

The Glengarry News

Household Hazardous Waste Day

September 18 2019 BY TARA MACDONALD News Staff

Keeping hazardous materials out of our landfills and ensuring proper disposal of toxic materials is the driving force behind the Township of South Glengarry's Household Hazardous Waste Day. "It's an opportunity for residents to dispose of hazardous materials in an environmentally sensitive way while diverting it to proper and more reasonable end-user sites," said General Manager of Infrastructure Services Ewen MacDonald.

The annual event took place from 8 am to 12 pm on Saturday at Smithfield Park in Lancaster. More than 260 residents participated in the event, bringing with them a range of common household hazardous waste items such as old batteries, propane tanks, oils, paint cans, pesticides and other chemicals.

While this year's participation numbers were down from previous years, organizers believe that this is a positive reflection of the township's efforts to reduce the amount of hazardous waste stored in people's garages, homes and around their properties.

"The number of people coming has dropped," confirmed Mr. MacDonald. "However, I think that's a reflection of people coming every year. We used to see 300 to 400 vehicles per day but I don't see it as disinterest at all; I see it as there being less hazardous waste that people are collecting and keeping in their garages."

"I had it marked down on my calendar," said Summerstown resident Ian Shawcroft who hauled in paint thinners, a propane tank and other items he's collected since purchasing his home three years ago. "It's a great idea doing this," he said. "You never know what to do with stuff like this."

To assist with proper collection and disposal of hazardous materials during the event, the township brought in Drain-All Ltd which is approved by the Ministry of the Environment as a Hazardous Waste Carrier and Receiver throughout the province of Ontario and Quebec.

"It's good practice," said Drain-All operator and former resident of South Lancaster Troy Wootten who enjoys being able to travel and provide an essential service to the public. Fellow operator Tolu Onakoya agreed, "I like helping out and getting rid of the waste. No one knows how to get rid of oils and pharmaceuticals. By providing this service, we help make sure that it doesn't end up down the drain or in a landfill."

In addition to township staff and Drain-All Inc. operators, the South Glengarry Fire Services were also on hand to volunteer their time to the event. "It's a great way to help educate people and promote awareness," said fire fighter Véronique Brunet who was joined by fellow fire-fighter Kevin Vivaraies and his daughter Katrina Vivaraies.

For those who were unable to attend Household Hazardous Waste Day, the Township of South Glengarry and the City of Cornwall have an agreement for Township residents to dispose of hazardous waste at the City of Cornwall depot located at 2590 Cornwall Centre Road West.

The depot will reopen on Wednesday September 25 from 8 am to 4:30 pm and again on Saturday September 28th from 8 am until noon. It is advised that residents bring government-issued identification with them when dropping off hazardous waste. For more information, contact the Hazardous Waste Depot at 613-937-1777.

PHOTOGRAPHS:

2422: Township of South Glengarry staff

2403: Volunteers from South Glengarry Fire Services' Station 4 Véronique Brunet, Kevin Vivaraies and his daughter Katrina Vivaraies were on hand to help promote awareness, answer questions, and support efforts to keep South Glengarry's landfills free of hazardous waste.

2394: Drain-All Inc. operators Tolu Onakoya and Eddy Amin were all smiles at the South Glengarry Hazardous Waste Day event on Saturday. "No one knows how to get rid of this stuff," said Mr. Onakoya. "I like being able to help people and doing my part to keep our landfills clean."

2387: "It's great to be back in South Glengarry," said former South Lancaster resident and Drain-All Inc. operator Troy Wooten who was joined by fellow operator Zac Mannen. "It's a free service and good practice to make sure that hazardous materials don't end up in our landfills."

General Manager of Infrastructure Services Ewen MacDonald was on hand to direct traffic and respond to questions at Saturday's Hazardous Waste Day at Smithfield Park in Lancaster. "I brought paint thinners, a propane tank and a lot of stuff that I accumulated over the years," said Summerstown resident Ian Shawcroft.