

Litterature

The Nova Scotia Adopt-A-Highway Program

Summer 2008

Colchester County Balefill Facility Tour

Adopt-A-Highway Volunteer Information Session 2008



About 40 volunteers and representatives gathered at AgriTech Park in Bible Hill for the fifth annual Adopt-A-Highway Volunteer Information Session on April 12th



Jeff MacCallum, Director, Programs & Business Development with the RRFB Nova Scotia, gave a presentation on RRFB Nova Scotia helping Nova Scotians Reduce Waste. Jeff informed the volunteers about the many programs offered through the RRFB. In 2008, there are seven landfills that are

regulated. The newest program is the Electronics Recycling Program. There are about thirty ACES drop-off centers. Atlantic Canada Electronics Stewardship (ACES)

To find out more about the ACES Program, or locate a Drop-Off Centre near you, please visit their website at www.ACESstewardship.ca.



The group went on a tour to the Colchester County Balefill Facility in Kemptown. The County has now become a leader in the management of solid waste issues. This facility was the first permitted “second generation” landfill in Nova Scotia and has a life expectancy of about 70 years.



We met J. P. Wood, the Balefill’s Waste Management Officer. JP told the group that composting is nature’s way of recycling organic matter and nutrients back into the soil for use by new and growing plants. Food scraps, yard waste and

other organic materials are broken down with the help of micro-organisms and turned into compost, a rich soil amendment. Colchester County promotes 2 types of composting: curbside composting and backyard composting. Both types of composting help to extend the life of landfills, decrease greenhouse gas emissions, protect groundwater and streams, and turn waste into a valuable resource. He gave information to the volunteers about the facility, and then the group got on the bus and did a tour of the grounds at this facility.



Helen Smith, Program Coordinator of the Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps, told the group of Volunteers that this program works closely with community partners and youth across Nova Scotia. Their aims are to increase environmental awareness and create leadership opportunities for the youth in Nova Scotia. NSYCC

is able to provide support to individuals and groups from the community who would like to provide the youth in their area with valuable work experience while completing a project that benefits the environment.

Helen informed the group, it is important to get the youth involved with their environment. For more information, visit their website:

www.gov.ns.ca/nse/youth/



Ruth Blenkhorn, Chairperson for the Adopt-A-Highway committee, gave a presentation on the 2007 International Adopt-A-Highway Conference that was held in Nashville. She and Linda Munro attended this worthwhile conference. They were the only Canadians that attended this conference.

Fall 2007 Clean-Up Report

Thank you to all groups and individuals that participated in the Fall 2004 Clean-ups. Please ensure a copy of your permit is sent to the Adopt-A-Highway office. The permit gives the office important information such as number of volunteers, number of hours spent on the clean-up, number of bags of garbage, etc. If a permit is not received, the office has no official confirmation of a clean-up.

The Grand Total – Fall 2007:

A grand total of 672 bags of garbage and recyclables were collected during the Fall 2004 clean-ups.



Some of the groups did not report their findings, so therefore the number of bags would be larger in number. It is important that you send your permit to the office, as it helps with the funding for the program.

Total amount of kilometers cleaned was 170.5 along with five Interchange/Exit areas. A total of 467 volunteers donated a grand total of 1011 volunteers hours.

The total weight of the garbage collected is 10 080 pounds. This equals 9.98 tonnes of garbage and recyclables collected from Nova Scotia's highways.

Another excellent effort from Nova Scotia's Adopt-A-Highway volunteers!



The Volunteer had a chance to share their thoughts on the Adopt-A-Highway. Each individual share their experiences and ideas with the rest of the group. This was an informative session.



Linda Munro, acting Coordinator for Adopt-A-Highway, showed the group how she tracks the location of the adopted highway and interchanges in Nova Scotia. She uses the

Microsoft Streets and Trips Map, to plot the sections of highways and exits. She gave a demonstration on how she uses the software from the information that is on the application.

Program is supported by:

Mobius Environmental Awards

The RRFB is celebrating their tenth Annual Mobius Environmental Awards. The winners with their outstanding environmental achievements have set them apart as leaders in waste reduction and as role models in their communities. One of the winners is the Annapolis Valley Business Environmental Committee. This group won the Best Community-Based Project. This group is composed of retail managers from different types of business throughout the Annapolis Valley, who are all environmentally concerned and share a common goal.

They meet once a month to discuss environmental concerns that directly relate to businesses. And Bonnie Clemens, the Industrial Commercial and Institutional Coordinator with Valley Waste Resource Management, says that, basically, at the meetings... “We just shamelessly take one another’s ideas! And then we put them into motion!”

So whether it’s how to get rid of broken pallets, or where to find haulers willing to remove metals for free, the goal these business managers have in common is to make things better.

Once their logo and mission statement get better known, the committee hopes to run regular newspaper stories each month telling what each company is doing. For instance, this Earth Day in New Minas, the Annapolis Valley Business Environmental Committee will be organizing a special event, and will be bringing BBQs from home, and donation food, napkins and condiments for the event. It’s great precedent for the province. All of the other winners are on this website:

www.rrfb.com/mobius

LITERature is a semi-annual newsletter published by the Nova Scotia Adopt-A-Highway Program.

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