

# Litterature



The Nova Scotia Adopt-A-Highway Program

Fall 2006

## Fall Cleanups In Progress

Fall is here once again and volunteers are busy planning their next Adopt-A-Highway cleanup.

Each time a cleanup is performed a new **Litter Cleanup Permit** must be obtained from the Department of Transportation and Public Works (TPW). It is suggested that groups notify the local TPW depot at least one week in advance of the cleanup so that the permit, safety vests, garbage bags and flagging materials will be ready for your group.



Fall is also a good time to check the condition of your recognition signs. Are they in good shape? If not, contact the Adopt-A-Highway office and request repairs or replacements.

Remember to review the safety regulations with all volunteers before your cleanup begins. After the cleanup is finished, complete your permit by recording the number of bags of garbage, number of volunteers and amount of time it took to complete the cleanup. If dangerous items are found, mark these items with flagging tape. Place a piece of flagging tape on a branch near the dangerous item so that TPW staff can retrieve the item. Dangerous items found should be listed on your permit and noted to TPW staff when you return your unused supplies and safety vests.

It is the group's responsibility to return a copy of the completed permit to the Adopt-A-Highway office after the cleanup to let the office know the cleanup has been performed. The permit can be returned by mail or by fax.

## RRFB Nova Scotia Celebrates 10 Years

*What a difference ten years can make!*



In 1996 Nova Scotia launched its innovative recycling and composting programs under the direction of the RRFB Nova Scotia. Thanks to the efforts of Nova Scotians and the leadership of RRFB Nova Scotia, our province is a world-leader in reducing waste and protecting our environment. In fact, Nova Scotians dispose of almost 50% less garbage than the Canadian average.

- Over the past ten years, Nova Scotia has recycled:
- 2 billion beverage containers
  - 7 million tires
  - 1 million litres of leftover paint
  - 750,000 tonnes of paper
  - 1 million tonnes of organic material

The RRFB Nova Scotia is a partner in the Nova Scotia Adopt-A-Highway Program and has supported our program for many years. Thank you Nova Scotia for the amazing effort and congratulations to the RRFB Nova Scotia!

## 2007 Volunteer Information Session Being Planned

The 4th annual Adopt-A-Highway Volunteer Information Session will be held on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007, at AgriTech Park in Bible Hill, NS.

Our committee is presently working on an interesting lineup of speakers and sessions for this

event. Registration forms will be sent to group leaders later this winter.

We will have a limited number of places available for participants, so register early when the forms arrive. There will be no registration fee for this event.

## Adopt-A-Highway T-shirts Now In Stock



Are you looking for a great way to thank your volunteers? Why not present them with an AAH t-shirt! When you send your completed fall cleanup report and permit to the AAH office, let us know the t-shirt size

requirements for your group. Current sizes available – Small, Medium, Large, 1XL, 2XL, 3XL and 4XL. Supplies are limited.

Also available upon request: AAH Volunteer Pins and AAH Window Decals.

## The HRM Gives Itself A Makeover

On June 7<sup>th</sup>, the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) in partnership with Clean Nova Scotia and the RRFB Nova Scotia, launched their first 20 minute HRMakeover event.

The HRM challenged businesses, schools and residents to come out for 20 minutes and clean up around their place of work, school or home.

This is a great idea for communities too! Why not encourage residents along your adopted section of highway to take 20 minutes and clean around their property or clean the property around a community hall while your Adopt-A-Highway cleanup is taking place.

## Too Small To Matter?



When we think of the things picked up during a highway litter cleanup, the usual items that come to mind includes fast food litter, wrappers, plastic bags and so on. But, the most common litter item seen but rarely collected is cigarette butts.

Canadians toss hundreds of millions of cigarette butts onto the ground each year. Almost one in three cigarette butts end up being litter. Some people who wouldn't think of littering with something larger such as a coffee cup or a food wrapper often don't think twice about flicking a cigarette butt from their car window onto the ground.

Also contributing to the increase in cigarette butt litter is the ban on indoor smoking. Evidence indicates that more cigarette butts are accumulating outside of building entrances due to the popularity of smoking bans. Receptacles placed outside of buildings help to collect the cigarette filters do help, but not every building complies.

Some believe that the cigarette filter or the butt is biodegradable and that it is made of cotton. Filters are actually made from plastic cellulose acetate and take many, many years to decompose.

Not only is the filter itself a problem, the chemicals the filter captures are toxic. Cigarette butts can leach chemicals such as cadmium, lead and arsenic into our marine environment within an hour of contact with water. Cigarette butts also contribute to a growing number of fires each year and endanger wildlife when ingested.

So, is cigarette butt litter too small to matter?

### Our Website:

[www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/wi/projects/adopt.shtml](http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/wi/projects/adopt.shtml)

## Adopt-A-Highway Volunteers Recognized

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, Transportation and Public Works Minister, Angus MacIsaac (left) joined Adopt-A-Highway volunteers near Miller Lake to kick off the 2006 spring



cleanups. In a brief roadside ceremony, Minister MacIsaac recognized the hard work of all the volunteers and urged Nova Scotians to be extra careful when driving through cleanup areas. “The hard work done by these volunteers benefits all of us,” said Mr. MacIsaac.

## Volunteer Photos Received Westchester Fire Department



Sarah Crocker and Brittany Brown of Debert assist ‘Nanny Moore’ and the other Westchester Fire Department volunteers with the highway litter cleanup in June.

## Port Williams TOPS



Norman Bird, a member of the Port Williams TOPS group, reports that he and four other members braved the cool May weather and performed their cleanup. They collected 10 bags of garbage, ‘mostly coffee cups’ said Norman. The group also found a ‘treasure’ among the trash – an antique plant holder that needed only a small repair. Norman said he is pleased to see that Tim Horton’s is promoting anti-littering messages in their stores. Norman encourages other groups to take part in the program and to also consider adopting interchange (exit) areas.

## Greenwood Amateur Radio Club



Bill Underwood of the Greenwood Amateur Radio Club sent a picture of his volunteers and their ‘unusual’ finds during the spring cleanup at Interchange 17 along highway 101 in Kingston. A microwave and a scooter were collected along with 18 bags of garbage.

## Volunteer Photos Received Zonta Club of Amherst Area & Fort Lawrence Tourist Bureau Staff



Vicki Randall, a member of the Zonta Club of Amherst Area reported that the Club has once again partnered with the Fort Lawrence Tourist Bureau Staff to clean Lower LaPlanche street along to the Tourist Bureau. Vicki report that the group collected 19 bags of litter along with other heavy items such as a living room chair, a wheel-less shopping cart and car parts. The more usual litter items included fast food packaging and cigarette butts.

## LeMoine Development Association & St. Joseph du Moine Community



In May, the community of St. Joseph du Moine met for their annual cleanup organized by the LeMoine Development Association. Leandre LeBlanc reports a total of 30 volunteers cleaned a 10 km stretch of the Cabot Trail and collected a total of 100 bags of litter. The usual fast food items were

found along with a car bumper and a number of road signs which had been blown down by their well known 'Suete' winds. After the cleanup, everyone gathered at the community centre to share stories about their litter findings.

## The Green Garbage Bag – A Canadian Invention

The familiar green plastic garbage bag (made from polyethylene) was invented by Harry Wasylyk in 1950.



Harry Wasylyk was a Canadian inventor from Winnipeg, Manitoba, who together with Larry Hansen of Lindsay, Ontario, invented the disposable green polyethylene garbage bag. Garbage bags were first intended for commercial use rather than home use - the bags were first sold to the Winnipeg General Hospital. However, Hansen worked for the Union Carbide Company in Lindsay, who bought the invention from Wasylyk and Hansen. Union Carbide manufactured the first green garbage bags under the name Glad Garbage bags for home use in the late 1960s.

*The Nova Scotia Adopt-A-Highway Program is supported by:*



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