

Clean Marine

Log line 2011-11-24

There is probably not a person left on earth that would not recognize the symbol



It has been around for many years and of course represents the three Rs: Reduce, reuse, and recycle. Nanaimo has done an excellent job of recycling, mostly out of necessity as we have a small landfill. But did you know that the 3 Rs were never meant to be of equal weight. Recycle was the last of the three. REDUCE was first, on purpose. By using and buying less, we reduce our footprint on the planet by even more. Christmas is the biggest consumable season of the year, but it also provides an opportunity to make better choices. Before you pile more plastic goods from China under the tree, wrapped in commercial wrapping, consider some local products. Most services will happily supply you with gift certificates for spas, car detailing, landscaping, oil change, movie/theatre/symphony tickets and the like. For the boat, there is boat detailing, power squadron courses, or companion club memberships (power squadron, Blue Water Sailing, Marine Parks and similar). Most dollar stores now sell reusable gift bags that are much easier to use (then reuse) than wrapping paper. Old style Christmas lights can usually be exchanged for LED ones for a great discount, and maybe add a timer to further reduce their energy use. For clothing, consider local craft shops, and Nanaimo has a couple of excellent consignment shops with quality items. Who says the gift you give has to be new. The main idea is to keep an eye on the total footprint your purchase will have from the source, shipping , packing, and the disposal. With a little imagination you can probably get through the Christmas season with only one full garbage can out on the curb, and a good feeling inside.