

SWAP 'TIL YOU DROP!



Richie Hall and his fellow "Cape Crusaders" operate the Town of Chatham's Swap Shop:

"The Swap Shop is a combination yard-sale, treasure hunt and town-wide flea-market where every price is always '100%-off'.

It's a valuable service for residents by providing a much needed place where people can leave useful and serviceable items which they no longer need or want; while others can acquire them at no cost. It is the essence of community sustainability and environmental stewardship on a local, micro-level.

As a volunteer who has done this for the better part of a decade, I can attest to the sheer volume of stuff that passes through the Swap Shop every summer. Everything from oak bureaus, chairs, patio furniture, books, games and puzzles, kitchenware, clothing, pillows, decorative art, toys, golf clubs and more. I can only guess what the total tonnage might be. But I know for certain that every item which has found a

second life in someone's home is an item the Town won't have to pay to get rid of.

At its heart the "Gift Shoppe" has two constituencies, the bringers and the takers, fully recognizing that these are not mutually exclusive categories. Many of our users are both. And in order for this local institution to thrive, we need and value both. One cannot exist without the other.

As hectic and crazy as some shifts can be, we volunteers do experience lighthearted moments.

Seldom does a day go by without a visitor approaching the front table to timidly ask the price of the treasure they're holding because they haven't been able to find the price tag."

-Richie Hall, Swap Shop volunteer,
fellow environmental steward and
friend to treasure hunters

Huge thanks to Richie and his fellow "Cape Crusaders" at the Swap/ Gift Shop: Susan R, Everett, Susan G, Marla, Jennifer, Kathleen, Ken, Athenia, Stewart, M.J., Mollie and John (apologies if we missed anyone!)

These folks perform the epitome of "Reuse" on the Recycling triangle (Reduce, REUSE, Recycle). It's SO important that they are there performing this function every weekend during Chatham's busiest time of year. Please use the Swap Shop responsibly, courteously and often - and thank a volunteer for their generous time and efforts when you're there!

**CHATHAM CONSERVATION FOUNDATION'S ENVIRONMENTAL
FAIR is tomorrow!**

Friday, August 16, 10 til 2

Chatham Community Center Front Lawn

Many groups participating including ChathamRecycles

Come say hello!

ChathamRecycles.org

Visit us on Facebook too.

