

Springfield News and Views

Submitted by: Reeve Peter Skrupski

Springfield's Recycling Program Needs Improvement

Our municipality received a disappointing C Grade in 2006 from the Manitoba Product Stewardship Program. 124 Manitoba Municipalities recycled more per capita than the RM of Springfield. We recycled 29 Kg/resident (64 lbs/resident) which is a slight drop from the year before. The following are the recycling amounts in the past four years.

2003 a total of 305.21 metric tonnes was recycled.

2004 a total of 331.3 metric tonnes was recycled.

2005 a total of 368.95 metric tonnes was recycled.

2006 a total of 368.69 metric tonnes was recycled.

In 2006 229.94 tonnes was recycled in communities and 138.75 tonnes at the transfer stations. 107.15 tonnes at Hillside and 31.6 tonnes at Oakwood.

Financial Impact of Recycling

The municipality currently receives \$142.00 per tonne (2200 lbs.) from the Manitoba Product Stewardship Program for recycling. In 2006 this worked out to \$52,353.00 in funds received to the treasury. In 2006 there were 42 Manitoba Municipalities who received an A+ Grade which means they recycle more than 75 Kg/resident (165 lbs./resident). If Springfield residents recycled at this level we would have received an additional \$82,000.00 in 2006. Factoring in the cost hauling garbage out of the municipality to landfills we could potentially save \$250,000.00 per year. This would be achieved by reaching the A+ Grade of recycling 75 Kg/resident (165 lbs/resident) per year and improving composting.

2007 Student Recycling Challenge

I will be initiating a student competition which will be separated into 3 student categories consisting of elementary, middle, and high school students. The contest will involve Springfield students submitting a written report on the methods of improving the municipality's recycling program for the future. The student's who are chosen with the top selected report from each category will receive a monetary reward. Further details of the 2007 Student Recycling Challenge are forthcoming.

