

January 6/2002

District of North Vancouver
355 West Queens Road
North Vancouver, V7N 2K6

ATTENTION: Mayor and Council

SUBJECT: ELIMINATION OF YARD TRIMMING COLLECTION PROGRAM?

Mayor and Council:

The City of North Vancouver, on January 7/2002, will be considering that

PURSUANT to the report of the Manager, North Shore Recycling Program, dated December 24, 2001, entitled "Yard Trimmings Collection Program – Elimination of Clear Plastic Bags":

THAT yard trimmings be collected in reusable rigid containers, biodegradable Kraft paper bags or tied bundles;

AND THAT effective March 1, 2002 yard trimmings no longer be accepted for weekly collection in clear plastic bags;

AND THAT a comprehensive public awareness program be undertaken by the North Shore Recycling Program office.

Composting and the Yard Trimming Collection program are valuable and necessary components to support our residents' goal of retaining a "Green Community". The one place where, on a weekly basis, we see some return on our local taxes, is in the collection of our solid wastes. Thus any negative change in that program has a very visible impact on the perceived return of these taxes. Therefore, it comes as a surprise that an adjacent municipality is virtually considering doing away with the Yard Trimmings Collection Program. I trust that our municipality has the sense to NOT follow in their footsteps.

As a first step (which appears to have the goal of eliminating the yard trimmings program) they make the absurd proposal to require these trimmings to be stored in either rigid containers or paper bags. Of course paper bags are completely useless as they can neither handle the moisture of our rather damp climate, nor can they allow the contents to be seen (which was why clear, as opposed to green/black/orange plastic bags were not allowed). Also, there are certain times of the year where we generate a large amount of yard trimmings (eg. usually following a fall storm). The use of a large number of rigid containers would thus require their permanent storage and needlessly clutter up our communities. Finally, the cost of switching yet again to another medium is not insignificant. Clear plastic bags are more costly than non-clear ones. Considerable current stocks of clear bags would be wasted. Paper bags are both more costly and not readily available.

Clearly, the City's Dec 24th report lacked the spirit of the season. I trust our District staff is more in tune.

Sincerely,

C. J. Kost