



OKANAGAN  
SIMILKAMEEN

## REGIONAL DISTRICT OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN

PRESS RELEASE  
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### Long Time Employee Recognized With Provincial Award

28 years after sorting his first recyclables, Don Hamilton was given a very large pat on the back for his environmental efforts. The Solid Waste Facilities Coordinator for the Regional District Okanagan Similkameen (RDOS) received the "Individual Achievement Award" from the Recycling Council of British Columbia (RCBC) on June 26, 2008. This award is given in recognition of long service in the promotion of waste reduction in the province of British Columbia.

The Recycling Council of BC recognizes the valuable contributions that individuals and organizations have made toward the preservation and the enhancement of British Columbia's environment. Nominations for this prestigious environmental award must demonstrate actions that reduce, resolve or avoid environmental challenges, promote public awareness and practice consistent responsible environmental management. The RCBC Awards Committee also considers length of service, commitment to environmental protection and innovative approaches to environmental enhancement.

Dan Ashton, RDOS Chair, echoes the accolades. "Don Hamilton is a genuine asset to the RDOS, providing a dedication to his work, a long history of knowledge and a passion for the environment. This award is a well-deserved recognition and the RDOS staff, the Board and the citizens of the Okanagan Similkameen are very proud of Don's accomplishments."

Don Hamilton began working in the waste reduction field in 1980 when he accepted the position of "Recycler" with the RDOS. The initial program consisted of picking up glass and newspaper from a series of depots located in Penticton, Summerland, Naramata, West Bench, Kaleden and Okanagan Falls. Back then, the RDOS was one of only two Regional Districts in the Province involved in recycling.

In 1985, Hamilton began work as a Scale Attendant at the Campbell Mountain Landfill eventually becoming the Solid Waste Facilities Coordinator. During his time so far with the RDOS, Hamilton has facilitated the diversion of over 70,000 m<sup>3</sup> of wood and yard waste, thousands of tons of metal, gypsum, electronic waste, thousands of old tires and most recently over 55,000 kgs of hazardous waste. He has also contributed significantly to the implementation of curbside services. A personal highlight of his career was his involvement in the development of the RDOS Solid Waste Management Plan in 1995 and 1996. 12 years later, most of the goals set out in the Plan have been met or exceeded.

For more information, please contact Patty Derkach, Human Resources Manager, at 250-490-4138.

*Photo courtesy of Jonathan Dean, Jonathan Dean Photography  
Presentation of the RCBC Individual Achievement Award  
L-R, Bert Monesmith, Don Hamilton*

D. Ashton  
RDOS Board Chair

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