Solomon's Dream

A history of Waste Management in St. Theresa Point

“It has been said that the quest is a journey that begins with a dream. In 2011, I had a vision that began the quest for removal of the scrap metal out of our community.”

- Solomon Mason

St. Theresa Point Recycling Project

- The St. Theresa Point Recycling Project started in 2010 when Solomon Mason received a letter from Chief and Council.

  - He was tasked with conducting a waste audit study with the objective to design a waste management program without any revenue or financial support to manage the program.
  - In the beginning, there was little support/interest from the community and only $20,000 in INAC funding.
  - In 2011 the Recycling project began collecting household recyclable items and beverage containers in public areas.
  - In year 1, the project picked up 12 ELV's or household appliances and sent them via winter road to Gerdau Recycling Company.

Waste Audit Study

- Solomon determined most waste could be recycled. The end-of-life vehicles (ELV's) and large household appliances could be recycled for a small profit.

- Over 5000 ELV's counted (yards had anywhere from 5-54 ELVs).
- Solomon stated there were no vehicles until the Winter Road was built 50-60 years ago. Most vehicles lasted only 2 years, as they were cheaper, older vehicles and there were no mechanics.

Starting ELV Recycling

- The recycling project began to focus on ELVs, collecting vehicles from public areas and backyards. They were then brought to a new scrap yard where they could be decommissioned safely.
- STPFN purchased a crusher (it needed replacement within a year.)

Meeting with PROs

- Solomon took advantage of his medical appointments in the city to schedule important meetings with the Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs) and government officials.
- One of the biggest barriers faced by Solomon and other northern people are the exorbitant travel prices to and from Winnipeg.

PRO Partnerships

- Solomon built and maintained partnerships with the following PRO's:
  - Tire Stewardship Manitoba – *Used Tires*
  - Product Care Association – *Household Hazardous Waste*
  - Multi-Material Stewardship Manitoba – *Household Recyclables*
  - Canadian Beverage Container Recycling Association – *Public Area Bins/Spring Clean-up*
  - Electronics Product Recycling Association – *Electronic Waste*
  - Manitoba Association for Resource Recovery Corp – *Used Oil & Antifreeze*
  - Canadian Battery Association – *Vehicle Batteries*

TIRE STEWARDSHIP Manitoba

productcare

MMSM Multi-Material Stewardship Manitoba
Industry funding recycling

cbcra Canadian Beverage Container Recycling Association

CBA Canadian Battery Association

MARRC Manitoba's Used Oil Recycling Program

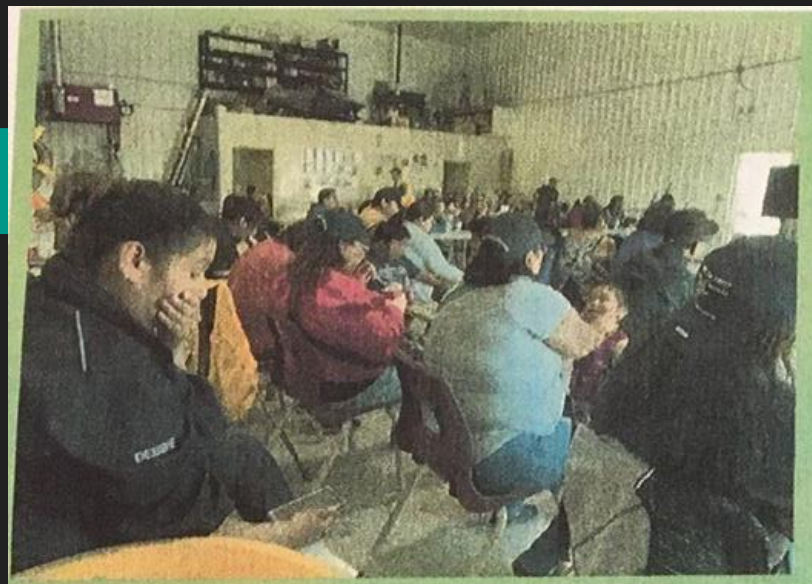
EPRA

St. Theresa Point First Nation Waste Management established

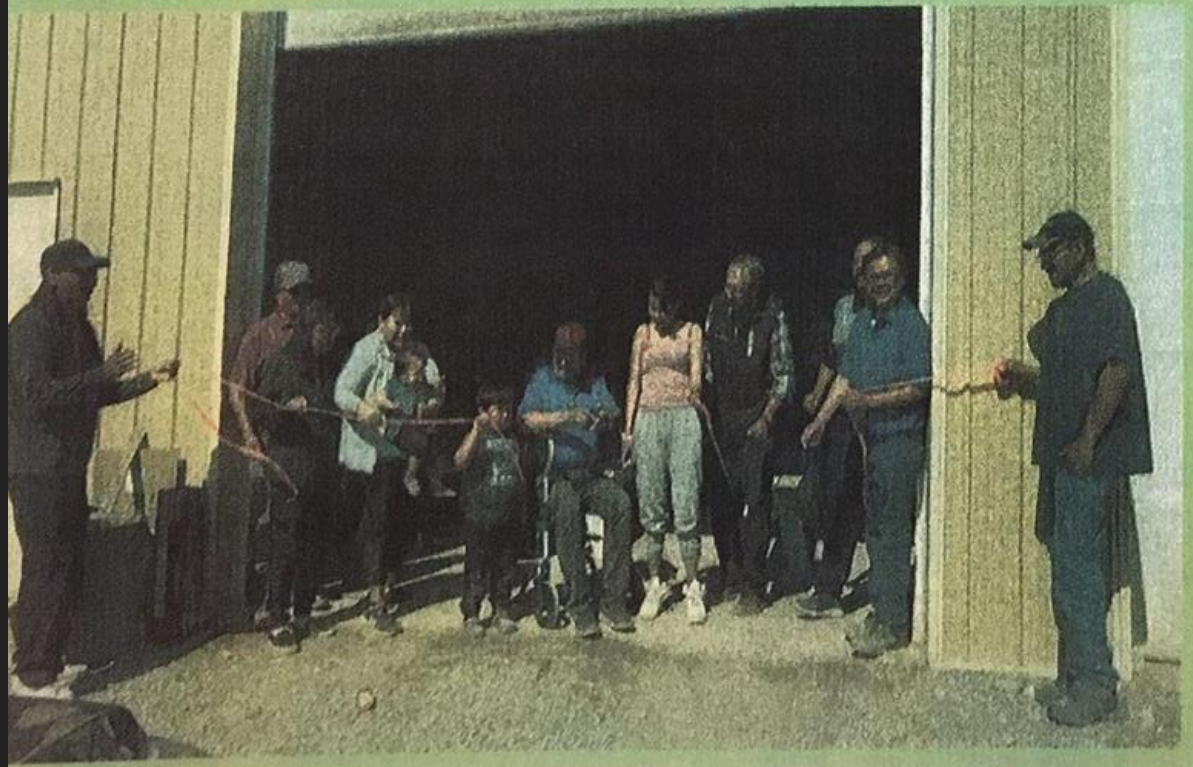
- In 2016, Solomon expands the Recycling Yard project into St. Theresa Point First Nation Waste Management in order to accommodate growing needs.

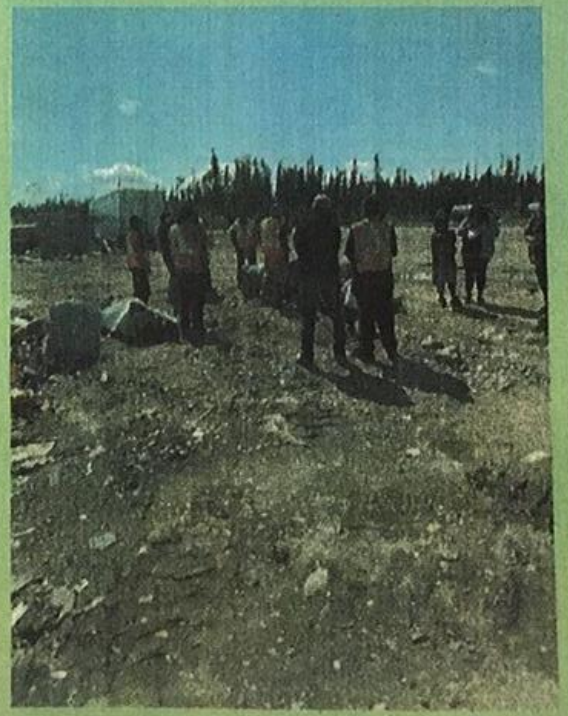
Waste Management Garage Grand Opening - June 2020

New garage front view



WASTE MANAGEMENT
RECYCLING
GRAND OPENING





Used Oil Burner

- In 2020, St. Theresa Point First Nation partnered with MARRC to install their second used oil burner in the community in the vehicle recycling and repair garage.
- This used oil will be used to heat the building, eliminating the need to transport it out of the community

- 2021/22 - The Waste Management Garage was renovated to have on-site office space, constructed by Randy Mason and his crew.

ELV/Household Appliance Recycling

- To date, STPFN Waste Management has decommissioned, crushed, transported and sold over 4,750 vehicles and 4,500 household appliances to metal buyers in Manitoba.

- Although the crew are making a dent in the ELV inventory in the community, the number of scrap cars continues to grow. More used vehicles are driven into the community on the winter roads annually.

Backhaul Project

- St Theresa Point joined the Backhaul project created by the Producer Responsibility Organizations in 2019.

Backhaul Stats

- **1st year result**: 2 truck loads.
  - 4 drums of used oil,
  - 11 pallets of e-waste,
  - 6 pallets of lead acid batteries,
  - 1,572 tires.

2nd Year result: 4 truck loads.

- 79 drums of used oil,
- 2 drums of used oil filters, used oil containers (160 5-gallon pails, 4 bags of 4 litre jugs),
- 6 pallets of e-waste,
- 6 pallets of lead acid batteries,
- 2,848 tires,
- 1 drum of small propane cylinders,
- 4 boxes of fluorescent lights,
- 1 large tote of residential recycling,
- 96 bbq propane tanks,
- 36 4ft propane tanks.

Future of the Waste Management Program

- Currently, STPFN Waste Management has proposed a 5-year funding plan to ISC to save efforts in re-applying each year.

Waste Management staff break ground for a new community garden.

- The Waste Management team is expanding into food sustainability through building community gardens and composting projects.
- There are an estimated 20,000 ELVs in the Island Lake region that need to be decommissioned, crushed, and transported for sale to PRO partners.
- In addition to the vehicles, there are thousands of large household appliances that need to be decommissioned, shipped, and sold to metal recyclers as well.

“I did not start this project for my own personal gain, but for the benefit of the community. In the past, our ancestors helped each other and worked with each other for the betterment of the community. Now, St. Theresa Point and its members have the community cleaned up in accordance with nature.”

- Solomon Mason