

## Recyclers rewarded for mounds of effort

By **BARB AARDEMA**

Chronicle staff writer

Anyone wanting a lesson in grass-roots activism should spend time with Betty Dahlstrom and Holly Hughes.

The leaders of the White Lake Recyclers have found that a positive attitude coupled with patience, persistence, research and hands-on, follow-up work pays off.

Since recycling bins were made available in the White Lake area — primarily because of the recycling group's efforts — materials picked up for recycling have totaled 37 tons in the last five months of 1989, 142 tons in 1990 and 193 tons through the first eight months of this year.

To encourage recycling, the small band of about eight core members has brought its low-key approach to public, private and school groups, meeting by meeting, one step at a time. They speak their minds then mind what hap-

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pens as a result of their efforts.

The crusade hasn't been without setbacks.

The White Lake Recyclers formed in response to the state Department of Natural Resources' announcement of statewide recycling goals.

Dahlstrom contacted the White Lake Area Solid Waste Authority about setting up a recycling station after attending a 1988 DNR meeting on the subject. The authority operates a transfer station used by residents of the cities of Whitehall and Montague and White River, Montague, Blue Lake and Whitehall townships.

The board initially worried that recycling would place too much burden on the attendant at the transfer station and that the authority's budget might not be able to afford hauling fees.

Dahlstrom and Nancy Frye, the group's first co-chairwomen, eased concerns by enlisting volunteers to staff a recycling center at the transfer station. With about 40 people committed for six months, Dahlstrom asked for support from the Whitehall City Council.

"This seemed to be the thing

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Holly Hughes, left, and Betty Dahlstrom, leaders of White Lake Recyclers, show some of the fruits of their success.

