



Last year's Technology Alliance Group (TAG) 'E-Waste Unplugged' event saw 17,410 pounds of electronics diverted from landfills and this year's event held Tuesday again in space offered by Canadian Tire in Lindsay was well on its way to collecting more. Helping out here are TAG executive director Lynda Rickard and board members Andrew Wallen, Michael Semple and John Fox and City of Kawartha Lakes Mayor Ric McGee.

Take-back event growing

Group wants to facilitate diversion year-round

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LINDSAY – An annual Lindsay event aiming to recycle unwanted computers and other electronics responsibly is gaining popularity with the speed of those videos on YouTube everyone talks about.

E-Waste Unplugged, coordinated by Technology Alliance Group (TAG) for Kawartha Lakes and held in the Parking lot of Canadian Tire on Kent Street West in Lindsay, saw 60 percent more waste than last, its inaugural year, said TAG executive director Lynda Rickard.

“We had two transport trucks full... it was incredible,” she said Wednesday.

Some 27,250 pounds of electronic material was collected, up from the 17,410 pounds collected in two cube vans in 2007.

Even by mid-morning, there were already several towering piles and stacks of shrink-wrapped monitors.

“We were amazed and extremely pleased that so many people would take the time to put their items in the car and bring them out to make sure they were recycled responsibly,” Rickard said.

The idea is to prevent the materials from going to the landfill, where toxins like lead and mercury can harm us and the environment.

When possible, computers are refurbished and given to non-profit organizations and families in need. The electronics are processed at a plant in Barrie Rickard said she has

toured herself to ensure its practices are environmentally friendly.

TAG hopes to continue the environmental stewardship project by creating an electronic waste centre that would operate all year, Rickard said.

The event wouldn't be a success without the 30 volunteers who made it happen, Rickard said, including from the Boys and Girls Clubs of Kawartha Lakes and Community Living Kawartha Lakes and its Jobs 'R' Us program.

Rotary Club members sorted the collection and shrink wrapped the electronics to ready them for shipping.

TAG, a non-profit, charitable organization promotes and supports technology advancement in the City of Kawartha Lakes.

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This was the scene at Tuesday's E-Waste Unplugged event by mid-morning. Two transport trucks were needed to move the collection of old computers, televisions and other electronic items that may otherwise have went to a landfill.

(Jason Bain/The Lindsay Post)

