

For Immediate Release
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ONTARIO GOVERNMENT MOWS DOWN POLLUTION

Ontarians Encouraged To Return Gas Lawn Mowers For Cleaner Alternatives

TORONTO — The Ontario government is encouraging all Ontarians to get their old, high-polluting lawn mowers and trimmers out of the garden and into the recycling plant, Environment Minister Laurel Broten said today.

“Small actions can make a big difference to the environment and our health,” said Broten. “By recycling our old gasoline-powered lawn mowers, we can play a part in reducing smog and improving the quality of the air we breathe.”

Older gas-powered lawn mowers are very inefficient, which means that despite their small size they produce a lot of air pollution. In fact, running a gas-powered lawn mower for one hour can produce as much air pollution as driving a new car 550 kilometres.

Mow Down Pollution—North America’s largest recycling and rebate program—encourages people across Canada to return their old lawn mowers and trimmers to a participating dealer for cleaner equipment (push reel, four-stroke or electric) by offering a rebate of up to \$100. The old mower or trimmer is disposed of by removing the oil and gas and recycling the old parts.

Last year, the Mow Down Pollution program collected 4,778 lawnmowers and trimmers across the country resulting in a total reduction of 107 tonnes of air pollutants. This year the goal is to retire 6,000 gas mowers and trimmers across Canada.

The Ontario government sponsors the Clean Air Foundation, the organizers of Mow Down Pollution, to help raise awareness of air quality and to encourage individual initiatives to cut pollution. The 2006 collection program runs until Sunday, April 30, 2006 at any Home Depot Canada location. For more information about the program, visit www.cleanairfoundation.org/mow_down/.

“All of us need to continually think about what we can do to improve the environment,” said Broten. “It is important to remember that the actions of one individual can make a difference to the environment, whether it is recycling the paper we accumulate, turning down our air conditioner or retiring old, inefficient gasoline-powered lawn mowers.”

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