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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CLEAR BAG COLLECTION FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF CHESTER!** The Municipality of the District of Chester is confident that they will meet the new target set by the Province of Nova Scotia long before the slated 2015 deadline.

“Our community has developed best practices and provided leadership in waste management for many years. I am confident that with the continued support of the public, we can meet the challenge of waste reduction through the successful implementation of a clear bag program”, says the Warden for the Municipality, Allen Webber. Just like any new initiative, there are plenty of questions. Hopefully, some of the most common questions can be answered on the Municipality’s website at [www.chester.ca](http://www.chester.ca) or by calling one of the numbers listed below.

Although this program may not be accepted by all, there are many excellent reasons as to why this program is right for the Municipality of Chester. The Province is working towards protecting our environment. One way to accomplish that daunting task is to address the amount of waste we produce and eliminate the harsh effects it creates. That means we need to decrease our waste by 10% by 2015 according to the Province’s most recent solid waste legislation. A clear bag for garbage program is the most cost-effective way for our taxpayers to comply. We are already consistently meeting the 50% rate that the Province set 12 years ago. This is the next step.

Also, over the last number of years, both the waste collector, as well as the Municipality, has had some safety concerns. Items concealed in opaque garbage bags, such as needles, propane cylinders, or caustic

material, can be harmful to handlers. With a clear bag program, we will be able to identify these items easily and treat them with the necessary precautions.

Many may ask, “What about illegal dumping?” This is always a concern; however, none of the other municipalities who have adopted a program such as this have reported an increase in this activity. What they have reported is an increase in recycling and composting.

We are encouraging all those in the Municipality of the District of Chester to use clear bags for garbage right away, but a six-month transition period will start effective April 1. This will give residents and businesses time to adjust. During this six-month period, municipal staff will travel throughout the Municipality offering assistance and information to the public through meetings, workshops, and one-on-one contact. Check the local media and our website ([www.chester.ca](http://www.chester.ca)) regularly for updates.

If you have any questions, please call the Municipality at 275-5321 or Kaizer Meadow Environmental Management Centre at 275-2330. You may also direct inquiries to [publicworks@chester.ca](mailto:publicworks@chester.ca) or [info@KaizerMeadow.ca](mailto:info@KaizerMeadow.ca)