

Litterature

Nova Scotia's Adopt-A-Highway Program



Spring 2013

NEW OFFICE LOCATION!!!



Our office has moved and we would like to remind everyone to use our new contact information. We are located at Perennia Innovation Park (formerly known as Agritech Park) in Bible Hill, off Pictou Road.

Our new mailing address is 90 Research Drive, Bible Hill, NS, B6L 2R2. We have a new phone number, 843-9467, fax number 896-7276, and email address, aah@eastlink.ca. Our website will remain at the same address for now.

SPRING LITTER SWEEP CONTEST

We are again holding our Spring Litter Sweep Contest for 2013. To enter the contest, participate in the Spring clean up and photograph your most unusual litter found by your group. Mail your **completed**



Adopt-a-Highway permit from your Spring 2013 cleanup and **a photograph of your unusual litter**, to the Adopt-A-Highway Office, 90 Research Drive, Bible Hill, NS B6L 2R2. You could also email your entry to aah@eastlink.ca. Your group could **win a cash prize of \$200, \$100 or \$50** for your picture.

Winner to be announced in the Fall 2013 newsletter.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: JULY 18, 2013
TAKE ALONG YOUR CAMERA AND BE SURE TO ENTER!

CLEAN NOVA SCOTIA'S LITTER PICK-UP EVENT – 2013



Clean Across Nova Scotia

Clean Across Nova Scotia is more than a cleanup. It is one of the biggest volunteer actions in Nova Scotia. It highlights the importance of caring for the places we live, work and play in. By working together to tackle the problems of litter and waste, we build relationships within our communities, across the province, and around the world through the global 'Let's do it!' movement.

Clean Across N.S. took place this year on April 19th – 20th to tie in with Earth Day activities. They had an innovative website that allowed the public to view cleanup groups, and made it easy to help out if they wished. Groups could correspond with fellow volunteers as well. They had over 14,000 volunteers registered for this cleanup, which is very impressive! We would like to thank all the volunteers who gave their time take part in this extensive cleanup program.

Clean Across N.S. also has a "Worth Caring About" blog on their website which has photos of scenic areas in our province. They, along with many others, are definitely worth caring about!

NEW 2012-2013 ADOPTIONS

- ❖ St. James United Church, Antigonish
- ❖ North Queens Community School, Caledonia
- ❖ River John & Area Lions Club, River John



8TH ANNUAL V.I.S. IN TRURO

On April 6th 2013, the weather cooperated and we were able to have a very informative and enjoyable Volunteer Information Session. It was hosted by the Truro Lions Club, who kindly donated the use of their hall for our session.



The participants were welcomed by Coni Murray, Co-Chair of the AAH Committee. We boarded a bus to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (TIR) sign shop in Bible Hill for a very interesting tour. David Brown, (pictured below, on right) sign

shop supervisor, showed us around the facility. He outlined the many steps that it takes to make a sign, from the raw materials, to the finished product.



Our program resumed back at the Lions Club Hall with an informative presentation by four of our AAH groups. We asked groups from different situations; urban, rural, new and experienced; to share their roadside cleanup stories. Our audience found the summaries from Truro & Area Lions/2nd Truro Scouting, (experienced) St. James United Church (new), Milford & District Lions (rural) and Sackville Lions (urban) interesting. Our volunteers found this presentation helpful and picked up tips that they could use in their cleanups. Many groups highlighted the connection of youth groups with their cleanups, and the support they receive from TIR and the community.



Michèle Ashby (St. James United Church), Gina Bain (AAH Program Co-ordinator), Jan Deveaux (Sackville Lions), Bruce Moore (2nd Truro Scouting), and Ralph Isenor (Milford & District Lions) after the AAH group presentation.

Natasha Peace, from Efficiency N.S. generated a lot of questions with her talk of "Efficiency 101". She passed along information on the many programs available at Efficiency N.S. to help reduce energy use. An overview of incentives for both households and businesses were discussed. She highlighted many programs, including an upcoming clothesline giveaway. More information can be found at their website at www.energycyns.ca.



Gina Bain provided a short update on the AAH program and results for this year. A summary of AAH across Canada was also discussed.

The participants enjoyed a volunteer round table discussion where participants introduced themselves, and the AAH group they were associated with. It was a good time to share cleanup tips and experiences.

Darcey MacBain (pictured below, with Coni Murray) presented a very interesting talk from the



perspective of the Department of TIR. He highlighted the history of the AAH program, both internationally and within N.S. He outlined the major problems litter causes and passed along the

department's appreciation of the important work that the volunteers do for their community.

Neil Bailey provided an inspirational talk concerning two important litter cleanup initiatives with Clean Nova Scotia. *Ship to Shore* is a successful program which addresses fishing industry waste. It works closely with the area fishermen, which was essential to the effectiveness of the program.



A video outlining this program can be found at clean.ns.ca/programs/waste/ship-to-shore/.

Clean Across N.S., a new cleanup initiative last year, generated over 200 cleanups involving 8000 people across the province. Neil is hoping for the program to grow, and the cleanup took place on April 19th -20th (Earth Day weekend) this year. Neil emphasized the community building aspect of the cleanups as well.

We were pleased our volunteers found the lineup for the day helpful and well presented.

PORT WILLIAMS & AREA LIONS RECRUIT YOUTH!



The Port Williams Lions Club had a successful Highway Cleanup of Highway #358 with the help of nine school band students. When one of the Lions heard that the North Kings Education Centre band was fund raising for a trip to Boston, he thought that the two groups could help each other out. The band students spent two hours picking up litter, which was a great benefit for the Lions Club. The Lions in return, made a donation to the band's fundraising efforts. After the cleanup, all returned to the Lions' den for pizza and soft drinks. They found a reduction in the number of bags of garbage collected

(16), but were disappointed that there was a full bag of garbage thrown down the bank near a riverside tourist area.

ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH ADOPTS EXIT IN ANTIGONISH

The Social Justice Committee at this church performed an interchange cleanup at Exit #32 of Hwy. #104. They received great support from Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal for all their supplies, and Bennett's Market who treated them to delicious snacks after their cleanup.



They exit is newly opened, and they collected 9 bags of garbage and 1 bag of recyclables in their two hour cleanup. They have put out a friendly challenge to other churches in the area to take on a similar project. They found their interchange cleanup a rewarding experience which helps to improve their community and environment.

FABLES CLUB & HELPERS READY FOR CLEANUP



The group from Fables Club succeeded in completing their fall roadside cleanup of the Sunrise Trail (Highway #6) in the Brule area. They had 10 clean up helpers, and picked up 8 bags of trash. They found that the results were much, much better this year, with less garbage on their route! After the cleanup was over, they were rewarded for all their hard work with a great brunch afterward!

ANNAPOLIS VALLEY GEOCACHERS HAVE SUCCESSFUL CLEANUP



Annapolis Valley Geocachers performed their first cleanup of their adopted interchange this fall. They picked up 21 bags of garbage from Exit 17E of Highway 101 in Kingston. They found some unusual items during their cleanup including lobster carcasses, a skunk, lamp shade, socks, and two pairs of underwear. We welcome this new group to our program.

TRURO LIONS HAVE HELP FROM TRURO VENTURERS

Despite the wet and dreary season, Truro & District Lions Club and 2nd Truro Venturers, had a bright crisp morning for their Cleanup. They had 14 volunteers from the Truro Venturers, and gathered 50 bags of garbage along the 5 km. stretch of Highway #311, in North River from Grant's Grocery to Marshall's Corners. The most unusual find they

had was an Atlantic Lottery sign.



Venturer's and Leaders are: Back row, l to r: Rodney Hatcher, Mike Brown, Barry Pettis, Joel McGill, Jesse Tanner, Ian Mumford, Bruce Moore, Stephanie Ybara. Front Row l. to r. Blake Higgins, Logan Hughes, Jacob Gamble, Kyle Hughes, Claire Hartlen, Nicole North. Pictured at left: Bucky Daye, Truro & District Lions Club and Bruce Moore, 2nd Truro Venturer leader at the temporary cleanup center outside Molly's Dairy Bar in North River. Molly's is

kind enough to provide refreshments to the crew at times after the cleanup.

2ND WELLINGTON SCOUTING

2nd Wellington Scouting completed their fall Highway Cleanup on October 10, 2012. With 25 cubs, scouts leaders and parents participating, they were able to cleanup most of their adopted section. They enjoyed the AAH bandaid dispensers very much. They had exciting news that their Tim's coffee cup count was down to only 155 from the Spring 2012 count of 286, and a high in Spring of 2011 of 428. Several parents remarked that the road way was in better shape with less litter than during the last couple of cleanups. They hope that it is an ongoing trend!

ISLANDS W.I. /FREEPORT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

These two groups are located on Long Island/Digby Neck. Linda Elliott, contact for both of these groups, commented that during the Islands W.I. cleanup it seemed like there is less garbage, which is a good thing! For the cleanup for the F.C.D.A., they had the "Me to We" group help out. This group was planning a trip to Kenya, and the Association made a donation to their fund, in return for their assistance. We were happy to send a variety of promotional items to these groups, to hand out to their industrious volunteers.

FALL 2012 CLEANUP REPORT

A big thank you to all the groups and individuals who participated in the Fall 2012 cleanup.



- 250 Vimy Air Cadets, Tantallon-Lewis Lake
- 2nd Wellington Scouting, Wellington
- Alexander Family, Stanley Section, Lunenburg Co.
- AMEC, Lawrencetown
- Annapolis Valley Geocachers, Kingston
- Armdale Fairview Rockingham Lions, Halifax
- Basinview Animal Hospital, Hammonds Plains Rd.
- Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation, Mahone Bay
- Broad Cove Community Association
- Chedabucto Place (Guysborough Academy) Green Team, Guysborough
- Coastal Cruisers, Bridgewater
- Dartmouth Rotary Club, Winmill Road
- Dartmouth East Rotary Club, Main Street
- Earth Day Friends, Tatamagouche, (partial)
- Englishtown Community Hall Association, (ongoing)
- Eric & Joyce Higgins, Higginsville
- Fables Club, Tatamagouche
- Forest Heights Community School O2 Students, Chester Grant
- Freeport Community Development Association (and Me to We group)
- Friends of Taylor Head Park, Spry Bay
- Gospel Light Baptist Church youth group, Harrietsfield
- Guysborough Waste Management Facility, Monastery to Boylston
- Hill 'n Dale 4-H Club, Wileville
- Hub Campers, Lanesville
- Islands Women's Institute, Central Grove
- Liverpool Regional High School Key Club
- Mahone Bay & Area Lions Club
- Maxxam Analytics, Bedford
- Nailed It Construction, Sheet Harbour (ongoing)
- New Germany & Area Lions Club
- Northumberland Regional High School, Alma
- Nova Scotia Jeep Club – Truro Chapter, Onslow
- Point Aconi Generating Station, Bras d'Or
- Port William & District Lions Club and Port Williams WI, and NKEC Band
- Queens Co. Special Olympics/ Penny Lane Enterprises, Milton
- River John 4-H Club
- Riverport & District Lions Club
- Sackville Lions Club
- Saltsprings 4-H Club

- Seabreeze Campers, Pinehurst
- Second Paradise Retreat, Lunenburg
- Shoppers Drug Mart- Upper Tantallon
- Sobey's – Bridgewater, Dayspring
- Spa Springs Women's Institute, Middleton
- St. James United Church, Antigonish
- St. Margaret's Bay Lions Club
- TOPS NS #2045 East Jeddore
- TOPS NS #2688 Port Williams
- Truro Lions Club/2nd Truro Scouts and Venturers, North River
- White Point Beach Resort, Liverpool
- Wilson Family, Port Howe to Riverview
- Winding River Art Gallery, Stewiacke

FALL 2012 IN REVIEW



We would like to thank the fifty-two groups across the province who participated in the Fall cleanup last year. A grand total of 1105 bags of garbage and recyclables were eliminated from our highways. They covered 256 kilometers of roadsides and four exits of Nova Scotia highways.

The material removed is equal to 16.5 tonnes. We were fortunate to have 752 volunteers generously give their time (1691 hours to be exact!) to achieve this remarkable event. We are appreciative that so many groups were able to get out and improve the appearance of their communities.

The total for the year is over 75 tonnes of garbage and recyclables (5028 bags) picked up off our road ways by over 2000 volunteers. There were a total of 945 kilometers and 10 interchanges cleaned up. This equals the distance from Yarmouth, around the Cabot trail, and on to Sydney! **Excellent Effort!!!**

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR PERMIT!

To guarantee your cleanup is listed in the latest edition of our newsletter, please ensure a copy of your permit is forwarded to the Adopt-A-Highway office. This permit gives us important information such as the number of hours spent on the cleanups, amount of garbage collected, etc. If your group is missing from this cleanup list, please notify our office, and you will be included in the next newsletter.



RRFB NEWS

PUT WASTE
IN ITS PLACE



Some people may wonder who is RRFB Nova Scotia? It is the Resource Recovery Fund Board, a not-for-profit organization based in Truro. Their mission is to work with Nova Scotians to improve our environment, economy and quality of life by reducing, reusing, recycling and recovering resources.

RRFB Nova Scotia administers recycling programs for products such as beverage containers and tires, and work with Atlantic Canada Electronics Stewardship (ACES) to assist in the operations of the electronics recycling program. They also provide funding for education programs and to support research and business development within the field of solid waste management. Most importantly, they also fund the Adopt-A-Highway program!

One program they have that our service groups may be interested in is the Community Sponsorship

Fund. Groups may apply for financial assistance (up to \$500) to assist in 'greening' a community event or for funding to help 'green' a facility to promote proper waste handling. Contact RRFB Nova Scotia for more details at 1-877-313-7732 or email info@rrfb.com.



More information is available on their website at www.rrfb.com.

RRFB Nova Scotia also publishes a newsletter, "The Recap" which is posted on their website. It has lots of news and updates on their many programs. You can become a subscriber by emailing info@rrfb.com.

UNUSUAL FINDS:



We're always amazed at what turns up in the ditches, and last fall many unusual items were uncovered. They included: *a small plastic elephant, lobster claws, lotto sign, condoms, "dummy" tire, wrench and screw driver bits, CD (which worked!), meat - many packages of meat, underwear, socks, lobster shells, skunk, lamp shade, toilet, soother for baby, and a mailbox.*

WE WANT YOUR INPUT

Send Along Your Pictures...

We love to have pictures of your group doing your Spring & Fall Cleanups. Snap some photos of your group and send them to the Adopt-A-Highway office when you submit your cleanup permit. They may be included in the upcoming editions of **LITTERature!** You could also include "before and after" shots of your highway or interchange area.



...And Your Ideas



Do you or your group have a particularly good idea for keeping your group involved, or an ingenious way of collecting litter along your adopted section of roadway? Also, many groups are interested in **tools used to pick up**

litter. Send in your suggestions and ideas and we'll pass them along in a future newsletter. **We want to hear from you!**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

*All volunteers are eligible to receive various Adopt-A-Highway promotional items for carrying out their roadside cleanup! Groups can request these items when they send in their completed Litter Cleanup Permit. We have refillable pocket hand sanitizers, tape measures, bandage dispensers, pens, and window decals available.



*Also if you would like to help reduce waste, **sign up to receive our newsletter electronically, via email!**

Simply send an email stating your request, and your email address, to aah@eastlink.ca and you will be added to our electronic mailing list. **Another option we have added** is to receive the newsletter by regular mail, and to receive other correspondence, such as notices and V.I.S. information, by email.

*Our litter cleanup permit is now available online at <http://novascotia.ca/tran/hottopics/lpa.asp>. You could print the permit, fill it out, and then take it along, or send it, to your local depot for a staff signature. If you are in the Halifax Suburban or Halifax East areas, you could fax or take it to the main TIR office in Bedford. You should still notify the depot or office at least a week in advance, so they make arrangements for your cleanup.

SPRING CLEANUP

PREPARATIONS



Now that winter has come to an end, it's time to start thinking about your upcoming spring cleanup. Here is a check list of items to help you prepare.

- ✓ Discuss with your group the best day to perform the cleanup.
- ✓ Request an Adopt-A-Highway Program Cleanup permit at least one week before your cleanup from the Department of Transportation. They will arrange to have safety vests, garbage bags, flagging tape and supplies ready for your group.
- ✓ On the day of the cleanup, **review the safety guidelines with all members of your volunteer group.**
- ✓ Make sure the contact person for your group has a copy of the permit with them during the cleanup.
- ✓ Enter the Spring Clean Sweep Contest by sending in a picture of an unusual find from your cleanup, along with your permit, to our office. Cash prizes available are \$200, \$100, and \$50.
- ✓ Fill out the permit after your cleanup.
- ✓ Return department vests and unused garbage bags, etc. Keep a copy of the permit for your records, give the Department of Transportation a copy **and send a copy to the Adopt-A-Highway office. This is very important!** This information is essential for our records, and is needed for your group to be included in our newsletter.

WE'RE "IN THE NEWS"

We have recently received some publicity from two of our AAH groups. A write-up of the Port Williams & Area Lions Club appeared in the Kings County advertiser. They were assisted by members of the band from North Kings Education Centre.



A new group, St. James United Church, in Antigonish was featured in the local paper "The Casket". They have adopted one of the new interchange areas in Antigonish.

If an article about your roadside cleanup is included in a newspaper or other type of media, send notice of it to our office, and we will add it to our file.

EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES

Earth Day was April 22nd and is an ideal time to plan something to benefit the environment. The day has passed but hopefully you have done to help



out the Earth on this important day. Some activities for Earth Day, and year round, are found at the following web sites. It is an excellent time to make a commitment to decrease your energy use, reduce household waste, or become a more efficient driver.

Some websites with valuable environmental information include:

- www.clean.ns.ca - The Clean Nova Scotia website has information on the Drivewiser program, and cleanup initiatives such as the Great pick-me-up and beach sweep registration.
- www.putwasteinitsplace.ca Check out this RRFB site which encourages us to dispose of our waste in the proper method by offering recycling and composting suggestions.
- www.gov.ns.ca/nse - N.S. Dept. of Environment
- www.earthday.ca - Earth Day Canada 2013
- www.reduceyourwaste (RRFB) –This site has lots of suggestions for making us more aware of decisions that could reduce our waste output.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY DAY

May 4, 2013 will be proclaimed Adopt-A-Highway Day in Nova Scotia. The Honourable Maurice G. Smith, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, will read



the resolution in the Legislature. He will mention that it is the 21st anniversary of the program and acknowledge the thousands of volunteers that take part. It is encouraging for our program to continue to receive recognition from our politicians year after year!

Mark Your Calendar



April 22, 2013

Earth Day

May 4, 2013

N.S. Adopt-A-Highway Day

1st Week in June

Environment /Tourism Week

3rd Week in October

Waste Reduction Week

Thanks!!

We would like to pass along our genuine appreciation to all the contributors who made our Volunteer Information Session in Truro such a great success.



Throughout the day the food provided by the Truro Lions Club was excellent. Our compliments to the friendly and cooperative kitchen staff! We were happy to support one of our AAH groups. The Truro Lions Club has been a member of our program since 2002. They faithfully cleanup their section of Highway #311 in North River, with the help of 2nd Truro Scouts and Venturers.

Also a big thank you goes out to Brenda Billard, Milford & District Lions Club, who took so many fantastic pictures during the day. She was kind enough to share them with our office, for use in the newsletter.

Door prizes and supplies were received from Critters Pet Feeds, Greco Pizza and Captain Sub, N.S. 4-H Council, Pizza Delight, RRFB Nova Scotia, Subway, ThinkFarm, Tim Hortons, Wildflower Promotional Products & Apparel, and Women's Institutes of N.S. We are grateful for the generosity of all of these organizations.

We were happy that so many members of the AAH Committee were able to attend. Coni Murray (WINS), Darcey MacBain (Dept. of TIR), Neil Bailey, (Clean N.S.), Jan Deveaux (Lions Clubs of N.S.) and Gina Bain (AAH program coordinator), took part. George Churney (Lions Clubs of N.S.) and Sharon Hubley, (Dept. of TIR, and Hill n' Dale 4-H) joined in the discussion during the Volunteer Round Table. Regrets and best wishes were received from Ellen Simpson (Co-chair, WINS) Alanna McPhee(RRFB), Norman Bird (Volunteer at large), Mark Durnford and Nancy Veinot (N.S. Lions) and Jill Johnson (Department Of TIR). They could not attend because of illness, or prior commitments.

The speakers were excellent, and the tour of the TIR Sign Shop was very informative. We were pleased that many of our volunteers were able to join us for the day, and that they found the session useful.



Origins of AAH Program

Do you know how the Adopt-A-Highway program started? It actually started in Texas in 1984. James R. "Bobby" Evans, an engineer with the Dept. of Transportation (DOT), was driving along when he saw litter blowing out of the back of a pickup truck. He was concerned about this, as the cost of roadside litter pickups was increasing. He thought that he would appeal to local groups to "adopt" a section of highway.

Eventually, Billy Black, who was a public information officer for the state DOT, developed the Adopt-A-Highway program. Before long they had their first group who adopted a 2 mile section of Highway 69. Within months, more than 50 groups in the region had joined the program. It spread quickly through Texas, nationwide and eventually across the world. Today, there are nearly 90,000 AAH groups worldwide!!



Nova Scotia's Adopt-A-Highway Program is supported by:

PUT WASTE IN ITS PLACE



LITERature is a semi-annual newsletter published by the Nova Scotia Adopt-A-Highway Program. If you have missed a recent issue of our Adopt-A-Highway newsletter, be sure to check out our website for a link to many of our previous issues, along with updated information regarding the program.

www.gov.ns.ca/agri/wi/projects/adopt.shtml

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

Gina Bain, Program Coordinator

*Nova Scotia Adopt-A-Highway Program
90 Research Drive, Bible Hill, NS B6L 2R2*

Telephone: (902) 843-9467

Fax: (902) 896-7276

Email: aah@eastlink.ca

This newsletter is printed on FSC paper.