

feature



DAL PHOTO: MIKE DAVENPORT

The King of Cansington

by The Pop Can Man

Lorne is my name. Recycling is my game.

Some people who read this may have seen me or one of my "competitors" going through trash cans along Spring Garden Road, specifically near the main library where people congregate around the chip wagons.

It may seem that I am looking for something to eat or am trying to raise money to buy some cheap wine. The pop cans I gather are worth money for the aluminum content. Obviously, I am not an illiterate bum because I am writing this article and also make enough money to maintain myself, operate a motor vehicle, and support five children through World Vision.

I work hard and I work long hours. All summer I cleaned up Rainbow Haven Beach and the Sackville flea market. At the flea market they call me "The Pop Can Man." So I am already a legend in my own time.

Two common questions I get are: How much do I make and how many cans do I gather? My largest load of cans was 9000 which weighed about 360 pounds. Through the summer my quota was at least 1000 cans per day. Bottle exchanges pay 20 cents a pound for aluminum cans

unless you go to New Brunswick where there is refund of five cents per can. Nova Scotia gives refunds on alcoholic beverage containers. We really need such a program here in N.S.

Another question is where do I take the cans? All bottle exchanges such as Bluenose, Archie's and Dave's take aluminum cans. There is also John Ross and Son in Bayer's Lake and Dartmouth Bottle and Metal in

There could be more industry using waste as a resource

Burnside.

More people could be doing what I am doing but I suppose they think there is not enough money to be made, there is too much work involved or handling trash or garbage is just too repulsive to them.

When I was a kid I learned to make money in different ways—one was to gather beer bottles found in the ditches. Now I have expanded on this idea and handling discarded drink containers does not bother me. There is pride in doing something worthwhile which helps the envi-

ronment by keeping non-renewable resources out of landfills. Also, I make some remuneration which also gives me dignity. I do not have to rely on charity.

From my endeavours, I have developed some independence, especially in thought. I feel there could be more industry associated with waste as a resource and also more private enterprise involved as opposed to government. Non-renewable resources such as metals and plastics should have a higher rate of retrieval and reuse. For instance, in Germany all electronic components must go back to the manufacturers to be reused in new products. Here, we stop this action by sending old television, stereos, and automobiles to scrapyards. Occasionally, I pick up different appliances such as TV's, typewriters, vacuum cleaners, auto tires and furniture. I have repaired some items and donated them to organizations such as the Parent Resource Center, Turning Point, Hope Cottage and Big Brothers.

The whole procedure of reusing and recycling ought to be more efficient and financially feasible. My

PIRG Environmental Tips

10 uses for plastic pop bottles

1. piggy bank
2. paper weight (sand-filled)
3. flower pot
4. candle holder
5. buoy
6. bong
7. vase
8. ice block for coolers
9. water bottle
10. fish bowl

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