

# localnews

■ RICCIUTO

## Asking for doctor's note raises privacy issues

FROM PAGE A1

Hey, what happened to the idea of trying to stay green, help the environment and keep garbage out of our landfills? Guess that only applies to those who will soon be on the one-bag limit.

And what about those who work in large offices, big hotels or live in apartment buildings?

Why is it that many of them don't need, or bother, to recycle?

You can register with the Niagara Region for exemptions if: Your household has two or more children in diapers, you operate a licensed day care out of a home or if someone in your household has a medical condition — for example, dialysis treatment or incontinence.

Isn't there something drastically wrong with that last exemption?

Sounds like an invasion of privacy to me when you ask people if they have a medical condition.

Here's the issue as I see it. Why does anyone from the Regional Niagara Waste Management department need to know that a resident has a medical condition?

With all due respect, that's none of their business.

It will be interesting to see how some of our residents, especially our seniors, feel about this issue.

Let's make one thing perfectly clear: I'm not poking fun at anyone who has a medical problem. In fact, I'm here to lend my support and to protect their privacy.

At first glance, it appears as though the Region is doing us

a favour. Let them know you have a medical condition and they will likely grant you an exemption.

But I guess that all depends. It just might depend on the number of Depends that end up in your garbage bag at the end of the week.

If you have a medical condition and it's causing your internal plumbing to leak, the Region wants to give you a pee break. You will be able to put out more than one bag of garbage.

Those who don't qualify for the extra bag of garbage probably think this stinks.

Catherine Habermehl, Niagara Region's associate director of waste management, reassures me they don't need to know the specific details of your medical condition.

To get an exemption there's a form that needs to be filled out that requires your name, address and doctor's signature. The doctor needs to confirm you have a medical condition, but the Region does not need to know the details.

Last time I checked, doctors charge patients to fill out forms, so that signature just might end up costing you \$25 — the equivalent of 25 extra bags of garbage.

Those who qualify will receive tags from the Region they can put on the bag, which is a sign to the contractor to pick it up.

Discussions are still going on at this time whether the tags should be the same colour as the ones now being sold for \$1.

There should be no question on that issue.

The problem with putting a different coloured tag on the bag is everyone who sees it — from the person who picks up



MIKE DIBATTISTA Review Staff

Starting Feb. 28, Niagara residents will be cut back to one bag of garbage per week. If they need to put out more, they will have to purchase tags that cost \$1 each. Those who have a medical condition can call to see if they qualify for an exemption.

your garbage, to the person who delivers your newspaper or mail — will know someone at that residence has a medical condition.

Well, I guess if they want to use a different-coloured tag to address this issue, may I suggest a yellow tag.

And just how many free tags will some residents get?

Habermehl said you could have multiple individuals in a household who have medical conditions so that would reflect on the number of tags they would receive.

I'm still a bit confused. Do you get an extra tag per week per individual or what?

What if one person who is incontinent pees more than his

neighbour down the street, how will this be measured?

Will they use a one-litre or two-litre bottle?

As you can see, trying to get a straight answer on this issue is like peeing in the wind.

It can be done, but there must be a better and easier way.

What needs fixing in your

neighbourhood? We want to know. Phone Tony Ricciuto at 905-358-5711, ext. 1132 or e-mail [triccuto@nfreview.com](mailto:triccuto@nfreview.com)



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### Reconnaissance, restitution et réconciliation

Lors des premières activités nationales d'internement au Canada en 1914-1920, des milliers d'hommes, de femmes et d'enfants ont été stigmatisés comme étant des « ennemis étrangers ». Plusieurs furent emprisonnés. Dépourvus du peu de richesses qu'ils possédaient, forcés d'effectuer des travaux difficiles dans l'arrière-pays du Canada, ils ont également été privés de leurs droits et soumis à d'autres censures sanctionnées par l'état — non pas à cause de quoique ce soit qu'ils avaient fait, mais uniquement à cause de l'endroit d'où ils venaient et de qu'ils étaient.

En mai 2008, des représentants de la communauté ukrainienne du Canada ont conclu un accord avec le gouvernement du Canada qui a mené à la création d'un fonds de dotation pour financer des projets commémoratifs, éducatifs, académiques et culturels ayant pour but de rappeler à tous les Canadiens cet épisode dans l'histoire de notre pays.

### Recognition, Restitution & Reconciliation

During Canada's first national internment operations of 1914-1920 thousands of men, women and children were branded as "enemy aliens." Many were imprisoned. Stripped of what little wealth they had, forced to do heavy labour in Canada's hinterlands, they were also disenfranchised and subjected to other state sanctioned censures — not because of anything they had done but only because of where they had come from, who they were.

In May 2008 representatives of the Ukrainian Canadian community reached an agreement with the Government of Canada providing for the creation of an endowment fund to support commemorative, educational, scholarly and cultural projects intended to remind all Canadians of this episode in our nation's history.

**Qu'est dans votre coffre?**

**Fonds canadien de reconnaissance de l'internement durant la Première Guerre mondiale**  
 Pour présenter une demande de subvention ou pour obtenir plus d'information, veuillez consulter l'adresse [www.internmentcanada.ca](http://www.internmentcanada.ca) ou appelez sans frais le 1-866-288-7931

**What's in your trunk?**

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