

Toronto on Strike: Letting no solution go to waste

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[Toronto on strike](#)



With Toronto 34 days into a municipal workers' strike, city residents are getting creative (and sneaky) about getting rid of their trash, as the Post's Katherine Laidlaw describes. With the union threatening to walk away from the bargaining table if no deal is reached by midnight tomorrow, citizens would do well to brainstorm their own disposal tactics (but don't say you read it here).

Illustration by Kagan McLeod, [click for a larger version](#)

THE BLENDER SOLUTION

One crafty citizen takes food waste, mostly leftover vegetable rinds, and blends it in a blender with a little bit of oil. The solution to getting rid of the resulting purée? Flush it down the toilet.

GOING UNDERCOVER

One waterfront resident helps out his parents, who live in Scarborough, by driving their garbage downtown stashed in reusable grocery bags. He smuggles the bags past his condominium's security guards and into his building's garbage chute room.

BRING IT TO THE IN-LAWS

One Beach dweller takes advantage of his in-laws' Etobicoke location and drops off his garbage there. Etobicoke garbage still gets picked up, as the work is contracted out by the city to a private company.

A CHILLY RECEPTION

Storing green-bin garbage in the deep freeze keeps it frozen solid and one man's home stench-free — at least, he says, until the next power outage.

CROSS-PROVINCE ESCAPE

One weekend this month, a resident's parents visited him from Ottawa. After convincing them to help out, he double-bagged all his food waste and loaded it, and his recyclables, in their trunk. His parents hit the road for a five-hour trip with some extra cargo.

MAKING PUBLIC, AHEM, ART

One city resident bemoans his neighbour's laissez-faire attitude: leaving garbage to pile up on his front lawn. Although the pile, which now resembles something of a ramshackle art sculpture, doesn't smell sweet, it does provide fodder for some animated neighbourhood conversation.

A NOVEL APPROACH

One publishing house employee, who lives in the west end but cycles to work in the financial district, puts his stinky kitchen scraps in a black reusable Canadian Tire bag. He bungee-cords the bag to the back rack of his bicycle, pedals over to his office and tosses the scraps into the trash in the kitchen at work.

THE MINIMALIST

Holding out on creating any new trash is one resident's solution. She says she's not buying anything new unless it's absolutely necessary, and buying whole foods instead of food that comes with packaging. Avoiding superfluous waste seems to be working: so far, her medium-sized garbage bin is just half full. As for her green bin, she's given up eating meat and dairy to avoid leftovers and the pungent smell that accompanies food rinds.

DESPERATE TIMES

Although mailing noxious substances is a criminal offence (you can't even mail fish), some residents have even contemplated violating the Criminal Code by packaging their garbage, putting some stamps on it and sending it to the union's headquarters out of frustration.

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