



Barb Rayner/Courier

Michelle Leblanc, administrative assistant/field technician with Eastern Charlotte Waterways, is pictured with some of the e-waste (computer waste) which has been collected in the area.

## Time to get rid of all that e-waste

Barb Rayner

BLACKS HARBOUR

In this age of ever-changing technology most people now have an old computer, printer, keyboard or other electronic junk sitting around the house, leftovers from the latest upgrade.

Now there is an opportunity to get rid of that e-waste as the South West Solid Waste Commission (SWSWC), in conjunction with Eastern Charlotte Waterways, (ECW) will be collecting it this summer.

The e-waste program was launched June 30 and will continue until Sept. 30 and Dan Harrington, general manager of the SWSWC, said they will be advertising days when people can leave outdated equipment at specific locations but, in the meantime, items can be dropped off at ECW's office in Blacks Harbour or at the commission's landfill site.

"We are going to be having, in concert with ECW, a couple of dates in the fall when people going back to school and possibly buying new computers, can drop them off at certain locations. We will then package them up and take them up to Resnet in Edmundston where they will be deconstructed.

"We will be running advertisements to promote the program but, in the meantime, people can drop them off here or at ECW any time. We usually set up drop-off locations in Saint Andrews and St. Stephen to collect them then

take them up to Edmundston ourselves."

Harrington said they had to limit the program to just computer waste and they are trying to keep as much as they can out of landfills until there is a proper e-waste program in the province.

"The idea for this program came out of discussions in the past on illegal dumping and what we were doing was putting together a comprehensive recycling program to bridge the gap where we are now until there is an e-waste program in the province.

"I don't think we are too far away. I think it is closer to some form of reality. My understanding is they are in discussions with industry about who is going to be responsible for the running of the program. It is basically an extended producers responsibility similar to what they have for a number of things like paint."

Donald Killorn, executive director of ECW, who have run a similar program in the past, said they are working with the SWSWC and did collect some e-waste during the yard sale which was held in the village over the Canada Day weekend.

"We did better than we did last year but it is difficult to quantify. We work hard to let people know it is happening and were happy with the results but it has slowed down.

"Everyone has got something and it is amazing how this gets to pile up. Any time we talk to someone, they always seem to have something in the basement."