

Litterature



Nova Scotia's Adopt-A-Highway Program

Spring 2012

FALL 2011 IN REVIEW



We would like to thank the forty-five groups across the province who participated in the fall cleanup last year. A grand total of 893 bags of garbage and recyclables were eliminated from our highways.

They covered 228 kilometers of roadsides and one exit of Nova Scotia highways. The material removed is equal to 13.4 tonnes. We were fortunate to have 439 volunteers generously give their time (1158 hours to be exact!) to achieve this remarkable event. The weather was unpredictable last fall, and we were appreciative that so many groups were able to get out and improve the appearance of their communities.

The **total for the year** is over 73 tonnes of garbage and recyclables (4866 bags) collected from 897 kilometres of road ways and 7 interchanges by over 2,000 volunteers. **Well done!**

SPRING LITTER SWEEP CONTEST



We are again holding our Spring Litter Sweep Contest for 2012. To enter the contest, participate in the Spring Clean up and photograph the most unusual piece of litter found by your group. Mail your completed Adopt-A-Highway permit from your Spring 2012 cleanup and a **photograph of your unusual litter**, to the Adopt-A-Highway Office, P.O. Box 550, Truro, NS B2N 5E3. You could also email your entry to adopt-a-highway@gov.ns.ca. Your group could **win a cash prize of \$200, \$100 or \$50** for your picture.

Winner to be announced in the Fall 2012 newsletter.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: JULY 26, 2012
TAKE ALONG YOUR CAMERA AND BE SURE TO ENTER!

CLEAN NOVA SCOTIA'S NEW LITTER PICK-UP EVENT - 2012



Clean Across Nova Scotia
June 8-9, 2012

On June 8 and 9, Nova Scotians will be participating in the largest cleanup effort in the province's history. Over 90 countries have already joined this global cleanup effort, and Nova Scotia is leading the charge for Canada.

You can be part of the largest volunteer action on the planet.* No action is too big or small, so consider what areas could use a little more love in your region, and join us in promoting community care 'clean across' this beautiful province.

Learn more and register your group or community at www.cleanacrossns.ca, and spread the word!

**Clean Across Nova Scotia is a proud partner of "Let's do it!: World Cleanup 2012", the global initiative that will engage over 300 million citizens in 100 countries worldwide this year alone.*

NEW 2011-2012 ADOPTIONS

- ❖ Seashore Fire Department, Bickerton
- ❖ Wilson Family, Port Howe
- ❖ SNC- Lavalin Environmental, Halifax
- ❖ Northumberland Regional High School, Alma



SUCCESSFUL VOLUNTEER INFORMATION SESSION HELD IN PORT WILLIAMS

March 31, 2012 marked a very exciting day for over 40 volunteers from throughout Nova Scotia when they arrived at the St. John's Anglican Church Hall, Port Williams.



This was a very special volunteer information session because 15 years ago the Official Launch of the Adopt-A-Highway program was held in Port Williams, Kings County.

Secondly, this was the first volunteer session that had been held in the Annapolis Valley. Special thank you was extended to Member at Large, Norman Bird, Wolfville, who did a great deal of the ground work to make the session so successful.

The volunteers had the opportunity to travel by bus to the Valley Waste-Resource Management Centre in the Kentville Industrial Park where the group had a very enjoyable tour guided by Andrew Garrett.



The TOPS group provided everyone with a delicious lunch.

The afternoon began with a welcome from Ramona Jennex, MLA for Kings South.

A very informative round table was enjoyed when the volunteer AAH groups were able to enlighten their peers with what they were doing in their area.

Neil Bailey, Clean Nova Scotia (pictured right) spoke on the topic of major litter cleanups throughout the province. He highlighted the "Clean Across Nova Scotia" initiative that will take place on the weekend of June 8-9th.



Andrew Garrett (pictured left) Communication Coordinator at Valley Waste – Resource Management provided a great deal of information on the Valley Waste which everyone found interesting.

Gina Bain, Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator gave a brief review of the program and the results from the past year.

The group was thanked by Ellen Simpson and Coni Murray, Co- Chairs of the AAH Committee. In Ellen's thank you she expressed a thank you to all who have worked so hard to make the program successful through a reading entitled; "Volunteers."

Thank you everyone for your dedication in helping to keep Nova Scotia clean.

Ellen M. Simpson
Co-Chair of AAH

MAHONE BAY & AREA LIONS FACE BIG CLEANUP!



On a beautiful morning in October, eight Lion members and six volunteers from the community headed out to clean a section of Highway #3 near Mahone Bay. Soon they were on their way with highway vests, buckets, and garbage bags. By 11:00, most were finished except for the carpool parking lot where volunteers had started, but could not finish. Others came along to help and before long had most of the mess cleaned up that was visible from the lot. Lion Gary's trailer was overflowing at that point. In total, 60 bags of garbage was collected, 141 recyclables, 12 tires, and a large coil of cable, along with various appliances and ceiling lights. They would like to thank all the volunteers for their efforts on this project.

FABLES CLUB JOINS AAH

Fables Club is a new group on the Sunrise Trail (Hwy #6) near Tatamagouche. The clubs' owners were dissatisfied by the amount of garbage that was in the ditches along the road, and decided to join our program. Between their spring and fall cleanups they have picked up over 60 bags of litter. They feel that having clean highways is important for the community, and also for the tourism industry. They believe that tourists will be more likely to return if a community is clean and free from litter.



2ND WELLINGTON SCOUTING HAVE INTERESTING FINDS



2nd Wellington Scouting held their fall clean-up on the #12 Highway from Wellington to Grand Lake in late September. They had a good turnout with 30 volunteers (combination of youth and adults) working together to collect 18 bags of garbage and 6 bags of recyclables. They had many unusual finds including some blue hair, a duvet, a surgical mask and the youth were interested in an entire hollowed out deer carcass. They also found love letters which made for interesting reading, and a pair of bloomers which seem to be a standard find for their cleanups. They did a Tim Hortons' cup count which is down to 206 (was 429 in the spring, and 387 last fall). They also counted 98 McDonald's cups. They received hand sanitizers and reusable bags from our program as a "Thank You" for all their hard work.

BASINVIEW ANIMAL HOSPITAL HELP TO CLEAN UP IN BEDFORD

Basinview Animal Hospital has recently adopted a section of Hammonds Plains Road in Bedford. They carried out their first cleanup this fall and reported that it was a great success and the weather was perfect. They had 11 volunteers and picked up 12 bags of garbage - only took them 2 hours to complete. They really enjoyed doing it. They said it was unbelievable how many people stopped them to say positive things. HRM was able to pick up their bags at 2:00 pm at their clinic location – They love it when a plan comes together! Dr. Yvonne took the volunteers out to brunch for a job well done. They are already looking forward to the spring clean-up.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!

AAH Turns 20 years old!

The Adopt-A-Highway Program began in Nova Scotia in 1992 when the Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia, Lions Clubs of Nova Scotia and Clean Nova Scotia met with the Department of Transportation and Public Works to discuss a common interest. That common interest was "How do we combat litter along Nova Scotia's highways?"



A pilot project began in 1993 with 18 groups in various areas. In 1997 the official launch of the Nova Scotia Adopt-A-Highway Program was held in Port Williams. The program had spread across the province with 22 groups involved. In the spring cleanup, 705 bags of garbage were collected with 137 km of roadways adopted. Also, Halifax Regional Municipality became involved in the program this year.



Members of the Port William Lions/WI 1997

In 1998 we fulfilled an old saying when one group actually found a kitchen sink on their cleanup. Other unusual finds were a frozen turkey and a cell phone. The program grew quickly and in 1999, 98 groups were registered with the program. A new Litter Cleanup Permit was introduced the same year to make the recording of information easier.

The volunteer groups in 2001 outperformed any other year. We had 143 volunteer groups (nearly 1900 volunteers) that worked together to remove almost 6200 bags of litter removed from our roadways for the year (that's 92 tonnes!)

In the years 2000, 2003 and 2007, representatives from our program attended the International AAH conference in the United States. In 2000 it was held in Phoenix Arizona, in 2003, Charleston, West Virginia hosted and in 2007 it took place in Nashville Tennessee. The conferences were very worthwhile, and the attendees came away with many new ideas to incorporate into the N.S. AAH program.

In 2002 we distributed litter bags and bookmarks across the province. In November, the program expanded to include a three year pilot project on the 100 Series Highway Interchanges. In Spring of 2003 the first interchange adopted was Exit 9 of Hwy #102 at Elmsdale. Volunteers collected 90 bags of litter and other items. To date we have eight groups who have adopted an Interchange/Exit.

Also in 2002 the Litter Sweep Contest was introduced with Hub Campers sending in the most unusual finds, with a collection of rubber boots, a chair and a whiskey bottle. Hopewell 4-H Club and R.J.'s Community Groups placed second and third respectively. May 4th was also proclaimed AAH Day in Nova Scotia for the first time this year.

Forty people attended the first Volunteer Coordinator Information / Recognition Session that was held in March at Agri-Tech Park in Bible Hill. New "Litter Cleanup in Progress" signs were introduced during the Fall Cleanups to help the visibility of our groups during their litter pickup.

In 2004, winners of our Litter Sweep Photo Contest were the Salt Springs 4-H Club, who had found an envelope containing photographs of Pierre Trudeau and his children along their road. It turned out that the pictures were in a purse that had been stolen in Halifax, and they were able to return the pictures to the owner.

A new style of sign was introduced in 2006. A one-piece design replaced the old sign that had the tab at the bottom. This new sign was easier to maintain. T-shirts are now available to our volunteers as a promotional item.

Also, in 2006, the Minister of Transportation and Public Works, Angus MacIassac joined AAH volunteers near Miller Lake to kick off the spring cleanup season.



In 2011 our hard working volunteers removed over 73 tonnes of litter from our roadways. Sunrise 4-H Club won our Cleanup Litter Sweep Contest by finding an intricately carved hockey puck along their section of highway.

In 2012 we followed the suggestions of our volunteers, and took our volunteer Information Session on the road. It was held in Port Williams, and included a tour of Valley Waste – Resource Management in Kentville Industrial Park. We now have 167 groups participating in our program.

FALL 2011 CLEANUP REPORT

A big thank you to all the groups and individuals who participated in the Fall 2011 cleanup.



- 2nd Wellington Scouting, Wellington
- 596 Phoenix Air Cadets, Tatamagouche
- Alexander Family, Stanley Section, Lunenburg Co.
- AMEC, Lawrencetown
- Basinview Animal Hospital, Hammonds Plains Rd.
- Broad Cove Community Association
- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Liverpool
- Coastal Cruisers, Bridgewater
- Community of Lawrencetown Beach
- Dartmouth Rotary Club
- Dillon Consulting, Halifax
- Eric & Joyce Higgins, Higginsville
- Fables Club, Tatamagouche
- Fellowship Lodge #112 AE &AM, Bible Hill
- Forest Heights Community School O2 Students, Chester Grant
- Freeport Community Development Association
- Friends of Taylor Head Park, Spry Bay
- Gospel Light Baptist Church, Harrietsfield
- Hill 'n Dale 4H Club, Wileville
- Hub Campers, Lanesville
- Islands Women's Institute, Central Grove
- Lake Echo Lions Club
- Laura-Lee & Gil Johnson, South Brookfield
- Liverpool Regional High School Key Club
- Mahone Bay & Area Lions Club (assisted by community members)
- Middleton Lions Club
- Moschelle Community Circle
- New Germany & Area Lions Club
- Order of the Eastern Star, Annaval Chapter #31, Middleton
- Point Aconi Generating Station, Bras d'Or
- Port William & District Lions Club and Port Williams WI
- Quarterdeck Beachside Villas and Grill, Liverpool
- Queens Co. Special Olympics/ Penny Lane Enterprises, Milton
- Rotary Club of Sydney- Sunrise
- Seabreeze Campers, Pinehurst
- Second Paradise Retreat, Lunenburg
- Sobey's -Bridgewater, Dayspring
- Spa Springs Women's Institute, Middleton
- St. Margaret's Bay Lions Club
- TOPS NS #2045 East Jeddore

- TOPS- Port Williams
- Truro Lions Club, North River
- West Branch United Church
- White Point Beach Resort, Liverpool
- Yarmouth Lions Club

HONORABLE MENTION!

The weather this fall was very unpredictable to say the least. Early fall was very wet, and some groups were rained out on their scheduled cleanup day, or had to abandon their cleanup early. Other groups, who did their cleanups near the end of the year, reported very pleasant temperatures.

A few groups carried out their cleanups under less than ideal circumstances. 596 Phoenix Air Cadets in Tatamagouche planned their cleanup on Nov. 5th to coincide with Cadet Day. The weather was unforgiving with a mixture of rain and wet snow and very gusty winds. However the cadets persevered, held on to their garbage bags, and managed to collect approximately 50 bags of garbage and 2 bags of recyclables. Well Done!

As well, we were all aware of the tragic fire that affected White Point Beach Lodge in November. We were amazed that after this heartbreaking event, they were still planning their roadside cleanup! They ventured out in early December, were fortunate to have beautiful weather, and enjoyed the fresh air. They collected 37 bags of litter and we applaud their resilience and dedication.

Thanks to all the groups who carried out their Fall Cleanups, especially those who had to endure difficult circumstances.

SPRING CLEANUP OMISSION

We would like to acknowledge the efforts of the Armdale Fairview Rockingham Lions Club for this past spring. Our apologies for missing their listing in the "Groups who participated in the Spring 2011 Cleanup" in our last newsletter.

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 AAH, and you will be included in the next newsletter.

PUBLICITY IDEAS

One item that we are always interested in is added publicity and exposure for our program. Several groups are concerned that their volunteer base is dwindling, and they are looking for recruitment ideas.



There are some ideas that have worked for other groups. Advertise your cleanup in your local area. We have printed AAH Clean-up notices that you can request from our office. You could post them in your local area, with the planned Clean-up date, and your contact information could be listed on the notice.

Many local papers have a Community Notice Column or Community Happenings Listing, and radio stations also have a Community Notice board where your group could post your upcoming cleanup.

Contact the local paper to see if they would be interested in covering your cleanup. If the word gets out, people may volunteer to help at your next cleanup. Letters to the Editor are another way to let the public know about your cleanup. A letter after the cleanup including the total of bags picked up and summary of the cleanup may catch the attention of prospective helpers. It may inspire them to help out next time.

Seabreeze Campers, near New Germany, noted that they put a sign on their pile of collected garbage after the cleanup. It said "This is your garbage picked up by us. Please try to keep the highway clean" Hopefully this will help to bring attention to their roadside cleanup and reduce the litter in this area.

WE'RE "IN THE NEWS"

We have recently received some publicity from two of our AAH groups. A write-up of "Fables" Club's cleanup on Hwy #6 near Tatamagouche was recently included in the monthly newspaper "The Light".



Bill Alexander, of the Alexander Family in New Germany, was featured in a calendar that was circulated province wide. It is put out by Community Links- Aging Well Together, and includes tips for older adults. Bill was featured on a month that emphasized volunteer activities.

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 is April 22nd and is an ideal time to plan something to benefit the environment. There are numerous ideas available in local papers or by searching the internet. One option is to take part in a local litter cleanup.



You could participate either individually, with a group, or register with Clean Nova Scotia to be part of this year's **Great Nova Scotia Pick-Me-Up**. (Details are available at www.nspickmeup.ca.) It is also 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 Earth Day and waste reduction information include:

- www.clean.ns.ca - Clean Nova Scotia
- <http://www.rafb.com> - RRFB Nova Scotia
- www.gov.ns.ca/nse - N.S. Dept. of Environment
- <http://thezerowastehome.com/> - Information on reducing your waste.
- <http://rcbc.bc.ca/education/zero-waste> - Waste reduction information
- www.drivewiser.ca - Drive wiser for fuel efficiency
- www.earthday.ca - Earth Day 2012 website
- www.reduceyourwaste.ca - "Resources" section has many waste awareness suggestions.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

*All volunteers are eligible to receive various Adopt-A-Highway promotional items for carrying out their roadside cleanup! We will send them out to your group after we receive your completed Litter Cleanup Permit. We have AAH gold volunteer lapel pins, refillable pocket hand sanitizers, pens, car litter bags, (generously donated by RRFB N.S.) and window decals on hand. In addition, new items available this year are pocket tape measures and bandage dispensers.

*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 adopt-a-highway@gov.ns.ca and you will be added to our electronic mailing list.

**May 4, 2012 has been proclaimed
Adopt-A-Highway Day in Nova Scotia**

14TH ANNUAL MOBIUS ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS



It's time once again for the annual Mobius Awards of Environmental Excellence! Named after the Mobius Loop, the international symbol for recycling, the awards recognize the achievements of innovative Nova Scotians who have helped

make our province a leader in waste reduction.

RRFB will be handing out the awards to many deserving groups and individuals on June 5th in Halifax. For more information, a list of past winners, and this year's winners after they have been chosen, please visit mobius.rrfb.com. Prizes will be awarded in the following categories:

- BUSINESS OF THE YEAR
- INSTITUTION OF THE YEAR
- INNOVATION IN WASTE REDUCTION
- WASTE REDUCTION EDUCATION PROGRAM
- INDIVIDUAL EXCELLENCE IN WASTE REDUCTION
- REGION/MUNICIPALITY/AUTHORITY OF THE YEAR
- ENVIRO-DEPOT™ OF THE YEAR
- SCHOOL OF THE YEAR
- BEST COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECT

WHO ARE YOU?

What kind of groups have joined together to help pick up litter across N.S.? There is a great variety in our groups, ranging from a lone individual, a family or workplace association, to large service groups.

Lions Clubs	30
Other Service Groups	17
Business/ Workplace	20
Tourism Related Businesses	8
Community Associations	22
4-H Clubs	12
Schools	7
Other Youth Groups (including Scouts and Cadets)	12
Church Groups	7
Women's Institutes	8
Individuals and Families	11
Environmental Organizations	2
"Other"	11
Total	167

SPRING CLEANUP PREPARATIONS

Now that winter is coming to an end, many groups are thinking about the 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 Litter Cleanup Permit at least one week before your cleanup from the Department of Transportation, so that they can arrange to have safety vests, garbage bags, etc. available for you.
- 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.
- Take along a camera and enter the Spring Clean Sweep Contest by taking a picture of an unusual find from your cleanup. 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.

UNUSUAL FINDS:

We're always amazed at what turns up in the ditches, and this year many unusual items were uncovered. They included: *blue hair, a duvet, surgical mask, love letters (interesting to read!), a pair of bloomers, carpet, a screen door, a quilt, new fireworks, a shopping cart (which was useful), bag of corn cobs, new Christmas tree stand, a Lions Club sign, set of dishes (intact), boots, skates, electric floor polisher, bag of dog Milk-Bones, Buzz Lightyear shield, shoes, paring knife, animal carcasses, breadboxes, camp chair, and a ring.*



DISTRIBUTION OF AAH GROUPS

Many people wonder where our groups are located around the province. We are very fortunate to have groups all the way from Yarmouth to the tip of Cape Breton. A summary of number of groups in the various counties are as follows:



Annapolis / Digby Co.	14
Antigonish / Guysborough Co	14
Cape Breton Co	3
Colchester	15
Cumberland	11
Hants Co	10
Halifax East	9
Halifax Suburban	14
Halifax Regional Municipality	10
Kings	20
Lunenburg / Queens	29
Pictou	11
Richmond / Inverness South	4
Shelburne / Yarmouth	2
Victoria / Inverness North	1

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



April 22, 2012	Earth Day
May 4, 2012	N.S. Adopt-A-Highway Day
June 8-9	Clean Across N.S. Event
1 st Week in June	Environment Week
3 rd Week in October	Waste Reduction Week

THANK YOU!

We would like to pass along our genuine appreciation to all the contributors who made our Volunteer Information Session in Port Williams such a great success. Thanks to Norman Bird who did an amazing job organizing the session. The food prepared by the Port Williams TOPS group was delicious, and our volunteers commented on their “service with a smile”.

Door prizes and supplies were received from McDonald’s Restaurant, N.S. 4-H Council, NSAC, RRFB Nova Scotia, ThinkFarm, Tim Hortons, Transcontinental Media, Wildflower Promotional Products & Apparel, and Women’s Institutes of N.S. We are grateful for the generosity of all of these organizations.

The speakers were excellent, and the tour of Valley Waste was very informative. We were pleased that so many volunteers were able to join us at our session, and that they enjoyed the day!

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 **LITERature!** 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!**

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



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:

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