

CFS 103

LOCAL RECYCLING BUSINESS LANDS IMPORTANT DEAL

Digital Friends, the local company that's been refurbishing, recycling and selling used electronic equipment for years, is now approved as an official collection site with the Ontario Electronics Stewardship (OES) program.

That's good news for Digital Friends as well as local residents, says owner Joe Black.

The province's OES program has pledged to divert 160,000 tonnes of garbage over the next five years.

Approved collection sites like Digital Friends receive funding from the OES to package and transport electronic waste to recyclers, which are also pre-approved and regularly audited.

"The really cool part is that we're back to free drop-off," says Black. In recent years, Digital Friends had to turn away televisions and charged \$25 to accept old computer monitors because the volume was so high.

The company now accepts virtually all electronic

waste including TVs at no charge from households, businesses and institutions.

Digital Friends is located at 1121 Evett St. across from International Tire on Confederation.

"I expect the biggest impact for our business will be traffic flow," Black said.

He is collaborating in a community event with the local Girl Guides for a special collection of electronic equipment on Saturday, June 6.

Everyone is encouraged to drop off their old tvs, stereos, computers etc. between 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. At Digital Friends. Girl Guides will be on hand to help unload.

For more details, call Digital Friends at 519-344-3334.

Staples on London Road is the only other officially designated collection site in Sarnia. Staples received approval starting April 14 and has already trucked away 40 skds of used electronic equipment, a store spokesperson said.

The majority of that is old monitors and televisions.

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