



Frank Dabbs/MVP Staff

Dave Pettis lifts an iron grizzly with a loader at the Didsbury landfill.

Landfill plates a real space saver

BY FRANK DABBS
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An innovation at the Mountain View Regional Waste Management Commission's landfill near Didsbury is saving money, time and a landfill's most valuable commodity – space.

Called Iron Grizzlies, two-tonne hollow steel boxes six inches deep, 32 feet long by seven feet wide, are now used as overnight cover for the garbage brought to the landfill and compacted daily, said waste man-

agement commission CAO Pat Sliworsky.

The iron grizzlies, named by the company in Revelstoke, B.C. that invented and produces them, take the place of a daily soil covering required in environmental regulations governing landfill management.

It takes about 10 minutes to lower five of them on the day's garbage and 10 minutes in the morning to remove them, Sliworsky explained.

That's much less time than it used to take to push six inches

of clay and compact it over the garbage each day.

Valuable clay is saved, and in the course of a year the volume of space saved because the metal plates can be removed but the daily soil cover cannot be removed, is very significant.

"It's the kind of thing that makes you say I wish I had thought of it," said landfill foreman Ryan Verbonak.

In fact the grizzlies are the brainchild of Scott and Brett Renaud when they operated the landfill at Revelstoke.