

## Chair's Report

September 16, 2016

A busy and interesting year for Haines Friends of Recycling.

Thank you to our members (over 260 families, businesses, and organizations) and to our volunteers for all your support, time, and effort this year. We simply could not exist or do what we do without you!

Our board members are Reilly Kosinski, Betsy VanBurgh, Pat Warren, Jake Bell, Carol Duis, Molly Sturdevant, Mike Borcik (resigning), Bruce Gilbert (retiring) , and myself. Our emeritus board members are Frank and Ramona Holmes; just because they "retired" doesn't mean they aren't very busy helping! We welcome George and Luke to the board.

Among our activities in 2016:

In addition to our normal recycling of aluminum, tin, all paper products, #1 and #2 plastic, fluorescent tubes, and printer cartridges, we had a number of special events. Please note that 100% of what we take in for recycling is recycled, thanks to our process of self sorting.

Earth Day: In April we took the lead, once again, on planning and implementing the Earth Day events in town. We worked with the school for a community cleanup on April 21. All grades were involved. The kids collected litter and we helped them sort it for materials we recycled. We hosted the Earth Day celebration at the library on April 23 with a new and different format of short presentations. Excellent turnout and a fun event.

Plant sale: In May we organized the local plant sale at the school. Always a popular event and raised some funds for HFR.

Electronic recycling in June. This year we collected 16,414 pounds. In ten years we have collected and recycled 148,566 pounds.

At the end of June we once again cleaned up after the campers from the Bike Race. This year, in addition to the Parade Grounds, we also took care of Tlingit Park. The Bike Race gives us a nice donation for our efforts.

July 4 we recycled and collected compostable materials from Tlingit Park. We keep working on a process to make this work all better. Thanks to our amazing dumpster diving team!

The Fair! We had 25 volunteers who helped with turning t-shirts into reusable grocery bags, collecting recyclables, and this year, our new big effort of collecting all the compostable service ware and food scraps. The Fair estimates that we cut their garbage from last year in half. It was the first year of this effort and we collected a lot of good ideas from our amazing team of dumpster divers to make it work even better next year. All the compostable materials are now composting away in various bins around Haines.

We continue to sell compostable service ware, at cost, and provide recycling and composting services for various big events in town.

And this year we expanded our in-town collection of recycling. We currently collect at the Visitors' Center, the Senior Center, the cruise ship dock, a down-town park, Aspen Hotel, and post office. We also collect printer cartridges from Howsers, Lutak Lumber, and HHB. We have volunteers who collect from the Senior Village and from others who need assistance. We are looking at expanding that service.

A busy year! Thank you again to all the volunteers and members. If you would like to be added to our volunteer list, Molly has opportunities for you!

And now our challenges:

Recycling is never a profitable business; we all support recycling because we feel it is important to use our resources wisely, to keep reusable resources out of the landfill, to reduce our energy costs, to reduce the need for mining, and to be responsible with our waste stream. HFR is supported by what we make from selling recycling (about 1/3 of our annual budget), by memberships and donations (about 1/3 of the budget), and by grants and major gifts (the last third of our budget)

The global market for recycled materials is down and as a result, we are getting less for the materials we send out for recycling. You can help by making sure that when you drop off your recyclables, they are clean, labels are off of cans, and everything is properly sorted. When materials aren't sorted correctly we either have to pay our staff person (Bill Jurgeleit) to sort or we are penalized by the companies we ship to. The companies that buy recycled materials want them clean and carefully sorted.

Because of the precipitous drop in prices for recycled materials, this year we elected not to do scrap metal recycling. In 2015 we collected enough for 3 40 foot vans; the price had dropped from 6.5 cents a pound to 3 cents a pound and we simply couldn't afford to ship it out. A grant from the borough helped make up the deficit. We are still continuing to collect refrigerators and freezers (\$50 each) and washers, dryers, stoves (\$20 each).

The Borough is still working on a solid waste plan. In fact, the Commerce Committee met just last evening. Carol, Molly, and I attended. The recommendation from last evening is for a working group to be formed to develop a solid waste plan.

The proposed ordinance from a few years ago excluded Haines Friends of Recycling in the development. Hopefully we will have a voice in the process as we work to continue to insure the future of recycling in the community. Stay tuned! We have a long and well established tradition of recycling in this community and HFR will continue to be instrumental in that grand tradition.

We need your continued membership support, your donations and financial support, and your help with volunteering. Molly Sturdevant, new to our board last year and a serious worker bee, will now tell you a bit about volunteer opportunities.

After Molly's presentation, we will take questions and comments from all of you, have dinner, and then have a presentation by Reilly on electronic recycling. The table decorations, made by Julie Folta, are for sale for \$10.