

# Litterature



The Nova Scotia Adopt-A-Highway Program

Fall 2007

## Fall Litter Cleanups Ahead

Fall is here once again and volunteers are busy planning their next Adopt-A-Highway cleanup. Here are a few easy steps in planning a successful and safe fall cleanup:

### 1. OBTAIN A LITTER CLEANUP PERMIT FROM

TPW: Each time a cleanup is performed a new **Litter Cleanup Permit** must be obtained from the Department of Transportation and Public Works (TPW). Groups should 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.



2. **SAFETY:** Review the safety regulations with all volunteers before your cleanup begins.

If dangerous items are found during the cleanup, mark these items with 'flagging' tape or fluorescent survey tape. Place a piece of the tape on a branch near the dangerous item so that TPW staff can retrieve the item. Dangerous or heavy items as well as animal carcasses found should be listed on your permit and noted to TPW staff when you return your unused supplies and safety vests.



3. **REPORTING:** 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. **It is important to record this information on the permit and then mail or fax a copy of the permit to the Adopt-A-Highway office.**

4. **RECOGNITIONS SIGNS:** 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.

## Volunteers Meet to Discuss Litter and Graffiti Issues

More than 40 volunteers attended the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Adopt-A-Highway Volunteer Information Session in Bible Hill on March 31<sup>st</sup>.



*Minister of Environment and Labour, Hon. Mark Parent talks with Volunteer, Dr. Fred Tarasoff, of Tatamagouche, during the session.*

Speakers included Mark Parent the Minister of Environment and Labour, Kari Riddell of Clean Nova Scotia, Jeff Keefe, Coordinator of the PEI Adopt-A-Highway program, and Jane Nauss of the HRM's Graffiti Management Plan. Volunteers agreed that the annual sessions are worthwhile as it allows them to network with other Volunteers, to learn about environmental issues from a variety of speakers and to hear about the overall impact of the program in Nova Scotia.

Our next Volunteer Information Session will be held on **April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008**, in Bible Hill. Registration forms will be circulated later this winter.

## New Adopt-A-Highway T-shirts Available



Are you looking for a great way to thank your volunteers?

Why not present them with an Adopt-A-Highway t-shirt!

A new colour of shirt is available for 2007 – dark green with the AAH logo in white.

When you send your completed fall cleanup permit to the AAH office, let us know the t-shirt size requirements for your group. Current sizes available in dark green – Small, Medium, Large, and XL. A few larger sizes are still available in white. Quantities are limited, so place your order soon!

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

## Enforcing Litter Fines

Recently, the AAH Coordinator spoke with representatives of the Department of Environment and

Labour and the RCMP about litter fines, illegal dumping and what's involved in reporting offenders. Here's the latest on litter enforcement fines in Nova Scotia.



The minimum fine for littering in Nova Scotia is \$337.50 for a first offence. A second offence fine is \$675 and if the person chooses to litter again and is caught, third and subsequent fines are \$1250.

### **What should you do if you see someone littering from their vehicle?**

Take the following information, safely:

- License plate number and description of vehicle
- Time of day, highway number and location
- What type of litter was thrown from vehicle?
- How many people in the vehicle?
- Can you identify the driver?

Your next step is to contact your local detachment of the RCMP with this information. They will send a warning letter to owner of vehicle.

If you wish the offender to be charged, you may be asked to go to court to testify as an official witness. The offender may choose to pay the fine out of court and in that case, you do not need to testify.

The RCMP report very few litter related offences are reported to them each year.

A representative of the Department of Environment and Labour reported that more and more Nova Scotia Municipalities are hiring their own Enforcement Officers to take care of illegal dumps and litter bylaws.

Environment Officers and Municipal Bylaw Officers are able to write 'tickets' called Summary Offence Tickets (SOT's) for littering. Fines can range anywhere from \$445 (minimum) to \$675 if they see someone littering.

In the case of an illegal dump site, the Crown will prosecute if evidence is found or if witnesses testify. Fines could be up to \$100,000 plus the cost of the cleanup.

Department of Environment and Labour staff recommend that if you find an illegal dump site along your adopted stretch of highway, it is best to first contact TPW with this information.

If you find an illegal dump site along a private road or property, call the Department of Environment.

Environment staff also report they are still having problems with people illegally burning garbage on their property. Some people still have 'the 45 gallon drum' in the backyard and continue to burn items such as plastics or other harmful substances. The fine for burning garbage is \$775 and offenders should be reported to your local Department of Environment and Labour office.

**Our Website:**

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

**Volunteer Photos Received**  
**St. John's United Church, Bridgewater**



St. John's United Church Volunteers after their spring 2007 cleanup along Highway 332.

**Queens County Special Olympics /**  
**Penny Lane Enterprises**



Betty Anne Daury, (Coach of the Queens County Special Olympics and staff person with Penny Lane Enterprises) (above, right) and many Volunteers participate in a cleanup along their adopted section of Highway 8 in Milton.



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



Volunteers from the community of St. Joseph du Moine get themselves prepared for their spring cleanup, organized by the LeMoine Development Association. Approximately 75 bags of garbage were collected along their adopted section along the Cabot Trail.

**Annapolis Royal Lions Club**



Volunteers with the Annapolis Royal Lions Club participate in a cleanup along Highway 1. Lion Charles Butler reports an ingenious idea for a litter cart (see photo below). He credits his brothers Bill and Perry with this invention.



## Calories That Count

*Have you ever wondered how many calories you burned during that cleanup?*

Painting Over Graffiti	171 Calories
Planting Trees & Flowers	162 Calories
Clearing Out An Illegal Dumpsite	225 Calories
Collecting Recyclables	216 Calories
Picking Up Litter	171 Calories

Estimated calories burned based on 30 minutes of activity for a 150 pound person. Source: The Calorie Council



family member. Some manufacturers also offer a 'take back' program.



Waste Reduction Week in Canada  
October 15<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>, 2007  
[www.wrwcanda.com](http://www.wrwcanda.com)

## Waste Facts

While packaging is sometimes necessary for health and shelf life reasons, one look at store shelves will alert you to the trend for increasingly excessive packaging. By taking a few extra moments to consider alternatives at the grocery store before you buy, you can save money and reduce trash.

*-Government of Canada*

Across Canada it costs more than \$1.5 billion per year to dispose of garbage.

*-Destination Conservation*

The automobile is the most recycled consumer product in the world today. It takes about 45 seconds to shred the average automobile into fist-sized pieces for recycling. *-Clean Air Foundation*

Water is a limited resource that we need to use wisely. Only 1% of the world's water supply is usable, 97% is ocean and 2% is ice frozen at the poles. *-Environment Canada*

Incinerating 10,000 tonnes of waste creates 1 job, landfilling the same amount creates 6 jobs, recycling the same 10,000 tonnes creates 36 jobs. *-Clean Nova Scotia*

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



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If you have any questions about the Adopt-A-Highway program or this newsletter, please contact:

Nova Scotia Adopt-A-Highway Program  
Box 550, Truro, NS B2N 5E3

Telephone: (902) 893-6520  
Email: [osbornct@gov.ns.ca](mailto:osbornct@gov.ns.ca)

## RRFB to Launch Electronics Recycling Program

RRFB Nova Scotia is working with the electronics industry (Electronics Product Stewardship Canada - EPSC) to develop an End-of-Life (EOL) Electronics Recycling Program which is scheduled to launch in February 2008. At that time, a province-wide collection system will be in place for consumers and businesses, allowing them to drop off certain EOL products at designated collection sites without charge and with the assurance that these items will be responsibly recycled. During the first year of the program, collection sites will accept only the following EOL electronic products:



- **televisions**
- **desktop, laptop and notebook computers** - includes CPUs, keyboards, mice, cables and other components in the computer
- **computer monitors**
- **printers** - includes those with scanning and/or fax capabilities

Until this recycling program is launched, the RRFB encourages the public to store waste electronics, if possible, or you may first want to consider donating the equipment to a charity or giving it to a friend or