

King secures conviction in large illegal dumping case

A Sharon man pleaded guilty in a Newmarket court to illegally dumping more than 40 fire extinguishers in a King Township ditch back in March.

A King Township roads employee witnessed someone dumping the fire extinguishers into a ditch on the 18th Sideroad, east of the 7th Concession, around 1:30 a.m. on March 15. The employee was able to get the licence plate number of the vehicle involved. Fire extinguishers are considered by York Region household hazardous waste (HHW) and need be taken to one of the region's four HHW depots for proper recycling and disposal.

Using the licence plate number and information on the extinguishers, bylaw officers began an investigation and managed to track down the owner of the vehicle who lives in Sharon.

He and the company he owns was charged with littering under King Township's littering bylaw. Each charge carries a maximum fine of \$5,000. He pleaded guilty in court on June 21 and the company he owned was fined \$750 while he was personally fined \$500. Companies and even singular people can contact a company similar to this that can offer [skip bins Sydney](#), Australia, and as there are many other similar waste removal and containment companies within King there would have been no reason as to why he would need to incorrectly dispose of hazardous waste.

"We take littering ? especially when it comes to hazardous waste ? very seriously," said Nancy Cronsberry, King Township's deputy clerk and manager of bylaw enforcement. "If residents see someone dumping waste illegally, they should make as many notes about the incident they can. Even better, take a photo if it's safe to do so."

Other helpful information includes a description of the driver, date, time and location. This type of information can be used in court to help secure convictions. You can report complaints by calling 905-833-4002 or by emailing bylaw@king.ca. King offers a reward if the information provided leads to a successful conviction. For more information on hazardous waste disposal, visit york.ca.