

Litterature

The Nova Scotia Adopt-A-Highway Program

Spring 2005

Adopt-A-Highway Volunteer Information Session 2005



More than 30 volunteers and representatives gathered at AgriTech Park in Bible Hill for the second annual Adopt-A-Highway Volunteer Information Session on March 5th.

Our thanks to the RRFB Nova Scotia, NS Department of Transportation and Public Works and the CVI Nova Scotia for making this session possible.



Alanna Nelson, Education Officer with the RRFB Nova Scotia, gave a presentation on the many programs offered through the RRFB such as the Used Tire Management Program; Paint Recycling Program; Education and Awareness Programs; and so much more. She also showed

a winning video developed by students of Richmond Academy that was entered into the RRFB's *Nova Scotia Recycles Contest*. It is hoped the video will be shown later this year on local TV stations. You can view the video at:

<http://srsbweb.strait.ednet.ns.ca/srsb/>

Cathy Trafford, Program Coordinator, Clean Nova Scotia, shared the story of how a community cleaned up an illegal dumping area. Upper Governor Road connects the communities of North and East Preston and is known locally as the "Connector Road" because it provides a "connection" between the two communities. Because the road is uninhabited and isolated, it has been an illegal dumping ground for decades.



Clean Nova Scotia decided to tackle the problem. With the help of the HRM, RRFB Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia Youth Corps, Transportation and Public Work and the Halifax Regional Water Commission, the job was completed. Debris along the road and hidden in the woods totaled 164 tonnes of materials which were collected and either recycled or sent to disposal. The materials recycled included 125 tires, 23 abandoned cars, and 75 large appliances. Ongoing education and awareness as well as enforcement of illegal dumping regulations will keep Upper Governor Road from becoming a dumping ground again.



Paula Putnam, Inspector Specialist, Department of Environment and Labour, presented information on illegal dumping and the processes that her department must take to enforce penalties.

Continued on next page.

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"Put Litter in it's Place!"

2005 Adopt-A-Highway Volunteer Information Session - Continued

Presentations on reporting procedures and safety guidelines were given along with information kits and t-shirts to each participant. (Nancy Veinot, Lions Club Representative, pictured.)

The importance of submitting a completed permit to the Adopt-A-Highway office was stressed. The office uses the permit information to track the amounts of litter and the number of volunteers participating. Also it was discussed that you must have a permit, signed by a Transportation and Public Works (TPW) representative on hand, **before** starting your clean-up.



During the afternoon, a round table discussion on volunteer age restrictions took place. Some participants wondered if the age restriction was lowered, would be easier to get volunteers?

Currently, all participants who take part in a clean-up on a secondary highway, must be 12 year of age or older. Every six participants aged 12-17 require one adult supervisor (18 years of age or older).

All participants who take part in an Interchange clean-up at a 100-series highway exit area must be 16 years of age or older. Every six participants aged 16-18 require one adult supervisor (19 year of age or older).

At the March 24th Adopt-A-Highway committee meeting, this issue was discussed. It was felt that these regulations have been set in place for legal and above all, safety reasons. Working along a highway is dangerous and the rules in place for children would not be changed at this time. It was suggested that younger children wanting to participate could do other jobs the day of the clean-up. Possibly there is a local community hall or park area that needs a bit of care and cleaning. Younger children can work safely in these areas with proper adult supervision and feel that they too are making a contribution.

What Are the Effects of Litter?

Litter can cause a whole range of problems for everyone in the community. Litter discarded along our road can even travel to our rivers and oceans, where it can cause harm to wildlife.



- ④ Litter costs money. Removing litter from the environment costs Nova Scotia taxpayers thousands of dollars each year.
- ④ Litter is a threat to public health. Litter attracts vermin and is a breeding ground for bacteria. Items such as broken glass and syringes can be a health hazard in public places.
- ④ Litter can be a fire hazard. Accumulated litter and carelessly discarded cigarette butts are potential fire hazards.
- ④ Litter looks bad. Litter negatively affects the image of places, especially tourist locations.
- ④ Litter attracts litter. Litter sends out a message that people do not care for the environment and that it is acceptable to litter.
- ④ Litter can harm or kill wildlife. Plastic litter can choke or suffocate birds and marine life. Carelessly discarded containers can trap small mammals.

Adopt-A-Look-Off Pilot Project

The Nova Scotia Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage is starting a new pilot project called Adopt-A-Look-Off. The department will be looking for volunteers to take part in this new project over the next year. For more information, contact Sharon Shaw, Tourism Development Officer at 902-424-7577.

Fall 2004 Clean-Up Report

Thank you to all groups and individuals that participated in the Fall 2004 Clean-ups. To ensure that your clean-up is listed in the newsletter, 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. If your group is missing from this list, notify the AAH office.

2nd Wellington Scouting
324 Bonaventure Sea Cadets
Alexander Family
Annapolis Valley Cruisers
Aylesford Lions Club
Baha'i Community of Truro
Bridgetown Lions Club
CBNRC Lions Club
Canning District Lions Club
Central Chapter NS Harley Owners Group(HOG)
Chezzetcook and District Lions Club
Coastal Cruisers
Community of Windham Hill
Debert Community Association
Eastern Passage Cow Bay Lions Club
Eastern Region Solid Waste Management Comm.
Friends of the Environment
Harley Owners Group
Hill n' Dale 4H Club
Enfield/Elmsdale District Lions Club
Eric & Joyce Higgins
Hub Campers
Kempt Women's Institute
Kingston Lions Club
Knights of Columbus 11526
Musquodoboit Valley Lions Club
New Glasgow Kinsmen / Trenton Generating Station
New Minas Lions Club
Nine Mile River Homemakers Women's Institute
North Brookfield Women's Institute
Port Williams Lions Club & Port Williams Women's Institute
RJ's Ladies Group
River Philip Community Hall Association
Rotary Club of New Glasgow
Rotary Club of Sydney
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 26

Saint John's United Church
Saint Mary's District Lions Club
Salt Springs 4H Club
Seabreeze Campers
Second Paradise Retreat
Lorraine Tate
Tess and Company
Tidy Highway 245
Toney River Community Centre
Truro Lions Club
Truro Rotary Club
Upper Musquodoboit Volunteer Fire Department
White Point Beach Resort
West Pictou Consolidated School
Wildwind Farm
Byron & Gloria Winters
Zonta Club of Amherst Area

The Grand Total – Fall 2004:

A grand total of 1840 bags of garbage and recyclables were collected during the Fall 2004 clean-ups.



Many groups reported that the early snowstorm in November made it difficult to perform their clean-ups.

Total amount of kilometers cleaned was 258.5 km along with five Interchange/Exit areas. A total of 743 volunteers donated a grand total of 2369 volunteer hours.

The total weight of the garbage collected is 27,600 kg or 60,720 pounds. This equals 30.36 tonnes of garbage and recyclables collected from Nova Scotia's highway during the Fall 2004 clean-ups.

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

Now is the time to contact your group members and plan a date for your Spring 2005 clean-up!

It's back...

THE NOVA SCOTIA Adopt-A-Highway Spring Litter Sweep Contest

When? April-May-June, 2005

Where? Along Your Adopted Highway or Interchange

How? Participate in the Spring 2005 clean-up during the months of April, May or June and photograph the most unusual litter found!

Your group could win a cash prize of \$200, \$100 or \$50 for the most unusual photograph of litter found during the Spring 2005 Clean-up.

To enter the contest, mail your completed Adopt-a-Highway permit from your Spring 2005 clean-up and a photograph of your 'unusual litter', to the Adopt-A-Highway Office, Box 550, Truro, NS B2N 5E3.

Deadline for Entries: July 15, 2005.

New Safety Signs Available

The Department of Transportation and Public Works have new safety signs available for use by Adopt-A-Highway groups. The signs can be requested when you pick up your supplies from the local TPW office. If your local TPW office does not have signs available, please contact the Adopt-A-Highway office.



Send Your Story & Receive T-Shirts

We want to hear your clean-up stories! Send the story of your Spring 2005 clean-up to the AAH office and receive Adopt-A-Highway T-shirts for your volunteers. Stories should be a minimum of 300 words to a maximum of 500.

Volunteers in Action on Route 333



A five kilometer stretch of Route 333, 2.5 km either side of the entrance to Peggy's Cove, is adopted by the **Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia (TIANS)**. Pictured above are TIANS staff members and staff of **National Car Rental** in June 2004 with a truck load of garbage found along their section of highway.

Groups Join Forces to Clean Exit 13



Members of the **Royal Canadian Legion – Branch 26 Truro** were joined this past fall by members of the **Sea Cadets** to help clean Interchange / Exit 13 on Highway 102. Legion members were pleased to have the Cadets assistance in this effort.

LITERature is a semi-annual newsletter published by the Nova Scotia Adopt-A-Highway Program. If you have any questions about the Adopt-A-Highway program or this newsletter, please contact:
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