Don’t forget the rinse cycle

When the city of St. John’s and other municipalities introduced curb-side recycling programs, Memorial’s Sustainability Office started getting many inquiries about why the same sorts of items – yogurt and other plastic containers for example – can’t be recycled at the university.

The city and other municipalities with curb-side recycling require that all plastics be rinsed out before sending to the recycling facility in Robin Hood Bay. If containers are not properly rinsed, they will contaminate the entire load, and material will not be recyclable.

At Memorial, it’s difficult to ensure that yogurt and other plastic containers are cleaned properly prior to being put into a recycling bin. Washing facilities are not always available and experience has shown that with a population the size of Memorial’s, not everyone will clean containers properly.

The Sustainability Office and other units in Facilities Management are investigating options for expanded recycling. One option is to target areas on campus where a lot of recyclable containers are used and can be properly cleaned, such as Burton’s Pond apartments.

In the meantime, you can bring your plastic containers home, rinse them out and include them in your curb-side recycling!

Sustainability news

Canada 411’s got your number!

There’s a simple way to join Memorial’s PaperCut campaign to reduce paper use. You can look up phone numbers online at www.canada411.ca or www.yellowpages.ca, and opt out of getting a telephone book in the spring. If you really want a telephone book handy, try sharing one with your colleagues. You’ll still be reducing paper use.

When mail room staff drop by to deliver new telephone books, just let them know you don’t need one. And be sure to recycle last year’s telephone book in the blue paper recycle bins located in office areas across campus.

For more information, contact sustain@mun.ca.

Recycling supports campus food bank

For every beverage container you recycle on campus, a donation is made to Memorial’s Campus Food Bank. It’s simple – just empty the container, remove the cap and straw, and remember not to crush the container.

In every building, on every floor, there are beige recycling bins with brown lids specifically for beverage container recycling. These bins are usually located next to a garbage can.

Or you can bring them to the University Centre (UC) where there are big blue recycling units with a separate spot for beverage containers.

Something about Sharon

THERE’S SOMETHING about Sharon Vere-Holloway … something that you might not be able to put your finger on right away. You might call it quiet confidence.

And you might not guess that this even-tempered senior accounts clerk in the Department of Facilities Management holds a black belt, second degree, in taekwondo.

Taekwondo is a Korean martial art described as the art of kicking and punching. Sharon can break boards with her hands and perform flying sidekicks, so that makes Sharon an artist.

In fact, Sharon is full of surprising moves.

When not practicing taekwondo, she could very well be at home, creating gourmet cakes and cupcakes for weddings and parties. (Sharon’s dad was a professional baker, so she grew up learning how to work with fondant and weld cake decorating tools.)

Just a few years ago, after her son married and settled down, Sharon decided it was time to do something about the state of her health and the quality of her life.

She signed up for aerobics at the YMCA in St. John’s, not knowing that she’d actually enrolled in Downey’s Taekwondo.

“I loved it, the work-out was fantastic,” says Sharon, who was hooked by the time she realized she was in the wrong class. “I remember wondering if I would ever make it to my black belt.”

She’s now putting in lots of hours preparing to test for her black belt, third degree. Through taekwondo, Sharon has not only gained physical fitness and better health, she’s gained self-confidence and the chutzpah to take on new challenges.

And you can bet she’ll add her stint as Olympic torch bearer for the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics to her list of proud moments!

Next up – running the Tely 10 road race – again!

Don’t forget the rinse cycle

When the city of St. John’s and other municipalities introduced curb-side recycling programs, Memorial’s Sustainability Office started getting many inquiries about why the same sorts of items – yogurt and other plastic containers for example – can’t be recycled at the university.

The city and other municipalities with curb-side recycling require that all plastics be rinsed out before sending to the recycling facility in Robin Hood Bay. If containers are not properly rinsed, they will contaminate the entire load, and material will not be recyclable.

At Memorial, it’s difficult to ensure that yogurt and other plastic containers are cleaned properly prior to being put into a recycling bin. Washing facilities are not always available and experience has shown that with a population the size of Memorial’s, not everyone will clean containers properly.

The Sustainability Office and other units in Facilities Management are investigating options for expanded recycling. One option is to target areas on campus where a lot of recyclable containers are used and can be properly cleaned, such as Burton’s Pond apartments.

In the meantime, you can bring your plastic containers home, rinse them out and include them in your curb-side recycling!

Don’t forget the rinse cycle

When the city of St. John’s and other municipalities introduced curb-side recycling programs, Memorial’s Sustainability Office started getting many inquiries about why the same sorts of items – yogurt and other plastic containers for example – can’t be recycled at the university.

The city and other municipalities with curb-side recycling require that all plastics be rinsed out before sending to the recycling facility in Robin Hood Bay. If containers are not properly rinsed, they will contaminate the entire load, and material will not be recyclable.

At Memorial, it’s difficult to ensure that yogurt and other plastic containers are cleaned properly prior to being put into a recycling bin. Washing facilities are not always available and experience has shown that with a population the size of Memorial’s, not everyone will clean containers properly.

The Sustainability Office and other units in Facilities Management are investigating options for expanded recycling. One option is to target areas on campus where a lot of recyclable containers are used and can be properly cleaned, such as Burton’s Pond apartments.

In the meantime, you can bring your plastic containers home, rinse them out and include them in your curb-side recycling!