

Litterature

Nova Scotia's Adopt-A-Highway Program



Fall 2009

Fall Litter Cleanups Ahead

Fall is upon us once again and the volunteer groups are busy planning their next Adopt-A-Highway cleanup! Many groups had a hard time finding weather to cooperate with their cleanup plans in the spring, so we've got our fingers crossed for the fall cleanup! Here are a few simple steps in planning a successful and safe fall cleanup for 2009:

Step 1: OBTAIN A NEW LITTER CLEANUP PERMIT FROM TIR

Each time a volunteer group performs a cleanup, a new **LITTER CLEANUP PERMIT** must be obtained from the local Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (TIR) base. Groups should notify the local base at least one week in advance of the cleanup to ensure the permit, safety vests, garbage bags and flagging materials will be ready and waiting for their group.



STEP 2: SAFETY!

Please review the safety regulations with all volunteers before the cleanup begins. If any dangerous items are found during the cleanup, be sure to mark these items with 'flagging' or fluorescent survey tape. Place a piece of tape on a branch near the item so it can be retrieved by TIR staff. In order to ensure the proper disposal of dangerous or heavy items, along with animal carcasses, all items should be listed on your cleanup permit, and noted to TIR staff upon the return of unused supplies and safety vests to the local TIR depot.



STEP 3: REPORTING

Once the cleanup is finished, complete the permit by recording the number of bags of garbage, number of volunteers and amount of time taken to complete the cleanup. **It is important to record this information on the permit, and then mail or fax a copy of the completed permit to the Adopt-A-Highway office.**

STEP 4: RECOGNITION SIGNS

All groups deserve proper recognition for all their hard work devoted to keeping our province beautiful! During the Fall cleanup is a great time to check the conditions of your recognition signs. Are they in good shape? If your signs are broken, beat-up or missing, **contact the Adopt-A-Highway office and request repairs or replacements.**

New Look For Recognition Signs!

You may have noticed the look of the Adopt-A-Highway recognition sign have slightly changed recently. The logos of the three founding organizations: The Lions



Club, Clean Nova Scotia and Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia have been removed to bring more attention to the AAH program name, and the name of the volunteer group, which was once printed on the tab section of the sign.

Don't Forget SAFETY SIGNS!

The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal not only supply safety vests to AAH groups, but also safety signs to place on the road during clean up. These signs should be available from your local TIR base, and can be requested when you pick up your other supplies. Each group can borrow up to two signs per cleanup. These signs will be placed at either end of the cleanup section and returned with the unused supplies and safety vests to TIR.



Adopt-A-Highway T-Shirts in Stock!

Looking for a way to thank your volunteers for all their hard work? An Adopt-A-Highway T-shirt is the perfect way to do just that! The available T-shirts are dark green with the AAH logo in white.



When you send your completed fall cleanup permit to the AAH office, let us know the shirt size requirements of all your volunteers. Current sizes available are: Small, Medium, Large and XLarge. Quantities are limited, so get your orders in soon!

Also Available Upon Request:

AAH volunteer pins, ball point pens, and AAH window decals.

Nova Scotia Adopt-A-Highway Program Safety and Cleanup Tips!

Here are a few helpful tips to make your Fall cleanup and future cleanups safer and easier for your group.

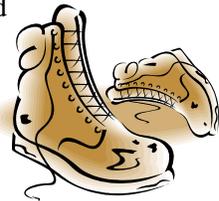
Hazardous and Large Items to Flag

- Animal carcasses
- Medical waste: needles, urine bottles, etc.
- Corrosive waste: car batteries
- Heavy items
- If in doubt ... **FLAG IT!**



Appropriate Clothing and Supplies

It is encouraged that all volunteers wear CSA approved boots and safety hat, long sleeve shirts and pants, and gloves. **It is required that all participants wear CSA approved safety vest, supplied by TIR.**



Parking

Parking on shoulders of the highway or exit ramps is **not permitted**. Be sure to park vehicles on side roads or in designated parking areas behind the ditch line. Arrange to shuttle volunteers to and from the cleanup site whenever possible.

Lost & Found

- If any items of value are found during the cleanup, surrender them to the group representative, who will in turn surrender them to the local police station.

General TIPS

- Perform cleanup on one side of the roadway at a time.
- Do not work in inclement weather.
- Participants should work in pairs whenever possible.
- Never compress litter in garbage bag with your foot or hand.
- Don't fill garbage bags too full or make them too heavy – they will be too hard to tie and carry.
- Use a rake when possible to gather litter.
- Any recyclable material found, such as plastic beverage containers, can be claimed by the group to raise funds.
- **Remember to send a copy of your completed permit to the Adopt-A-Highway office after every cleanup.**
- **Return all unused supplies to TIR base.**



What do YOU do with the Litter?

Did you know that not all AAH groups dispose of their litter in the same manner? In some areas of the province, groups transport their litter directly from the cleanup site to the landfill site or arrange for disposal companies to place dumpsters at specific locations. This can be costly and time consuming for volunteers.



Did You Know You Can Have Your Litter Picked Up By TIR?

As part of our membership agreement with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, arrangements can be made with the local TIR depot to have your litter picked up at the cleanup site or you can arrange to drop off the collected litter at the TIR depot for them to dispose of.



If your group is experiencing any problems disposing of the collected highway litter, contact your local TIR depot or Adopt-A-Highway Office for more information.

Volunteers Hard at Work!



*Lions: Arnold M,
Don C and Ron C
Helpers: Anne,
David, Joseph and
Ester O'Neil,
Amanda Pitre,
George Carr,
Zachary and Joshua
Dixon*

The Elmsdale & Enfield District Lions Club performed their spring 2009 cleanup on May 16, 2009. For their cleanup, they had many supplies generously donated by community businesses; gloves and garbage bags from Home Hardware, water and soft drinks from Superstore and pizza from Enfield Pizza.

We Want to See Your Pictures!

We would love to be able to include your pictures in the next issue of **LITTERature**. Please snap some photos of your volunteers hard at work and send them to the Adopt-A-Highway office when you submit your cleanup permit, and you just might see them in our next issue!

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”
– Margaret Mead

Ever Wonder How Long it Takes for Things to ROT?!

Cotton Clothing	<i>1-5 months</i>
Paper Products	<i>2-5 months</i>
Orange Peeling	<i>Up to 6 months</i>
Wool Clothing	<i>1-5 years</i>
Cigarette Butts	<i>1-12 years</i>
Plastics Products	<i>10-20 years</i>
Nylon Clothing	<i>30-40 years</i>
Tin Cans	<i>50-100 years</i>



What are the Effects of Littering?

Litter causes a wide range of problems for everyone in the community. Litter discarded along our roads by people can even travel to our rivers and into oceans when it can potentially harm much of our wildlife.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Litter attracts vermin and is a breeding ground for bacteria. Items such as broken glass and syringes can easily become health hazards in public places.

MORE LITTER

The sight of litter sends out a message that people in the area do not care for the environment and that it is acceptable to litter. Remember: Litter attracts more litter.

EYESORE

Litter negatively affects the image of an area, and often decreases in the amount of tourist traffic in these areas.

WILDLIFE

Plastic litter can choke or suffocate birds and marine life. Turtles often mistake plastic grocery bags for jellyfish, which they are unable to digest. Also, carelessly discarded containers can trap small mammals.

MONEY

Litter costs money. Removing litter from the environment cost taxpayers thousands of dollars each year.

RRFB Launches its NEW ELECTRONICS RECYCLING PROGRAM!



Did you know that certain electronics are **REGULATED** and **BANNED** from Nova Scotia’s landfills?

Nova Scotians can now recycle their unwanted electronics responsibly! Unwanted electronics can be dropped off **FREE OF CHARGE** at any of the 35 ACES drop-off centers across the province.

The ACES program accepts electronics in the following categories:

- Televisions
- Desktop Computers
- Computer Monitors
- Laptop Computers
- Desktop Printers, Scanners, Fax Machines
- Personal or Portable Audio/Video Systems
- Home Audio/Video Systems
- Home Theatre in a Box (HTB) Systems
- Non-Cellular Telephones
- Vehicle Audio/Video Systems (Aftermarket)

Want More Information?

For more information, call **1-877-774-3260** or visit www.ACESstewardship.ca

Spring 2009 Cleanup Report



Forty-eight groups participated in a spring cleanup this year. A total of 1636 bags of garbage, and 130 bags of recyclables were successfully removed from 250 kilometers of Nova Scotia's roads and highways by 619 volunteers!

We currently have twelve 100 Series Highway Interchanges adopted, and many more waiting to be adopted. Thousands of kilometers of secondary highway are also still waiting to be adopted. If you know a group or business in your area who you think may be interested in adopting a section of highway, please let us know, and we would be happy to send them some information on the program. **Challenge another group to adopt a section of highway!**

Groups Who Participated in the Cleanup

Thank you to all the groups and individuals that participated in the Spring 2009 cleanups. To guarantee your cleanup is listed in the newsletter, please ensure a copy of your permit is sent to the Adopt-A-Highway office. This permit gives the office important information such as number of volunteers, number of hours spent on the cleanup, amount of garbage collected, etc. If a permit is not received, the office has no official confirmation that a cleanup has been performed. If your group is missing from this list, notify AAH, and you will be included in the next newsletter.



- Antigonish Lions Club, Antigonish
- Avon 4H, Windsor
- Baha'I Community of West Hants, Windsor Forks
- Bridgetown Lions Club, Bridgetown
- Chester Basin New Ross Lions Club, Chester
- Coldbrook and District Lions Club, Coldbrook
- TIR Cumberland Healthy Workplace Group, Amherst
- Earth Day Friends, Tatamagouche
- Eastern Star Annival Chapter, Middleton
- Friends of Crescent Beach, Crescent Beach
- Friends of Route 245, Antigonish
- Gerald Hardy Memorial Society, Sheet Harbour
- Gospel Light Baptist Youth Group, Harrietsfield
- Great Village & Area Community School
- Greenwood Amateur Radio Club, Greenwood
- Gypsum Mines & Sweets Corner Community Group, Gypsum Mines/Sweets Corner

- Hill 'n Dale 4H Club, Wileville
- Hub Campers, Lanesville
- Highland Asphalt, Port Williams
- Lake Echo Lions Club, Lake Echo
- Lawrencetown Lions Club, Lawrencetown
- Macpherson's Mills WI, Macpherson's Mills
- Musquidoboit Hbr. & District Lions Club, Musquidoboit Hbr.
- L.R.H.S. Key Club, Liverpool
- New Germany & Area Lions Club, New Germany
- New Minas & District Lions Club, New Minas
- North Brookfield WI, North Brookfield
- North Shore Fire Department, Antigonish
- Queens Co. Special Olympics/Penny Lane Enterprises, Liverpool
- Riverport District Lions Club, Riverport
- Royal Canadian Legion Branch 26, Truro
- Salt Springs 4H, Salt Springs
- Seabreeze Campers, Hebbville
- Second Paradise Retreat
- Shannon Lansberg, Seafoam
- South Berwick WI, South Berwick
- South Queens Junior High, Liverpool
- Spa Springs WI, Spa Springs
- St. Paul's Church/Scout Troop, Spryfield
- Stanburne Nature & Heritage Club, Stanburne
- The Alexander Family, Hebbville
- The Celtic Knots, Middleton
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints, Liverpool
- TOPS 4978, Hubbards Point
- White Point Beach Resort, Queens Co.
- Wolfville Lions Club, Wolfville
- Yarmouth Association for Community Residential Options (YACRO), Yarmouth
- Zonta Club of Amherst, Amherst

*Nova Scotia's
Adopt-A-
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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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