

Ring Around The Bin makes way around Durham

Whitby inventor says her invention will make composting easier

Kristen Calis
kcalis@durhamregion.com

DURHAM -- It may look simple enough, but it took a Whitby resident who'd had enough with her messy kitchen compost to invent a contraption that will keep the bag in place.

"I was frustrated with compost and the mess falling down," recalls Janet Sirko, inventor of Ring Around The Bin, a plastic ring that fits on top of the common Orbis kitchen compost bin in order to keep the bag in place and stop it from falling into the bin.

She searched through flyers in an attempt to find a ring already on the market, but when she couldn't, she chose to seek a way to invent it herself.

"I never told anyone about it, not even my boyfriend," she says.

She got Canada and U.S. patents and found an illustrator before finding someone to manufacture the product.

"Everything had to be made in Canada," she says.

So in late 2013, she found a company in Pickering called MSB Industries Inc., which specializes in plastics injection moulds. The company can take a drawing on a napkin and work with a customer all the way through, from the design to the production phase.

"We're a one-stop shop," says Brian Valerio, manufacturing manager. "There are very few of us that do what we do."

The company worked with Ms. Sirko to come up with the perfect product, and when the ring helped the lid on the kitchen compost bin snap shut, they knew it was right.

"It's called the audible click," jokes Mr. Valerio.

The product was launched in October and



PICKERING -- Whitby resident and inventor Janet Sirko developed a handy tool to keep compost bins neat and tidy. The "Ring Around the Bin" was recently launched and is being sold. MSB Industries in Pickering manufactures the product.

Ron Pietroniro / Metroland

is being sold for \$9.99 and can be found at the Pickering Flea Market and Maximum Nutrition Centres in Pickering and Whitby.

Ms. Sirko notices children seem to really gravitate toward her product. Even a school board in York Region has chosen to purchase the item for the compost bins in its classrooms.

"I want to get it into all of the school boards and all of the municipalities," says Ms. Sirko.

Sean Brick, MSB's production manager, can vouch for the product.

"I think it's great. I have one at home," he says.

Ms. Sirko, a big believer in recycling and composting, hopes her handy product will help improve waste diversion, and that apartment and condo buildings will start composting. Of course, she'd like to get her

product in the buildings too.

"There is a passion I have for the product," she says. "Nothing stops me from taking it to the next guy."

MSB is happy to have partnered with Ms. Sirko, and she's pleased to have her product made close to home.

"It's not so easy," Mr. Valerio says of having a product made overseas. "You can't just show up in China."

His father Marino Valerio says he had the same drive Ms. Sirko does when he started the company in 1987.

"I had to do it," he says. "It's just slowly you grow and grow and this is where we are now."

For more information on the new invention: VISIT www.ringaroundthebin.com

C /Local Heroes



We want to salute the work of Local Heroes in Durham Region. We're asking you to nominate a Local Hero and tell us -- in 100 words or less -- a little bit about their good deeds. As an incentive, we're offering a monthly prize of a \$25 gift card to be drawn randomly from those who nominate a Local Hero. For more information and to nominate go to durhamregion.com/localheroes.

C /Twitter Tuesdays



To reward the followers of our @newsdurham Twitter account we are running retweet to win contests on Tuesdays. All you have to do to be eligible to win is to retweet our tweets or retweets. Each time you retweet you are entered in the contest. We will pick one winner each week from all eligible Tuesday retweets.

Follow us on Twitter @newsdurham for breaking news and contest details.

Year End CLEARANCE EVENT

2015 SONATA GL

OWN IT FOR
\$59
WEEKLY

0%

PURCHASE
FINANCING FOR
96 MONTHS



ONTARIO HYUNDAI

Durham's Import Superstore

1505 Dundas Street E., Whitby • Just West of Thickson • 905-668-5100 or 1-866-871-6776 • www.ontariohyundai.ca | Facebook: [facebook.com/ontariohyundaiwhitby](https://www.facebook.com/ontariohyundaiwhitby)

†Finance offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on a new 2014 2015 Sonata GL Auto with an annual finance rate of 0% for 96 months. Weekly payments are \$59. \$0 down payment required. Cost of Borrowing is \$0. Finance offer includes Delivery and Destination of \$1,695, levies and all applicable charges (excluding HST). Financing ex: \$13,780 at 0% per annum equals \$33 weekly for 96 months for a total obligation of \$13,780. \$0 down payment required. Cash price is \$13,780. Cost of Borrowing is \$0. Offers available for a limited time and subject to change or cancellation without notice. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. Information correct at time of press.