

TRASH TALK GIVES A BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK AT GARBAGE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION IN MISSISSAUGA AND BRAMPTON

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Peel Art Gallery Museum and Archives (PAMA) presents Trash Talk: Local Action, Global Change - an exhibit that looks at what happens after your garbage and recycling bins are picked up at the curb.

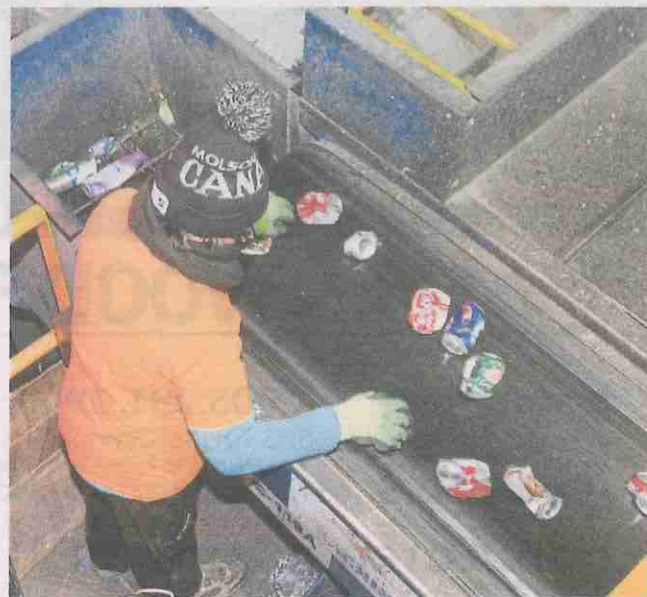
The exhibit, which opened in October to coincide with Waste Management Week, was done in partnership between PAMA and the Region of Peel's Waste Management Division, says Sam Cronk, senior curator of history at PAMA.

"It's been a really exciting project for me," said Cronk. "There are literally thousands of people behind the scenes (in waste division)."

Once the garbage and recycling trucks leave the curb, Cronk said he had no idea what happens to material that has been collected. "There's so much more to this," he said.

The three R's - reduce, reuse, recycle really just scratch the surface, said Cronk. What the exhibit does is humanize the face of waste management and explains what eventually happens to most everything that people buy.

The exhibit will appeal



Bryon Johnson/torstar file photos

Left, a worker checks recycled aluminum cans at Peel Region's Integrated Waste Management Facility on Torbram Road. Right, Peel Region's Material Recovery Facility has helped recover more than 1 million tonnes of recyclable material since opening a decade ago.

to people of all ages, said Cronk, and provides information about the benefits of the circular economy, which reduces pressure on the environment, and provides insight into government policy and innovations in waste management along with "a dash of fun."

The exhibit includes information from the Region of Peel Waste Management Division and different facts people can learn, said Cronk, along with actual examples of how some materials do not break down

in landfill sites, such as a piece of tinfoil that's been in a tackle box submerged under water for the past 40 years.

There are also other examples of materials people don't consider problems to the environment, said Cronk, including T-shirts, which can last in landfill sites for hundreds of years.

"We can do better," said Cronk.

But there are also examples of innovations and success stories, said Cronk, including the emerging

Jim Tovey Lakeview Conservation Area. The 26-acre conservation area on Mississauga's waterfront is using recycled bricks from nearby construction sites and more than 534,610 cubic metres of fill, 66 per cent of which comes from Region of Peel capital works projects.

Trash Talks runs until the end of March. During the exhibit, PAMA will offer a series of educational programs for children and families.

For example, on Jan. 30, PAMA runs a tote bag

workshop from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and on Saturdays and Sundays in February, PAMA presents weaving recycled art, a family fun activity from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more activities visit pama.peelregion.ca/en/exhibitions/trash-talk.asp.

From now until Jan. 19,

general admission at PAMA is free, sponsored by the Friends of Sikh Studies, to coincide with an exhibit that celebrates the 550th Anniversary of Guru Nanak entitled "The Sakhis of Guru Nanak: The Life & Legacy of the Founder of the Sikh Faith."

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