

Carl Maguire
Horse Creek

OMG!

The stuff people throw away!

Pretty much all the electronics in our house are sourced from The Mall. The TV, our computers, monitors, keyboards, stereos, speaker systems, a solar panel...all of this came from The Mall.

Routers! How does anybody function in this day and age without routers? Solar array to shop to cabin to house? Possibly including the cheatin' buggers who stop at the top of our driveway tryin' to pirate our connection?

Non-electronics include a 185 gallon rain barrel. Metal roofing that saved a pile of money for us and our neighbours, when we had that awful windstorm a couple of years ago. That wind tore off a quarter of the neighbours' roof and the ridge cap off our roof.

Our greenhouse is a half-building with a glass wall and more of that metal roofing. The roofing feeds rainwater to a recycled horse trough. And we got enough tubing from instant garages to make a 20' greenhouse-like cover for a raised bed in the garden, and a gazebo for just sittin'.

A complete roof for our generator shack.

Perfectly good bicycles for seniors that only needed a little maintenance. A pop-up mosquito tent. Jeans, jackets, hoodies. Lanterns for camping.

THE COMPLETE HARRY POTTER VIDEO COLLECTION!

Plus a whole bunch of stuff that (groaner alert) got *re-routed* to Computers for Schools.

You've seen the "Little Libraries" around town I guess. Well The Mall has the biggest little library. Not as good as the real thing, and not nearly as good as Well Read Books, just closer.

We're in the habit of shopping there first. Here's why. Some time ago I lost a hubcap from our camper van. More recently we found (at The Mall) a battery operated furniture vacuum that still had enough charge to actually work. Trouble was it needed a specific "wall wart" and end plug to charge it. Fast forward a couple of weeks: we found the wall wart and plug in The Mall's electronics department and my hubcap sitting on a block of cement near the metals department. We all like the vacuum, and Spock the Roadtrek is complete again.

So where is this marvellous emporium? The Mall? To quote an old song: "Well, if you don't know I ain't gonna tell ya..." But here's a hint: It costs ya a buck for yer admission and that includes disposal of a bag of household garbage. Pound for pound I think we, as a family, are ahead of the game by about 10 to 1. A pound of vacuuming dust, chicken bones, and slimy green veggies for ten pounds of electronics or metals or books.

I sincerely hope that certain ministers in our government don't read this or they'll enact some kind of BS law to kill the spirit of recycling.

They have a history of that you know.

XXX
Thirty etc.