

METROLAND

Whitby wins waste challenge

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By: By Erin Hatfield

DURHAM -- The results are in and Whitby wins the waste diversion title.

With Waste Diversion Week just around the corner, Ajax Ward 2 local Councillor Joe Dickson was at Durham Regional Council to announce the winners of the Durham Communities Challenge for Waste Reduction Week for 2006.

Whitby won the challenge by diverting 68.1 per cent of its garbage. Diversion rates are based on the total tonnes of waste collected verses tonnes diverted.

"(Prior) to the green bin that was absolutely unheard of," Coun. Dickson said.

In second place was Pickering with a 60.8 per cent diversion rate. The City of Oshawa took third place, narrowly beating out Ajax with 58.9 per cent.

All eight Durham municipalities took part in the challenge.

The community challenge began between the Town of Ajax and the City of Pickering 20 years ago.

"A friendly challenge went out to see who could reduce their waste the most in a one-week time frame," Coun. Dickson said. "It was really an offshoot of the Ajax Environmental Affairs Week."

Although waste management and diversion wasn't as fashionable at that time, Coun. Dickson said he realized there was a problem and it was only going to get worse.

"More and more the public awareness is growing and all the municipalities throughout the region now promote waste reduction," he said.

According to Coun. Dickson, invitations have gone out to all of the municipalities to participate again. Waste reduction week is Oct. 15 to the 19.

"All of the municipalities are very good about it and the Region is very supportive of the effort," Coun. Dickson said. "I am appreciative of all the volunteers, the regional chairman (Roger Anderson) and the eight mayors for all their efforts."

Coun. Dickson said all the communities receive a prize for participating. He handed over \$100 cheques to each of the communities at Regional Council on Sept. 19 with a friendly suggestion that the money be used to purchase environmental publications for their local libraries.

"Everyone is a winner and that is what it is all about because everyone is doing a good job," Coun. Dickson said.

The \$1,000 for prizes was donated by Miller Waste.