

**Subject: Yard Trimmings Collection Program**

**Date:** Mon, 19 Jan 2004 15:43:41 -0800

**From:** Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

**To:** Don Bell <don\_bell@dnv.org>, Alan Nixon <alan\_nixon@dnv.org>, Ernie Crist <ernie\_crist@dnv.org>, Janice Harris <janice\_harris@dnv.org>, Lisa Muri <lisa\_muri@dnv.org>, Maureen McKeon Holmes <Maureen\_McKeonHolmes@dnv.org>, Richard Walton <rwalton@dnv.org>, NVD Council <dnvcouncil@dnv.org>, FONVCA <fonvca@fonvca.org>

Mayor & Council:

The latest report on the yard trimmings collection program states that the public supports the switch from clear plastic to kraft paper bags. The report claims that some 83 percent of respondents in a recent telephone survey agreed with the elimination of plastic, and that very few residents report dissatisfaction.

I recall a previous telephone survey in which an even higher percentage supported the new program. When Council discussed this issue last year, Engineering Staff grudgingly admitted under questioning that going to paper bags resulted in an increased cost to homeowners, yet the survey questions misled respondents by stating that paper bags would save money. At the same Council meeting it was further revealed that the survey used a very small sample of West Vancouver residents only, and then extrapolated those results for NV District. Clearly, the survey was geared to getting the results that were desired. Based on these revelations, the results of any survey by the waste reduction department is, in my opinion, highly suspect and of little value.

As for the lack of complaints from residents, I can only say that for my neighbours and acquaintances throughout the municipality, there is a quiet resignation to never-ending changes to garbage, yard waste, and recycling programs. Why complain about the inevitable? Most people simply do their best and adapt, then get on with their busy lives.

Sincerely,  
Brian Platts