high rates of waste diversion to recycling and organics streams is possible. Some buildings achieve over 50 % diversion," states Eleanor McAteer, Project Director, Tower Renewal. These buildings do not have specialized equipment or particular residents. They have a considered and consistent approach to waste management."

The Tower Renewal Phase 2 report identifies several elements common to the more successful buildings included in the study. It also provides a series of recommendations for the City's consideration. These components would be of interest to any community planning to focus on its multi-family sector to achieve new gains in waste diversion and is recommended for your consideration.

For more information: Eleanor McAteer Project Director, email: emcatee@toronto.ca and view the [Tower Renewal Waste Diversion Phase 2 report](#).

Fall ORW Comes to Barrie Ontario on Tuesday, October 8, 2013



The result of summer meetings with municipal staff in the Bancroft area to discuss coordinated local programming will be presented at the Fall ORW (Photo of Dungannon Landfill, Bancroft).

The Fall ORW on Tuesday, October 8 promises to be interesting, engaging and informative: in short – not be missed! We are just finalizing a strong program for the day with topics that include:

- insights from communities that are already working together to prepare for change
- program highlights from communities that have focused on various tactics to optimize recycling
- a final report on the findings of the curbside recycling audit program
- new opportunities to boost program efficiency and
- a discussion of IPR today: what we know now and what do can expect for the near future.

This is your chance to network with colleagues and find out about the developments that are taking place now that will affect this industry for many years to come. As always, ORW is a full day session offered free of charge for in person and webcast participants. This one takes place at the Barrie Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Centre – just off the Essa Road exit from Highway 400 on Tuesday, October 8.

There is a special group rate on accommodations for Monday, October 7 and Tuesday, October 8. You can reserve individual guest room(s) up to Tuesday, September 17, using group code “ORW”. After that date, the full rate applies. Reserve Holiday Inn accommodations: <http://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/barrie/yrca/hoteldetail?groupCode=ORW>

For more information: [ORW webpage](#).

Blue Box Training Course Takes Place in Barrie on Wednesday, October 9

On Wednesday, October 9, the CIF is offering an all-new Blue Box training course entitled “Benchmarking, & Assessing: The Road to Continuous Improvement”. Enrollment for this course is already at capacity but we invite you to find out about the course and sign up for the waiting list for any additional spaces that may become available.

The Benchmarking and Assessing course is designed specifically to provide the tools and techniques that municipal staff members need to evaluate and communicate the potential impact of new program initiatives and improvements to regular recycling program features. Participants who complete the course successfully will also earn an additional credit in the Best Practices section of the Datacall.

Join the [Benchmarking & Assessing course waiting list](#). For more information, visit the CIF's [Training webpage](#) and/or contact [Carrie Nash](#) for details.

To reserve accommodations at the ORW group rate (before September 17): <http://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/barrie/yrca/hoteldetail?groupCode=ORW>

MWA Announces Program for October 20 Fall Workshop

The MWA has announced an interim program for its fall workshop: "A new roadmap for managing Ontario's waste." This is a full day event running from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for in person participants at the Barrie Holiday Inn. The program kicks off with a keynote address from Dan Hoornweg on "The global perspective" and includes a presentations on various topics of concern to municipal waste and recycling staff. Learn more and find out how to register at the [MWA events page](#).