



January

Waste Management Corner

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A New Year, A Shared Responsibility

Happy New Year to everyone in the Saugeen First Nation community. I hope this new year finds you and your families healthy, hopeful, and looking forward to good things ahead. I'm excited to share that 2026 is shaping up to be a year full of positive developments, especially in the area of waste management education. Please stay glued to this newspaper as there's a lot more coming your way.

As we begin the year, I want to take a moment to talk about an issue that affects all of us and our shared environment. Over the past years, there have been several instances where waste has been dumped illegally or left at the entrance of the landfill after operating hours. I understand that life gets busy, workdays are long, and sometimes the landfill is already closed by the time you are done. Still, I would like to gently appeal to our collective conscience as a community.

Imagine this: you take the time to carefully gather your waste, sort, bag, and transport to the landfill only for it to be left illegally at the entrance. In that moment, all that effort is unfortunately undone. Once waste is left outside the gate, it is no longer controlled. Wind can scatter it, animals can tear into it, and before long it spreads across the land and into nearby areas. What may start as "just leaving it there for later" quickly turns into litter and environmental harm. Environmental impacts do not respect boundaries. What is left unmanaged in one place can affect water, soil, wildlife, and human health elsewhere. In that sense, environmental issues always find their way back to us wherever we may be. This is why bringing waste during landfill operating hours is so important. Proper disposal ensures waste is handled safely, responsibly, and in a way that protects our land, our waters, and future generations. It also helps landfill staff do their jobs safely and efficiently.

As a community, we have always valued respect for one another and for the land that sustains us, as one of the grandfather's teaching principles. Choosing to bring waste during operating hours is a simple but important way to live out that responsibility to ourselves, our neighbours, and the environment. When we care for the land, it cares for us; when it is neglected, the consequences eventually reach us all. Thank you to everyone or the many of you who continue to do their part. Your efforts matter, and together we can keep our community clean, safe, and healthy. Here is to a new year of learning, positive change, and shared responsibility. Let's make 2026 a year of change and good things. Until we meet again, continue to be responsible for your environment.