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	-	18:35	-	-	-	-	-
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# Recycling at Dal

BY GINA STACK

It's a typical day at Dalhousie University. A professor in the history department has just wrapped up his lecture. The class quickly packs up its books, and prepares to leave the classroom. About five students are carrying recyclable aluminum cans that they were drinking from during the lecture. Quickly, they glance around the room, one even peers outside into the hallway, but there is no recycling bin. Four out of the five students drop their cans in the regular garbage bin and head to their next class. Only one student bothers to transport her can to a recycling bin in the Student Union Building.

This is a fictional story, but it is very typical of what happens to a lot of recyclable materials on Dalhousie campus. In many of the departmental houses, students do not have proper access to recycling bins, and in the larger buildings poor labelling makes bins difficult to tell from regular garbage bins.

According to Mike Murphy, Dalhousie's manager of Environmental Services, there are several hundred recycling bins throughout campus, and close to 3,000 desk-



top containers distributed to office areas. Since 1992, Dal has increased the amount of tonnes per year it recycles from 133 tonnes to 200 tonnes.

Wayne Groszko of the Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG) is pleased with the increase in recycling, but his group still sees room for improvement. He pointed out three basic problems with the current system. First, a lot of material that is recyclable is ending up in regular garbage cans. Second, material that is not recyclable is ending up in recycling bins. Third, there is nothing significant on campus for dealing with compostable organic waste.

Groszko said that NSPIRG has been working on a proposal that would improve recycling on campus. This plan would work, Groszko said, if there were recycling stations around the campus with bins for all recyclable products, and a garbage can for those things that are not recyclable. Groszko said that the key to his plan is to make the bins very visible and well labelled. He would also like to see no garbage cans on campus without recycling bins beside them.

"People who don't care fundamentally about recycling just chuck it in the garbage, so it is fundamental that there should not be garbage cans by themselves," said Groszko.

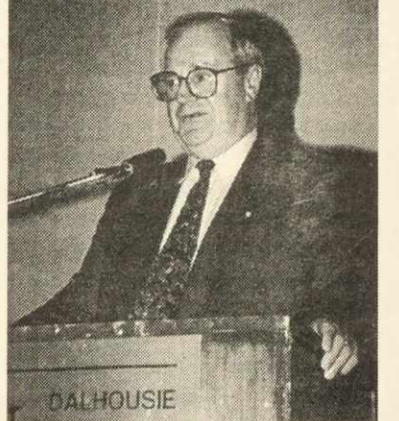
"The labels get turned around and ripped off [of the present recycling bins] and they just look like a garbage can. Our system would not get rid of the problem 100 per cent, but you would have to be against recycling to get it wrong."

The Physical Plant and NSPIRG are currently discussing the group's recycling concerns. Murphy is interested in getting NSPIRG to conduct a survey to find more appropriate locations for recycling bins. Murphy said that the department is doing the best that it can with limited funding.

"We are doing fairly well. It's a big challenge and we have limited sources and funding," Murphy said. He also encourages students who find that recycling bins are not adequately located on campus to contact the Physical Plant.

# Halifax Harbour:

## Another attempt



BY HADY KHAYRAT

In an attempt to salvage one of our city's strongest assets, Halifax harbour, a two day symposium was held during the Remembrance Day weekend at Dalhousie University.

The stress was on developing an action plan to clean up the harbour water and the industrial discharges being dumped in it. The symposium attracted approximately 200 participants of diverse backgrounds, including government and municipal representatives as well as members of various local environmental groups.

The participants, representatives, and attendants were initiated into the two day discussion process with a motivational speech by Mayor Walter Fitzgerald. In his address, he expressed his belief in the possibility of an up and running solution within the next three years.

"By the year 2000, we'll be finished or this thing [the harbour cleanup plan] will be well under way," said Fitzgerald. The mayor also hopes to approach the provincial government for financial support.

A quick review of what has been done in earlier years was followed by a multi-media presentation of the financial and technical framework of the project. The participants were then challenged to produce a working action plan by the end of the symposium.

The delegates were assigned to one of eight small discussion groups to exchange ideas, each of which was coordinated by a facilitator. A set of question periods were assigned in which the groups were given the opportunity to address their questions to a panel headed by the chairs of the symposium. Most of the questions and comments focused on the issue of source control and the extent to which members of the community at large are to participate in the solution.

The general feeling late Saturday evening at the closing plenary was one of skeptical optimism about the future of the harbour. Yet, many expressed their satisfaction with the outcome of the symposium.

This effort comes following the 1995 expiry of the Canada-Nova Scotia agreement (signed seven years earlier) committing funds to the construction of a regional sewage treatment facility. The symposium was the ignition for an attempt to pick up and carry out what had been left unfinished.

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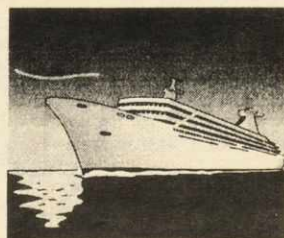
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