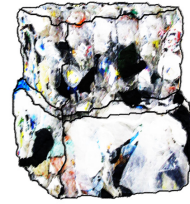


**PLACEMAKER
PROGRAM 2013**

Found Compressions One and Two

By Keeley Haftner *in Partnership with*



Found Compressions One and Two

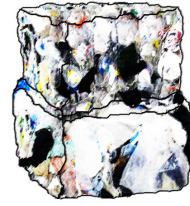
Keeley Haftner

Saskatoon, 2013

**PLACEMAKER
PROGRAM 2013**

Found Compressions One and Two

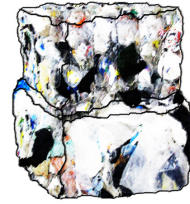
By Keeley Haftner *in Partnership with*



**PLACEMAKER
PROGRAM 2013**

Found Compressions One and Two

By Keeley Haftner *in Partnership with*



Proposal

Found Compressions One and Two

By Keeley Haftner *in Partnership with*



Letter of Intention/Conceptual Description of Work:

Description:

Found Compressions One and Two is a readymade¹ collaborative and site-specific sculpture. The work will be executed in partnership with Loraas Recycle. It will consist of two cellophane-wrapped bales of valueless compacted plastics: a 'three through seven' or 'mixed' plastics bale, and a 'film' plastics bale stacked one on top of the other to form an organic 'cube' shape.² The work will be accompanied by an informative text panel stand stating the name of the artist, title, dimensions, medium, date, and website, as well as a short description, and a link to the blog³ which will accompany the work throughout its three-year display.

Background:

This project's genesis stems from immersive research done over a six-month period of employment with All-Green Recycling, now Loraas Recycle, during which I continued to explore my ongoing preoccupation with plastics, waste materials, and value structures. While working as a sorter at the facility, I quickly discovered that even recycled waste has its hierarchies. For example, #2 HDPE (High Density Polyethylene) 'natural', or 'non-coloured', is the plastic used for milk jugs. It is easily sorted and quickly repurchased by the companies who produce the material. Plastics from the #1 PETE (Polyethylene Terephthalate) to the #2 HDPE are highly valuable and preferenced in sorting procedures, both entering and exiting the warehouse quickly. On the plastics line however, an intense labour I would venture most are unfamiliar with, one is quick to discover the *least* valuable material within the plastics hierarchy: the 'everything else'.

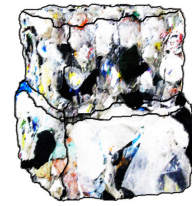
¹ An unaltered 'found' object that gains consideration as an artistic object by merit of its having been chosen and presented as such. See Marcel Duchamp's *Fountain*, 1917

² See attached **Concept Images**, on the included **Image Disc**, for visual support

³ More information on the function and purpose of the blog can be found in the **Community Engagement** section, page 11

Found Compressions One and Two

By Keeley Haftner *in Partnership with*



Plastics #3 through #7, or ‘mixed’ plastics, often differ greatly in their qualities and chemical properties – from the inflexible Lego block to the crunching cousins of the more desirable ‘bouncing’ clear #1 PETE. Mixed bales possess only one ‘valuable’ plastic: the #5 PP (Polypropylene), which accounts for 50% of the bale’s contents. The #5s are not separated because if they were, the residual plastic would be utterly valueless.

Film bales, which are made up of plastic bags, cellophane packaging, and other plastic films often sit in the warehouse awaiting buyers for up to a year. Their transport costs over \$70 per tonne, only slight more cost-effective than the \$95 per tonne to dump the film in a landfill (the solution for most recycling plants who struggle to find buyers).

In sum, the cost of labour and transportation against the worth of mixed and film bales for Loraas Recycle is solvent. The process is a philanthropic one undertaken not only as a relatively young and taxing bandage solution to mass consumption and waste production, but also as what is, for Saskatonians in 2013, the only available solution to the escalating and systematic economic, social, and environmental problem of waste production.

Concept:

Harking from all over Saskatchewan, these laboriously sorted and processed plastics are nearly impossible to profit from. They represent Saskatchewan’s efforts to do whatever they can with their resources, albeit belatedly, to deal with waste management in a sustainable way. Yet they also reveal kinks in the development of this process in a world of mixed materials and planned obsolescence for the sake of economic growth.

Realistically, in spite of a global litany of unparalleled technological and scientific innovations and incredible works of art, the legacy we are mostly likely to leave in the twenty-first century sits in our oceans and landfills. *Found Compressions One and Two* serves as a pre-archaeological framework for this interesting reality, a digging up of the invisible before it is even buried.

Found Compressions One and Two

By Keeley Haftner *in Partnership with*



Technical Details:

The cellophane will serve as a protective barrier for the purpose of containing any potential stray plastics that could piece apart from the bales while in transit to River Landing. This transparent barrier will also keep the contents of the bales visible, while securing those contents from theft or dispersion. Though the cellophane clearly cannot prevent motivated individuals from piercing the barrier with knives or tools to vandalize the sculpture, rather than troubleshooting costly and logistically challenging preventative solutions for this potentiality, I have partnered with Loraas Recycle to instead focus on solutions for dealing with the results of such an incursion in the form of a **Replacement-Bale Strategy**.⁴

The bales weigh approximately 875kg collectively, almost 1 ton per bale, a weight which renders stacking the bales with a forklift sufficient to keep them in place. A simple calculation reveals that it would require approximately fifteen grown men of average weight and build to push the top bale off of the bottom bale without heavy-duty machinery. This is under ideal circumstances, without accounting for the added difficulty of their frictional surface and irregular shape, and neglecting the fact that it would be impossible for this many men to push the same area of the bale given its dimensions.

Found Compressions One and Two's base area is approximately 53" x 51", which shall fit comfortably on the wooden pathway (126" wide) between the middlemost benches at the proposed site, while still allowing room for persons using mobility aids to pass comfortably around all sides. Because of its prime location between these benches, the work can be comfortably viewed while seated, while still allowing ample room to access the barrier overlooking the spray park, and maintain the area's current function as a thoroughway and viewing platform for the spray park and river.

⁴ Removed from proposal by recommendation of the jury

Found Compressions One and Two

By Keeley Haftner *in Partnership with*



A descriptive panel with the title of the work, the medium, the artist, the date, a short description of the work, a link to the work's contingent blog⁵, and the artist's website for a complete artist statement about the project will be installed beside the work on a custom stand mounted with ordinary wood screws, which can easily be installed and removed from the wooden pathway with an cordless drill.

⁵ Again, described in the **Community Engagement** section

Found Compressions One and Two

By Keeley Haftner *in Partnership with*



Schedule:

Date	Action	Location
Nov. 1 st , 2013	Preparation: Loraas Recycle wraps prepared mixed bale and film bale in cellophane	Loraas Recycle
Nov. 15 th , 2013 9am-12pm	Installation: of <i>Found Compressions One and Two</i> by Loraas employee ⁶	<i>Installation Site</i> ⁷
Nov. 15 th , 2013 7pm-9pm	Public Opening and Blog Release for <i>Found Compressions One and Two</i>	Persephone Theatre Bar (pending approval)
Nov. 15 th , 2013 – Nov. 15 th , 2014	Display Term: bi-monthly maintenance checks on work ⁸	<i>Installation Site</i>
Nov. 15 th , 2014	Removal of Artwork: (same parameters as installation)	<i>Installation Site</i>
*Optional	Pre-emptive Removal of Artwork ⁹	<i>Installation Site</i>

⁶ Directed by artist **Keeley Haftner** in coordination with the **Urban Design Senior Planner**

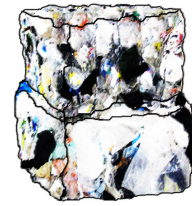
⁷ River Landing BID: 2nd Ave. N and Spadina Crescent East, platform overlooking spray pool – see **Table of Contents** for map, and **Image Disc** for visual

⁸ When weekly check not executable directly by artist, artist will arrange for **Substitute Monitor** for the work

⁹Only if vandalism exceeds budgeted replacements of artwork

Found Compressions One and Two

By Keeley Haftner *in Partnership with*



Community Engagement:

Rather than install the work without any opportunity for public dialogue, as is the case with most long-term public sculpture, I propose to make a contingent Tumblr¹⁰ for the work on which viewers can post their comments, questions, and concerns about the project through myself as the mediator. I will, on an ongoing basis, post and address these submissions through this online forum to generate further discussion. I have created a similar Tumblr for a previous community-engaged work called *Find My Woodcut* (2012). For the piece, a series of 600 prints were given away during Scotiabank Nuit Blanche (Toronto, ON) that participants then posted as their own 'public galleries', later submitting the documentation of these 'installs' to my blog.¹¹ This way, a shared community of those who received the prints as participants, those who later installed the prints as curators, and those who became engaged with the prints as accidental viewers was created.

For the *Found Compressions One and Two* Tumblr, I also intend to collect interviews and anecdotes from the workers of Loraas Recycle¹², so that interested parties might learn more about the very physical and personal process that goes on behind the scenes of recycling within the plant. Recycling is a deeply humanistic process that is not done exclusively using mechanical equipment. With this artwork, viewers become privy not only to this process, but also to the biography within it. The 'beauty' of *Found Compressions One and Two* is not necessarily its visual appeal, but rather its discursive potential: it is a chance to reevaluate our socio-political landscape through the collective found object.

¹⁰ A free microblogging platform and social networking website

¹¹ See **Support Images** on included **Image Disc** for documentation of this project

¹² Permission has been granted for this.

Found Compressions One and Two

By Keeley Haftner *in Partnership with*



Innovation to Saskatoon's Public Art Program:

"One cannot emphasize enough the clear-headed decisiveness of those who choose to employ as media tissue paper, the un-programmed visitor, or growing grass."

– Alan Kaprow

Found Compressions One and Two brings a number of new concepts and material innovations to Saskatoon's present history of public sculpture: it is a found object made locally and collectively with ineffectual labour by devoted management and paid labourers. It is a piece of cultural history made evident with a pedestal, as R. Mutt's *Fountain* proved possible. In becoming art objects the bales render visible the history that is produced as a by-product of waste, while also revealing art itself as a waste-making process. Indeed, the ultimate goal of art is often quite literally to leave a physical footprint that transcends an artist's lifetime. Though the display of this work is temporary, its materials are more permanent than any material produced previous to the 19th century.

A narrative of culture and history, availability and distance, necessity and desire is present in this work, which is at once an art historical object and a rapidly dating time capsule for present Saskatchewanian taste, fashion and commodity. By reminding us that the utility of consumables is temporary, and yet their chemical persistence is tantamount to permanent, these plastics can function somewhat like dirty laundry.

It is not expectable, feasible, or even desirable that every member of a community will engage with an artwork in the same way, or that a work will have unanimous appeal. What is more important than my own expectations or desires as the artist is the potential for dialogue and engagement that effective art can foster. With the contingent blog offering a forum for discussion of and around the artwork, as well as direct dialogue with the artist producing the work, *Found Compressions One and Two* will provide a novel opportunity for commentary on public art within our city. In this way, the work acts not as a statement, but as a proposition.

Found Compressions One and Two

By Keeley Haftner *in Partnership with*



Section C: Artist Biography

Keeley Haftner is a Saskatoon-based artist whose practice is emerging through notions of labour, gender, history, satire, and value. Keeley received her BFA in 2011 from Mount Allison University where she specialized in painting, printmaking, and sculpture. Though an emerging artist, she has already obtained an expansive list of grants, awards, professional and exhibition experience. She is the New Brunswick winner of the 2011 BMO Financial Group's 1st Art! Art Competition, she has done a number of residencies across Canada and the U.S, she participated in Toronto's 2012 Nuit Blanche, and recently exhibited video work in Seoul, South Korea.

Keeley plans to take a few years away from school to develop her studio practice, spend time in residency programs, and exhibit her work throughout Canada and abroad. Eventually, Keeley plans to obtain her Masters in Fine Arts, and continue work as a practicing artist.

Found Compressions One and Two

By Keeley Haftner *in Partnership with*



Installation

- Letter to Loraas Recycle requesting participation
- Images: Loraas, Influences, Concept, Installation, Documentation
 - Media coverage for project
- Tumblr images and interviews

Found Compressions One and Two

By Keeley Haftner *in Partnership with*



August 19, 2013

Re: The City of Saskatoon, Urban Design and Community Development

Subject: Placemaker Program; Letter of support for *Found Compressions One and Two*, by Artist Keeley Haftner

Loraas Recycle would like to indicate our support of the public art initiative being pursued by emerging artist and previous employee Keeley Haftner.

As the collaborative partner for the project, Loraas Recycle will provide a film bale and mixed bale of plastics, wrapped in cellophane, as well as the transportation to and from the artist's site. Loraas Recycle will also provide replacement bales during the installation period, should the artwork incur damage or severe wear.

Against the backdrop of the newly expanded municipal residential recycling program in Saskatoon and given the general lack of knowledge about the opportunities and challenges that surround any recycling program, Loraas Recycle feels that a project of this nature, that highlights recycling and helps to engage the public some of the questions surrounding recycling would be a very valuable addition to our community.

Found Compressions One and Two promotes a high standard of artistic excellence, and is an engaging artwork that responds to the cultural, historical, social and environment context of the River Landing BID area, Saskatoon, and Saskatchewan.

Please accept this letter as formal recognition of the value of this project.

Sincerely,

Dwight Grayston
Manager, Loraas Recycle

Found Compressions One and Two

By Keeley Haftner *in Partnership with*



Loraas Recycle



Sorters on the line in a slow period



Stacked recycling bales



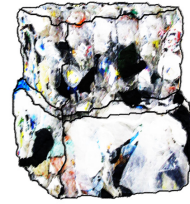
Bale compactor



Compacted mixed plastics

Found Compressions One and Two

By Keeley Haftner *in Partnership with*



César Baldaccini, Naxos 594 (from Compressions series), 1998



Richard Lang and Judith Selby Lang



Fountain, Marcel Duchamp (R. Mutt), 1917

Found Compressions One and Two

By Keeley Haftner *in Partnership with*

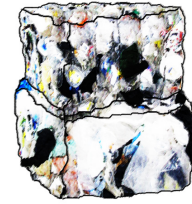


Concept images



Found Compressions One and Two

By Keeley Haftner *in Partnership with*



Receiving bales from Loraas



Snow removal and site preparation

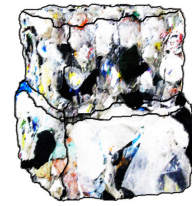


Additional pallet wrap for loose contents



Found Compressions One and Two

By Keeley Haftner in Partnership with



Artist hopes to spark discussion with piles of plastic

JONATHAN CHARLTON
THE STARPHOENIX

Saskatoon artist Keeley Haftner wants to make people think about garbage in a new way.

She's going to stack two bales of all-but-worthless plastic—together, more than two metres high and weighing half a ton—at Idylwyld Drive and 33rd Street.

Haftner is "thrilled" to debut her first public sculpture since earning her fine arts degree in 2011.

"I've very pleased the city was open minded in taking on a project of this kind and also that Loraas was so giving—they're actually donating the two bales," she said.

"Found Compressions One and Two" will be one of seven new temporary art installations around Saskatoon as part of the city's Placemaker Program, which will be going up over

the next several weeks.

Haftner's exhibit is a piece of what's called found art—where an artist, by choosing an object, lends it credit and makes it art.

The plastic bales will be wrapped in cellophane and stacked, but will remain otherwise un-manipulated.

Some plastics, such as milk jugs, are valuable and quickly sold back to companies when they're recycled, said Haftner, who used to work at Loraas.

By contrast, the two bales used in her exhibit consist of valueless film plastic and "337" plastic. The only reason they don't go to the landfill is because it's slightly more expensive to send them there, Haftner said.

"There's this narrative about waste and consumption, but also the way we go through our daily habits. All the objects that are in these bales, they all have their own little story. So it's lending



GORD WALDNER/The StarPhoenix
Keeley Haftner, in her First Avenue North workshop, says putting bales of discarded plastic on public display is part of a "narrative about waste and consumption."

ing dignity to those materials and trying to think about them in a different way"

Haftner is also going to start a blog in which she'll interview Loraas employees

to give some insight into the demands of their work and the pride they take in it.

The Placemaker Program creates an opportunity for different types of sculptures

to be installed in public places. Haftner hopes her work starts a discussion, not only about waste management, but also about sculpture in the city and the ideas of art

and esthetic value.

"That said, not everybody is going to adore it," she said.

"Let's be frank—it's two bales of garbage stacked on top of each other. So I'm aware it's not necessarily going to have the esthetic value some other sculptures would have, so I'd like it to be a forum for discussion as well."

The city's community initiatives manager, Kevin Kitchen, said the placement program is meant to expose city residents to cool art and provide an opportunity for artists.

The city's visual arts placement jury selected one international, four national and two local works out of 33 entries. Each artist will receive up to \$5,000 for their work.

Another call for artists will be issued later this year to replace leases which expire early next year.

Front page Star Phoenix article re: Found Compressions One and Two

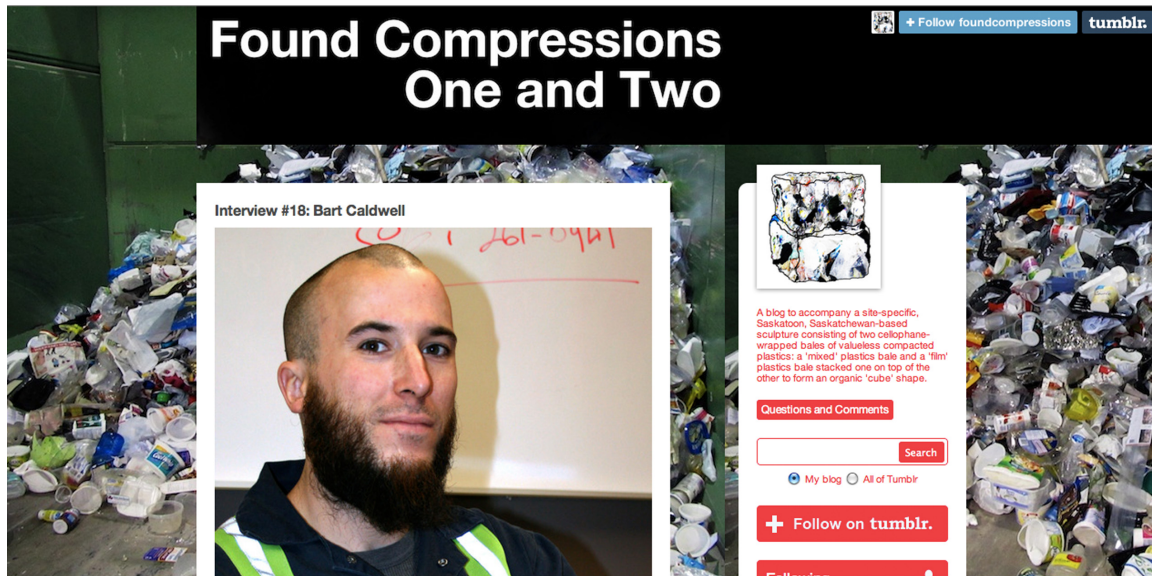


Found Compressions One and Two

By Keeley Haftner *in Partnership with*



foundcompressions.tumblr.com



Screen shot of Tumblr hosting Loraas employee interviews



Scan code from panel leading directly to blog on site

Found Compressions One and Two

By Keeley Haftner *in Partnership with*



Loraas Interviews

Name: Salina Muni

Age: 37

Sex: F

Born: I was born in Uganda, but my nationality is Sudan.

Live in Saskatoon since: 12 years

Worked at Loraas as sorter for: Not very long – I started July 9th, 2013.

Department: Pre-sort

Why recycling?: I just brought my resume. My friend Betty, she was working here. She asked me if I wanted to bring my resume. And at the time I brought it, they were looking for people. So right away I got hired.

Your days off or a typical day at work?: It's good. I like it. It can be very difficult, because if it's winter, you can't feel fingers and toes. But everything is okay.

Favourite on the job story: For me, I just love the work. And I love to pull up things on the line. For me it's very funny. Sometimes it's something really good. I actually don't pay enough attention to something good on the line. Another lady is working here, her name is Carlene, and she found brand new boots for my son. And I just work. I let everything pass. I don't know what's there. [laughs]

Favourite thing about job: I like the job and I like the line I work on right now, better than browns. I like to work with anyone. If somebody is mad at me, I don't mind. If somebody is angry, I just keep working. Everybody – we just talk together. I cannot see somebody and be mean to somebody, no.

Least favourite thing about job: There's supposed to be a different place for garbage, but some people take garbage and throw it in the recycle. And sometimes pick up takes long, and it comes smelly. That's the thing. People have to listen. They have to throw garbage where garbage goes. But everybody's not the same.

Is recycling important to you: Yup, I can do any type of job. Even if the smell's bad, I don't mind. I'm not a person who, I see something bad and I start to throw up – no. Like one day we were working with two people. I looked up and I walked down the line, and the first lady saw a deer or pig head. So she got scared, and I just caught it. I just touched it. I don't mind.

Hobbies: Open Door Society – studying, having some fun, and reading, and do exams.

Name: Mitchell Moberly

Age: 19

Sex: M

Born: Saskatoon, SK

Live in Saskatoon since: 15 years

Worked at Loraas as sorter for: 3 months

Department: Cardboard ONP (stands for?), films

Why recycling?: I wanted to take some time off before university

Your days off or a typical day at work?: Getting up early, I keep looking at the clock waiting for breaks, it's a long day

Favourite on the job story: One of my supervisors ate a hot pepper; he lost a bet for football

Favourite thing about job: Hearing my supervisors talk to each other, they say things that are funny sometimes.

Least favourite thing about job: Just when it gets too hot during the summer

Is recycling important to you: It's just part of the job

Hobbies: I don't do anything during the weekdays because I have to get up to early during the week, but on weekends I play video games or play guitar

Name: Quenton Johnson

Age: 47

Sex: M

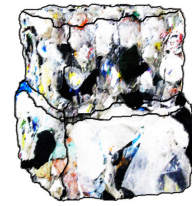
Born: Neilburg, SK

Lived in Saskatoon since: 1 year

Worked at Loraas as sorter for: 1 year

Found Compressions One and Two

By Keeley Haftner *in Partnership with*



Department: Container line

Why recycling?: Actually it's not too bad of a job. I don't mind it. It's pretty simple and easy

Your days off or a typical day at work?: I wake up, I come in, get ready, know what I'm going to do so I know what's expected from me, and I try to do the job right that I'm assigned to. That's about it. I just try to stay safe.

Favourite on the job story: Well, I mostly just talk to the guys, I just fool around with them. If you don't like the job I guess it's not for you. So I mostly tease my friends. I made a lot of friends here actually. We just tease each other; we have a good time. We just try not to hate the job.

Favourite thing about job: I'd say the people. The people are pretty kind, and understanding if you explain yourself right. I guess it would be the bosses here – Dwight. Dwight's pretty cool actually; **I like working for him.**

Least favourite thing about job: Nothing really. I just take it as it comes. If I'm assigned to a job I don't like I just try to stick it for the day, and I know I'm going back to the container line anyways. It's mostly the jams in the machinery, I guess. They're the things I don't like dealing with much, but when it happens it happens. Other than that everything runs smoothly.

Is recycling important to you, or just another part of the job?: People ask me and I just tell them what I do. It's a job, it puts food on my table, pays my rent, my bills. I tell them that straight out, right away. I just tell them just think about it, I'm saving environment too. I throw that in there too. That's what we're doing. Other people, if they don't like their jobs, they don't like explaining what they do. I explain it pretty well, when they ask me. I separate containers, throw them here and there, like **Sarcen**. It's an alright job.

Hobbies: I play the guitar, and I go play for my wife when she sings for patients at the hospital, and I sing too, I guess you could say. I quit drinking two years ago, changed my life and everything, and became Christian. Sometimes it gets tiring but, it's got to be done.

Name: Yacoub Mohamed

Age: 47

Sex: M

Born: Sudan

Lived in Saskatoon since: 3 years

Worked at Loraas as sorter for: 1 year, 2 months

Department: Paper, milk jugs, cardboard - everything

Why recycling?: No work, no life! I'm working to live, to make money.

Your days off or a typical day at work?: I'm working Monday to Thursday, 10 hour shifts.

Favourite on the job story: My English isn't very good, sorry!

Favourite thing about job: I like working fast.

Do you have a record?: I think so. [laughs]

Least favourite thing about job: It's all good; it's work.

Is recycling important to you, or just another part of the job?: Recycling is important, yes.

Hobbies: I like reading

Name: Nyibol Bol

Age: 32

Born: South Sudan

There are many people from Sudan here: Yes, this company is based on these people, I think.

Lived in Saskatoon since: I moved here in 2010, before I lived in Calgary. Almost 2 and a half years now.

Worked at Loraas as sorter for: Since June, 2013

Department: Before I worked all around - I didn't have one place. Now I'm working on the container line.

Why recycling?: Because it's a job, yah? Because when you need money you have to do everything. The good thing here is that the people are nice. They manager is Dwight, and the supervisor is Ryan – I think they're good people. That's why I love to work with them. Other times I work with people who are not nice, I'll leave the job. But here I've stayed almost 5 months now. I think there's good people in this company.

Your days off or a typical day at work?: I think my day is very, very busy. Because I'm married and have 4 children. I wake in the morning and I have to take 3 to school and 1 to daycare. And then I come here, I do my job, and at 4:30 I have to take my children back. I think it's busy for me, but I like it and it's not bad.

Favourite on the job story: I don't exactly have a favourite story. Before, when I started here, I worked in PET, and I didn't like that place. Because you work there all the time and your hands are going like this [gestures]

Found Compressions One and Two

By Keeley Haftner *in Partnership with*



quickly] and your shoulders are tired. Now I'm used to it, now I do everything. I will work there; I will work anywhere. I'm okay with that.

Favourite thing about job: My favourite thing is cleaning. You do the floors, you have to start from top to bottom, to clean everything, One day I came here on a Saturday to clean. I have to clean until it's nice. If it's not nice I will go back to clean more. Cleaning is my favourite, but container line is fun. The first favourite is cleaning, and the second is container line.

Least favourite thing about job: Something I hate is the smell. In the summer time, it's very, very bad because it's hot. It's almost winter now, so the smell is going away. I think it will be good. All the time in summer you get dirty, there's a lot of dust, and you when you get home you have to take shower everyday. It's not good.

Is recycling important to you, or just another part of the job?: No, I think it's not important to me, you know. I work here, and the people are nice me, so this is the reason I like the job. They don't say, "you have to do this; you have to do this", because they let you work. Before I worked in housekeeping, and sometimes the manager would come and say "you didn't clean this good" and "you have to go back to do it". And here, the team leaders walk around, and they don't ask you anything because you're doing your job. And I like to do my job. I don't come here to play. I take money from the company, so I have to do this job.

Hobbies: I don't have something to do for fun. There is no time. We don't have time here. [laughs] I don't have time.

Anything else?: I would like to say thank you to all the people who work here, especially Dwight, and the rest of them in the company. They are nice people, and I would like to stay with them. And now this month, my last day is Nov. 21st, because I'm moving back to Calgary. My husband lives there, and it's not good to live here because all the time I'm busy. I take the children, I come to work, I'm so tired. I have to go back and my husband will help me there. I feel sorry – I don't want to miss this company, because there are nice people. And I wish they have everything good in this company.

Name: Khor Yak Yiech

Age: 39

Born: Sudan

Lived in Saskatoon since: 7-8 months. I came from Ghana last year.

Worked at Loraas as sorter for: Since last year.

Department: Pre-sort

Why recycling?: I know that it is Canadian to do this. So why did I choose recycling... I decided to work here because, sometimes if I feel tired, call my supervisor, I tell him that today I cannot go to work. Can I work this day instead? So, he tells me it will be no problem. Do what you want to.

Your days off or a typical day at work?: My day off is Monday. I start Tuesday to Friday, a four day week.

Do you like four-day weeks?: Yes I like it.

Favourite on the job story: Yes, I think that Recycling is a very hard job. If you're committed to do it, you will do what you want to do it. We know that the government or the company, they are connected to helping the people that are working for the Loraas company. If you get hit, or if there is a needle, or some bottle is broken. Also when something cut your finger, the Loraas will be round to sort this out. They will take you to the hospital. They get Blue Cross to help you if you are cut when you're working. Yah, I think Loraas is a good company. But most people don't think it's good to work here. If someone decides they can't work here, it does not mean that recycling is bad. If they're lazy they cannot decide to work here.

Favourite thing about job: I like to take my time. My schedule is four-day weeks. Also I get my money. And, if I am put somewhere, the company sees where I want to work. All of the bosses who work here, from manager to supervisor to team leader, they do not take the occasion to treat the workers wrong. This job is very hard but gives hard money to workers - people start at \$13 and something. If you work 5 months or three months you will make \$14. But I know it's work.

Least favourite thing about job: If something is bad about something somebody or your body, the company or the supervisor or the manager, they know. Also if somebody needs dental they will share that. If the doctor gives somebody some day or some month or some year for injury, the company has a responsibility to pay, or Blue Cross to pay. Also if you broke your eye or something, they're concerned about it.

Is recycling important to you, or just another part of the job?: Recycling... yes, it's important to me.

Anything else?: There was a time I was working different company – in Alberta. I worked nine years there. I worked for a lot of companies, and also I tried to go to school. My father did that from Africa. I have seen a lot of

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things that are not good. I have no family here. I came alone here. At Loraas if you qualify after three months they decide not to fire you from working with this company. It is what I love. It is what I decided to do.

Name: Trinidad Bastates

Age: 45

Born: Philippines

Lived in Saskatoon since: 4 years

Worked at Loraas as sorter for: almost 3 months

Department: PET

Why recycling?: I don't care. My husband told me – have good benefits, and my husband too he is working in Loraas also, welding.

Your days off or a typical day at work?: Day off is Thursday. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, off Thursday, and then Friday again. Four days.

Favourite on the job story: I'm happy here because people here are good and nice, and I'm happy recycling, and segregating. My job is clear plastic.

Favourite thing about job: Everything, (laughs) yah. My area I like the most.

Did you do something else before you did PETs?: No, always PETs.

Least favourite thing about job: It's a good thing I wear that I wear gloves - dirty diapers!

Is recycling important to you, or just another part of the job?: It is important. In our house, because I have a house already, you can separate the recycling, and it's useful. It's not garbage anymore, because like, plastic... I don't know, before I was thinking that everything was garbage, but now when I work here I know it's useful, we can still have money for that.

Hobbies: Party! [laughs] With some friends, yah. Because here in Canada it's always work, work, work, but if you're in a party with friend that's the time you're having fun.

Name: Noel Roma

Age: 48

Born: Philippines

Lived in Saskatoon since: Almost 3 years

Worked at Loraas as sorter for: 2 months. It's early!

Department: OCC

Why recycling?: I think that recycling – it's not easy to work, but not hard. It's the simple work.

Your days off or a typical day at work?: Every day is a normal day. My day off is Thursday. Everyday is okay for me.

Favourite on the job story: No story, but my co-workers here, they have stories about the work. About the part-time in other work. Sometimes I'm tired, so sometimes I just listen.

Favourite thing about job: All of it. [laughs]

Least favourite thing about job: It's frustrating, sometimes, but not all the time. Sometimes time that's typical of work.

Is recycling important to you, or just another part of the job?: It's part of the job

Anything else?: Right now I don't have any stories because I'm too new. In one year I will have many stories about work or about the company. But, it's cold [laughs]. My face, both my hands are cold. There's no heater in my station.

So you work fast to stay warm?: Fast is normal. The cold is not inside your body if you work fast.

Name: Sandra Buick

Age: 45

Born: Saskatoon, SK

Lived in Saskatoon since: Always lived

Worked at Loraas as sorter for: 2 years and 4 or 5 months

Department: Deposits

Why recycling?: Oh – that's a good question. I used to work in a restaurant making onion rings, and then I thought well, I wanted to something a little different. Somebody told me Loraas was hiring sort-liners, and I thought, well, it could be interesting to see how the process works. And seeing how now that everything is

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getting out of the landfill, it's good. It's better for the environment to get it out of the landfill and make it a recyclable product.

Your days off or a typical day at work?: Oh geez, let's see... Well, we start at around 7 o'clock in the morning. I usually go down to deposits, usually get all our bins ready, and then we start. We see whatever comes across the line, like milk jugs, which go down to the end – anything that's not a deposit goes down to the end of the bag – and all the beverages get sorted to the size. So like, there's your pop cans, and then there's your tetra, either small or large. They all get sorted into one bin. What else... we have our large clear and small clear. We have the coloured small and the large coloured ones that all get separated into different bags. And then we have our tin, which gets deposited too, but it gets baled and shipped.

Favourite on the job story: Well, when things get sorted into the wrong feeder and comes to our line, sometimes we do get toys, sometimes we get glasses. Like the other day we saw a little sheep, sometimes we see little dogs and stuff like that that usually comes down the line, and we kind of laugh at it, you know. We have to shut down the line sometimes to clean up. Sometimes we throw things into each bin and sometimes we miss it, and we kind of just laugh about it, and just have a good time. You know, we just kind of enjoy what we're doing. It's better to take the non-refundable stuff and make something of it, rather than throwing it out in the garbage. We used to way back when, but now I'm glad it's out of the landfill and we're doing something with it.

Favourite thing about job: Well my favourite thing is, since our department does most of the beverages every day, we have to fill each bag. And when each bag gets full we have to replace that bag. Sometimes we even have to use rhino bags – the big, large, orange ones – when we run out of bags. My favourite thing is just making sure that everything, all the papers, and all the things that come in each department gets all sorted out. Sometimes when you fill a bag really full we have to undo it and fill it again. Sometimes we do get an over-spillage but that's part of the everyday that goes on. Anything that's floating around at the end of the day, like paper, or any refundables usually gets sent back and we sort it again.

Least favourite thing about job: Well, the least thing would probably be sorting out the tin, which is not really exactly a beverage. Tin and aluminium should be in a separate department. They should maybe have that, and have it separated from the deposit, and just have only beverages that go into each bag.

Is recycling important to you, or just another part of the job?: It is important, because if we don't have take all these beverages laying in our landfill, and they take many years to disintegrate. This is the reason why we recycle, which is good, because then we don't have to take up so much land and have all that stuff just laying there. So much stuff that we put out in the landfill could be used for something else, rather than just laying it. I don't know whether the city burns it all, or what they've done with it in the past, but I'm glad now we've got recycling going. So we don't have to put so many resources in the landfill.

Hobbies: I like doing crafts. I do sewing and I knit.

Anything else?: There are certain things that come through that are hazardous; we need to teach people what is recyclable and what is not

Name: Duol Wuol

Age: 26

Born: Sudan

Lived in Saskatoon since: Since 2007

Worked at Loraas as sorter for: 3 months

Department: All different lines. OCC, PET, Container, Browns, ONP. I work every station.

Why recycling?: My cousin works here. I didn't have a job, and he told me, okay, come and work here. So I came and joined him, met very good people here.

Your days off or a typical day at work?: I don't know... I think there's no normal, it's busy. Unless Saturday – that's clean up. That's not normal, I guess.

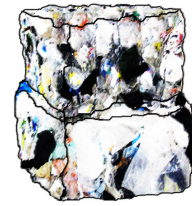
Favourite on the job story: Nothing really – just one time, working the line, and these geese came on the line. [laughs] Three dead geese. I picked them up and put them in the garbage. We didn't expect it. They came in with the paper.

Favourite thing about job: My favourite thing about this job is that everybody is friendly, you know. In every station you go everyone knows each other.

Least favourite thing about job: [laughs]

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Dead geese?: There's nothing I can change about the job. The only problem is I can't change the weather. Sometimes the recycling is frozen, but if you work on the container line it's hard. Your hands get cold very quick. And if there is a heater - the heater is on, and then, nothing. It still doesn't help.

Is recycling important to you, or just another part of the job?: I think it's important too, you know. Like we do recycling - we separate the paper and then all the containers like the cans and bottles and they go to deposit. And all the metal, it's goes to the metal... I don't know where they take them. [laughs]

Hobbies: I go to the gym

Name: Riek Both

Age: 40

Born: Sudan

Lived in Saskatoon since: 10 years

Worked at Loraas as sorter for: 1 year

Department: Sort lines. Actually the station I work at is the container line.

Why recycling?: First of all my cousin worked for the company, and he introduced me to it. That was summer, but in the fall, I stopped going to school and was looking for a job. So I came because my cousin was working here.

Where did you go to school?: The University of Saskatchewan, in Commerce.

Favourite on the job story: The normal day would be like, when we're running the belt, the conveyor belt, around every 20 or 30 minutes, when we're doing residential recycling.

Favourite thing about job: My favourite thing is that it's kind of like a routine job. But the good thing is people are not boring. I'm not bored in the job. The line runs and keeps me busy. Sometimes, breaks come without me even knowing it. It's a good thing. I like it. Because some jobs I can't handle it, when I'm bored, the day becomes long.

Least favourite thing about job: Well actually, the job that I'm doing I pretty much like it. But the only thing I didn't like is the dust. Other than that the job is very good. There is no heavy lifting. I like it.

Is recycling important to you, or just another part of the job?: I think it is very important. Before I came here, when I saw the blue and red trucks coming around I thought it was garbage or something. I've actually become environmentally friendly, so that's a helpful thing. When I go out I find myself making a difference in the city, with the population here.

Hobbies: Swimming, and also taking my kids to the movies. I like action movies and martial arts.

Name: Yohanna Tale

Age: 23

Born: Sudan

Lived in Saskatoon since: I've been here for 2 years and half.

Worked at Loraas as sorter for: 2 months

Department: OCC

Why recycling?: Because I was interested, and my cousin, he worked before. Because I wanted to make a little money. [laughs]

Your days off or a typical day at work?: Cooperating with people, talking with each other, getting to know each other, and sometimes smiling.

Favourite thing about job: I need to work hard to build myself.

So you like working hard?: Yah.

Least favourite thing about job: Different things, I don't know... I have ideas but I don't know. It's an experience.

Is recycling important to you, or just another part of the job?: It's important. I feel proud.

Hobbies: I do the LINC program [Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada]. I guess my hobby is that I play soccer.

Name: Ahamed Haroun

Age: 45

Born: Sudan

Lived in Saskatoon since: Almost 3 years

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Worked at Loraas as sorter for: Going on 2 months

Department: ONP

Why recycling?: I usually do many things.

Your days off or a typical day at work?: Now I'm just four days, and that's good.

Favourite on the job story: I talk with my own friends at coffee, and break time. I can talk with anybody.

Favourite thing about job: Working browns and ONP. That's good for me.

Least favourite thing about job: The first line – I never liked that. Pre-sort. Now they have too much cold in there.

Is recycling important to you, or just another part of the job?: It's part of the job.

Hobbies: Sometimes I go shopping. Yesterday I took my day off with my kids.

Name: Little Simon Both

Age: 27

Born: Ethiopia

Lived in Saskatoon since: 12 years

Worked at Loraas as sorter for: 2 months

Department: Browns

Why recycling?: Because I like it and because my cousin is working here, and my big brother is working here, so yah.

Your days off or a typical day at work?: I come to work every day, so I see a lot of people. They show up too, you know. They work. They're so happy. When I come to work everybody says hi to me. I'm so excited to work here, yes.

Favourite on the job story: Nothing has happened here. I'm just working here. I go work in browns, I sometimes go to PET – it has a long name, a very long name. Sometimes I do machine cleaning, like OCC star. I kind of like it. I don't have any story, because nothing happened to me here. The supervisors, they're all good to me. But I'm still trying to learn more too, you know.

What do you like about cleaning the OCC star?: The machine is kind of important. Sometimes it moves your body around. You've got to watch out. It's got a lock but you've got to look out. You can just run on the machine and nothing happens because it's locked. But it's kind of scary because it's kind of like, 'whoa' [makes stabilizing motion].

Favourite thing about job: Working on browns, because I've been working there a lot. The supervisor put me there, and I like it. You pick up plastics, and garbage, and other plastics... they have a name...

Film suction?: Yes, I'm new but I'm learning.

Least favourite thing about job: Today it was cold, but the supervisor gave me a lot of gloves. Kind of like, 'hey man', inviting everyone to more gloves. But before it was cold, I'm like [shudders]. Always using just one pair of gloves, but he gave me more and I'm like, good.

Hobbies: I play basketball, and go to the gym to work out.

Anything else?: All I know is I'm just so excited to work here. I know a lot of people here.

Name: Salvador Bermoy

Age: 39

Born: Philippines

Lived in Saskatoon since: 1 year and four months.

Worked at Loraas as sorter for: Almost 8 months.

Department: Browns

Why recycling?: For me I chose recycling for the job. My old job is impractical. My old job was only 11 hours a week and this is 30, and that's why. I have family, I need more money [laughs].

Your days off or a typical day at work?: It's not a normal day. I wake out almost 4 o'clock in the morning, and then I'm going home by third day.

What time do you start?: At 7am. I wake up at 4am because I prepare my food, and I finish at 5:30. I work ten hours, four days a week.

Favourite on the job story: Maybe, the most weird for me is I can see I see diapers, running on the conveyor. Sometimes a lot of needles and that's why I'm scared.

Favourite thing about job: Salary [laughs]

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Least favourite thing about job: Secret [laughs] No I don't have a least favourite about the job here. That's for me to know [laughs].

Is recycling important to you, or just another part of the job?: Recycling is important for me, because if there is no recycling what happens to our garbage? That's why we need recycling.

Hobbies: Sports. I have no time because I have two jobs. I'm going home. I work. I care for my new born baby. [laughs] I have no time to, but I love to play basketball. But at this time, I have no time for that.

What's your other job?: I work at a hotel every Saturday/Sunday. That's why I have no time for fun. One day a month with my family, my wife and two daughters I'll be getting outside later. Going in the park, watch a movie, sometimes. Every Tuesday we go KFC for toonie Tuesdays.

Anything else?: Loraas is a nice company – that's it. No comments. [laughs]

Name: Carlene Brown

Age: 57

Born: North Battleford

Lived in Saskatoon since: 41 years

Worked at Loraas as sorter for: Just a little over 2 years.

Department: I just went back to beverages, and I'm at pre-sort.

Why recycling?: I got the job through a friend. Dwight at Curbside Recycling. And after three years with him I transferred here, when he sold the company to Loraas.

Your days off or a typical day at work?: Well, we go to our departments, and we sort beverages, take off millions and millions of lids every day, and now that winter's here harder to take off.

Favourite on the job story: We had a pig head! Yes...

So did they stop the line: Nope, Salina just grabbed it and threw it in her garbage, I took it out so Ryan could take pictures to show Ryan next door. It was disgusting.

Favourite thing about job: Never a dull moment – always something new everyday.

Least favourite thing about job: The cold. [laughs]

Is recycling important to you, or just another part of the job?: No, it's important.

Hobbies: Me? I play on my grandson's Xbox. [laughs]

Any particular games?: I play bejewelled. It's my favourite game.

Name: Josepino Pecena

Age: 44

Born: Philippines

Lived in Saskatoon since: 1 year and 5 months

Worked at Loraas as sorter for: 1 year and 3 months

Department: Plotter – I clean all the stations.

Your days off or a typical day at work?: I take all the things that are not recyclable and put them in the garbage bin.

Favourite on the job story: Chicken, pork, skin and hair of a goat. They gave us masks, and gloves also.

Did they have to stop the line?: No, the people working at the station had to pick it up.

Favourite thing about job: People working together in harmony.

Least favourite thing about job: I like all of the job at Loraas.

Is recycling important to you, or just another part of the job?: It's important to recycle, because cardboard we separate and the garbage that's not recyclable we separate also.

Hobbies: Watching TV

Name: Bart Caldwell

Age: 33

Born: Prince George, BC

Lived in Saskatoon since: 10 plus years, off and on

Worked at Loraas as sorter for: I'm going on my second year here

Department: Well I'm a team leader, so I cover all stations, all parts of the machine, except for like the tin? Floor people. That's Dale and his crew.

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Why recycling?: I got introduced to it through a friend of mine, you know. Needed a job, came here. Before then I thought, you know, paper/plastic/tin – that was recycling. It's really opened my eyes to the world of recycling here.

Your days off or a typical day at work?: Go through lots and lots of product. Get up in the morning. Make sure my crew is here. Make sure they're in their prospective stations, so it's as easy for them to get through the day. We have different speeds in different stations are easier and harder than the others, so as long as everyone's put in the right place we go through a whole bunch of stuff.

Favourite on the job story: I have plenty of them. I guess dead animals coming across the line – that's always interesting. I know Ryan Buhey, our public educator, he has a bronze statue of the lion. I remember when that came through, it came down with a really large bang, and because everything's piling on the belt you kind of scramble to see what it is. Once it gets to you it's this big, bronze lion! I set it aside, you know, not really thinking of it, and I went for coffee, and when I came back my lion was gone. And Ryan Buhey is so excited, he says "you should see this thing I got! I got this!" And he takes me to the office shows me the lion that I pulled off. [laughs]

Favourite thing about job: Just pretty much knowing the whole recycling process, working with really good people here, and having the chance operate large equipment like the L60 and L20.

Least favourite thing about job: Having to deal with bio hazardous materials such needles and stuff like that. That's pretty scary, like a single prick from the wrong needle could ruin your life. And ammunition scares me, coming across the line.

Have you seen ammunition coming down the line?: Shot gun shells, 22 rounds, and like, rocks, break pads, shoes, heavy stuff falls with that. So like what are the chances of something hitting that on the way down? It's kind of scary.

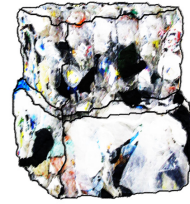
Is recycling important to you, or just another part of the job?: Oh, it's important to me. Before I worked here, I didn't really recycle. Now my whole family recycles.

Hobbies: I play music.

Any particular music?: Vocals for metal bands.

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