**Recycle Reminders – Recycle Responsibly **

In Downers Gove, all accepted recyclables may be mixed together. You should lightly rinse all items, and flatten milk jugs, plastic beverage containers and boxes. A table of Accepted and Not Accepted Items is shown below.

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| **Accepted Items** | **Not Accepted Items** |
| * Newspaper * Mixed Paper: advertisements, junk mail, office paper, gift wrap, paper bags, stationery, envelopes, shredded paper, paper bags * Magazines, catalogs, phone books, * Paperback books (No hard cover books) * Chipboard, such as gift boxes, tissue boxes and food boxes * Cardboard * Glass bottles and jars (clear, brown, green) * Aluminum cans, foil and trays * Tin or steel cans, including empty aerosol cans and paint cans * Plastic containers coded #1 through #7, except #6 * Plastic 6 and 12 pack rings * Milk cartons, juice cartons and juice boxes | * Polystyrene foam materials (coded #6) such as drinking cups, plates, egg cartons * Packing peanuts, foam packing blocks * Plastic bags, cereal bags, plastic wrap * Mirrors, window glass, Pyrex glass or dinnerware * Cardboard soiled with grease or food residue * Pots and pans * Gas cans or other items containing hazardous chemicals |

Some other recycling tips: plastic caps should be left on bottles, aluminum foil should be wadded into a ball, and recycling items only need to be lightly rinsed.

Please remember the three R’s: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

"Reduce" is the most effective of the three R's and the place to begin. Cut back from where you are now. When you shop, look for things that will last; things that are not just durable and well-made, but useful and beautiful enough to please you for a long time.

“Reuse” means that before you recycle or dispose of anything, consider whether it has life left in it. A jam jar can store leftovers. Food scraps can become compost. An old shirt can become a pajama top. An opened envelope can become a shopping list. A magazine can be shared. DVDs can be traded. A dishwasher can be repaired. A cell phone can be donated. Returnable bottles can be returned.

“Recycle” is the "R" that has caught on the best. This is because there are so many curbside recycling programs today, which makes recycling so darned easy. Every municipality has its own rules, but they are getting more flexible and more inclusive. Please put cans, bottles, paper, cardboard, and plastic that is not marked "6" with the recycling sign in the recycling containers. **You can make a difference!**

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