



The Mission Adopt-A-Block Society - Community News

Volunteers Moving Mountains

Adopt-A-Block volunteers are moving mountains, of litter that is. Litter is an on-going environmental problem and sometimes it may seem that for every bag of litter an Adopt-A-Block volunteer collects, there are two waiting for them the next day. It can be disheartening to see litter returned to a route that was just cleaned. Sometimes volunteers may feel that they are the only ones out there cleaning the mess, while many neighbors and community members are putting it there. While it may seem that there is no end in sight to the litter problem, there is a significant amount of work being done by Adopt-A-Block volunteers to greatly reduce it. In a recently 2010 survey, Adopt-A-Block asked their volunteers, “On average how much litter do you collect each month?” 59 Adopt-A-Block volunteers [out of 183 surveyed] reported to collect approximately 57 [114 AAB blue nylon bags] garbage bags

of litter each month, totaling 684 garbage bags each year.

The amount of litter and time spent on adopted routes differ from person to person; yet, pulling in the numbers all together makes for a significant amount of litter no longer an eyesore in the community and no longer degrading the environment, such as entering into our waterways and disrupting aquatic habitats.

683 garbage bags of litter, however, seems like a whole lot of trash! While on one hand, this number of bags is impressive to report having been

cleaned up by a small number of volunteers — it is on the other hand, a tremendous amount of litter to enter the environment in the first place. Considering that the average household puts out only one bag of garbage on the curb each week, making for 52 bags a year— 683 bags of litter accounts for a large amount of litterbugs in our community. This reveals the need to increase awareness to the problems of litter in the environment and the need for many to practice ecological citizenship. How do we reach the unconverted? It starts with being an example—working from your corner. Adopt-A-Block would like to thank all their hard working volunteers for being an example to others in the community— demonstrating that litter is everyone’s responsibility and that we can all ‘pitch-in’ and make a difference towards the health and beauty of our environment.



Typical litter collected by volunteers while cleaning their adopted routes.

The Spring Litter Clean-Up Begins

If you see yellow on the horizon, it’s probably Adopt-A-Block’s spring litter clean-up volunteers busy at work. Eight Mission non-profit groups will be participating in large community litter clean-ups in April and May for the remuneration of \$250. Benefits of participating in a spring clean-up reach far beyond the financial award. By participating in community litter

clean-ups volunteers help to spread awareness, show civic pride and demonstrate environmental responsibility. Volunteer efforts in large community clean-ups help to protect our children and animals from otherwise harmful litter encounters and litter collection adds to the aesthetic appearance of the community. This spring several heavily littered areas in Mission

are targeted for clean-ups including Keystone, Tyler, London, Rai Ave., Cedar St. and more. So if you spot someone wearing an Adopt-A-Block yellow vest this spring, make sure you give them a friendly wave or say thank-you to let them know their volunteer litter control effort is appreciated.



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HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Fall Clean-Up Application Deadline June 30th**
- **Stave Lake Area Clean-Up, June 5th**
- **Mission Elementary Schools—BOOK your SCHOOL LITTER AUDITS Today! For May-June 2010**
- **Children’s Festival, June 13th at Heritage Park**
- **Communities in Bloom Judges Event, July 17-19**

Taking it to the Streams...

Adopt-A-Block has expanded its litter control program this year to include **two stream clean-ups** as a part of the society's annual **Fall Litter Clean-Up**. While litter is first of all unsightly and unpleasant to find in the environment, it also has negative consequences for animals and aquatic life. Most litter is carried off by wind or rain into nearby waterways, degrading sensitive aquatic habitats by; obstructing waterways, adding bacteria and other toxins into the water and by contributing to the depletion of oxygen that aquatic life depend on. To address this environmental concern, two stream clean-ups will be conducted in stream areas spoiled by litter. The summer time up until the end of September is the appropriate time of year to tackle stream-side litter when stream water levels are low. Yet, due to the sensitivity of stream habitats, certain precautions and guidelines must be followed. When you undertake a large-

scale cleanup of a stream area, you want to be sure you do more good than harm. For example, you can damage stream habitats by removing all large material from the stream. Only human produced materials will be removed that do not disturb natural materials, such as logs and stumps that provide cover for fish.

Applicants that apply for this year's fall clean-up will be able to choose between a stream clean-up or a regular street-side clean-up during the event. However, volunteers participating in a stream clean-up will need to be aware of appropriate dress wear for the weather and stream conditions. If waders are available, they should bring them along. Rubber boots and other appropriate foot wear will also be mandatory. Safety is also a concern for stream areas, such as slipping hazards (on wet rocks) and water flow causing persons to lose balance. Nonetheless, Adopt-A-

Block feels that by expanding the fall clean-up fundraiser to include stream areas, the society will address the larger negative consequences litter has on the environment.

Applications for the Fall Litter Clean-Up are now being accepted until **June 30th** and are available on the society's website. All interested Mission non-profits are welcome to apply. Groups selected to participate in a clean-up will be rewarded **\$250** for their effort.



Litter debris found in a section of Lane Creek in the Industrial Area. (Picture taken February 2010)

Tim Hortons Taking Leadership in Litter Control

Adopt-A-Block was delighted to host Irene Korgul, **Tim Hortons, Specialist of Environmental Affairs**, at the society's **Annual General Meeting** this past March 24, 2010. Korgul gave an insightful presentation on Tim Hortons in the community and what this Quick Service Industry is

doing in litter control and the company's current initiatives and future goals for waste diversion in general.

The AGM took place at the Cedarbrooke Chateau theater on 7th Ave. in Mission, the staff team of which, generously donated coffee & tea and

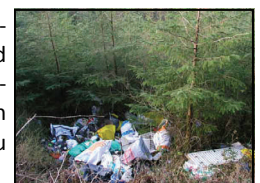
cookies to those present. Thanks to all those who were able to make it out this year to the event. The AGM was a success and the Adopt-A-Block board of directors was pleased to welcome two new volunteer directors to the team.

Impromptu Litter Clean-Up Leaders Sought

Litter appears to be piling up in all sorts of off-the-map places, including illegal dumping eyesores and garbage left over from people living in urban green spaces. Several places across Mission have become litter hotspots and people are becoming more concerned about the garbage piling up in these areas and the effect the mess has on the environment and how it deteriorates civic pride and one's sense of place. Most of these places are in areas not selected by Adopt-A-Block volunteers due to the fact that they are random, off-the-road, in difficult to get to places. Yet the need to manage these litter hotspots

remains. Several AAB volunteers have been asking to meet other AAB volunteers to unite in some form of litter phone tree, or impromptu litter clean-up task force, to take on some of these hotspots as the need arises. Each person that approaches AAB voices a similar concern about these wild space messes and how if a small group of volunteers could arrange among themselves to meet up, some of these places could be dealt with. While the adopt a 'block' program caters to many volunteers interested only in maintaining their adopted route—several volunteers clean litter in the community above and

beyond their routes. Adopt-A-Block would be delighted to introduce these volunteers to one another. AAB is asking all persons interested in taking part in this type of social environmental activity to contact them. The society coordinator will work with these volunteers to establish a 'phone tree' model that best suits each volunteer's preference and level of interest in impromptu clean-ups.



An Illegal dumping eyesore!

Visit Stream
Keepers at
[http://
www.pskf.ca/
publications/
Module06.pdf](http://www.pskf.ca/publications/Module06.pdf)
to learn more
about tackling
litter in
streams...



A local fishing club, the **Woolly Buggers** has adopted a 1.1 kilometer stretch of **Silverdale Creek** and will try to keep it as clean as members can. Read more:

[http://www.bclocal
news.com/fraser_val
ley/misioncityrecor
d/community/9242
0914.html](http://www.bclocalnews.com/fraser_valley/misioncityrecord/community/92420914.html)



Welcome Aboard New Volunteers

Adopt-A-Block would like to welcome the following persons for joining our team this 2010:

David & Irene Kroeker
Ed Hansen
Julie Gervais
Jessica Mogielka
Terry Peressini
The Turner Family
The Good Family
Bonnie White
Amini Forouzan

You are making a difference!

UnSung Heroes in Litter Control

There are **countless volunteers** out there in the community **making a difference**, working their magic silently and unnoticed. From time to time, Adopt-A-Block hears wind of some of these dedicated volunteers and wants to sing a song for them.

Adopt-Block has a song to sing for **Ed Hansen** who joined the team in January 2010. Ed adopted the stretch on Nelson Ave. downhill from the Mission Golf and Country Club and within two weeks collected 39 bags of garbage from his adopted area. His efforts haven't stopped there—Ed has gone on to clean several other random rural areas across town.

Ed simply tells those who wonder what he is doing collecting litter in areas far from his home residence, that he just doesn't like seeing the litter and its needs to be cleaned up.

Adopt-A-Block also has a song to sing for **Heidi Smith and Howard Noa** who volunteered an impromptu clean-up of the wild green space between Fruits & Greens east towards downtown. Several bags of litter were collected and properly disposed from this area. These two volunteers are some of several volunteers asking about getting together an impromptu litter hotspot clean-up team. There are several heavily

littered places around town that have not been adopted—and need special attention from time to time. If there are others Adopt-A-Block volunteer willing to participate in such random clean-ups from time to time, please let Adopt-A-Block know and we will connect you to likewise dedicated volunteers.

Adopt-A-Block would also like to sing a melody or two for **Cindy Kelly, Margaret Clifton, Jean Kask and Julie Hartland**. These ladies will all receive an award from the District of Mission this June for their volunteer service in the community, each with special mention given to their volunteer efforts



Mission's Backyard Needs Attention

The **8th Annual Stave Lake Area Clean-Up** is coming up on **June 05**. The **Four Wheel Drive Association of B.C.** is looking for volunteers to help contribute to the clean-up of the Burma Rd. area in Mission. Last year, 65 individuals volunteered in the clean-up and throughout the course of the day collected **2,540 kilograms of garbage** and a 30 foot

bin full of metal scrap from the area. To find out more information about last year's Stave Lake Clean-up visit: <http://news.4wdabc.ca/?m=200906>

Those interested in volunteering at this year's event are asked to contact, **Carolann Van de Ligt** at **(604) 826-5333** or email her at cvdligt@shaw.ca



2009 Stave Lake Clean-Up Crew

The Deal with Abandoned Shopping Carts

Most people have probably come across an abandoned shopping cart tossed down a ravine and just about anywhere other than where it is suppose to be. Shopping carts are some of the bigger litter items in the environment not so fun to deal with. Yet, several things that can be done to manage the problem of an abandoned shopping cart. Each department store varies:

Safeway will pay \$2.50 a cart if you bring them in OR they pay their driver the same for each cart. To collect this fee, one is required to

first call the Safeway Manager, **Mike Disastri**, before bringing in the cart. He will happily meet to unload the cart from your vehicle and give you the small reward. If hauling the cart back to Safeway does not appeal to you, call Mike and let him know where the cart is and Safeway will collect it. You can reach **Mike** at **(604) 826-5369**

Save -On - Foods does not pay \$\$\$ for carts. But they will send someone from the store to come and pick up the cart - if you call them and tell them where it is located. The person to contact is **Spencer**

Jack, the Store Manager, at **(604) 826-9564**.

Canadian Tire does not have a policy for shopping carts. However, if you do come across one, ask for Pam Todd to report it and staff will collect it. **(604) 826-5840**.

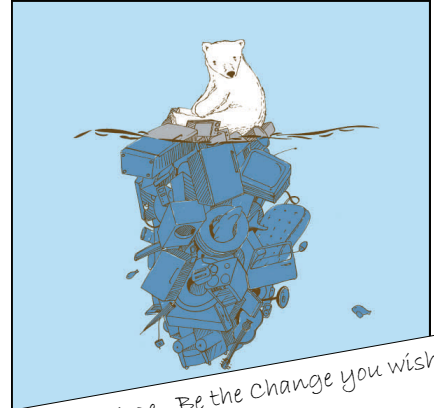
London Drugs, store managers will personally go and get the cart - if you report it to them. Contact **Eleanor** (Store Manager) or **Mike** (Assistant Manager) at **604-820-5115**.



VISIT US ONLINE:
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There is Hope. Be the Change you wish to see in the World.



Visit with **Enviro Girl & Litter Bug** at this year's **Children's Festival**, June 13th at Heritage Park in Mission, B.C.

Thank God men cannot fly, and lay waste the sky as well as the earth.
 ~Henry David Thoreau

Tidy Your Block to Support Communities in Bloom

Communities in Bloom (CNB) is a non-profit Canadian organization committed to fostering civic pride, environmental responsibility and beautification through community involvement and the challenge of a national program focusing on community green spaces. This year the **District of Mission** has been invited to the **National Level of Competition** and have the opportunity to compete with other Canadian cities with the population of 20,000 to 50,000 people. The program consists of communities being

evaluated by a volunteer jury of trained professionals on the accomplishments of their entire community (municipal, private, corporate and institutional sectors, citizens) on eight key criteria: **Tidiness, Environmental Action, Heritage Conservation, Urban Forestry, Landscape, Turf & Ground-covers, Floral Displays and Community Involvement.**

The District of Mission will be judged how well Mission residents take care of the natural

environment in the community, including the maintenance of litter. **Mission Adopt-A-Block volunteers** and supporters can help Communities in Bloom win the national competition by tidying adopted routes before and during the judges event which takes place **July 15-17th.**

Mission residents interested in learning more about the upcoming CNB competition can call **Myrna** at **604-820-1380** or email beautifymission@hotmail.com.



Is Your Business A Part of the Litter Solution?

Reasons to Adopt the Voluntary Code of Practices:

- The quality of the local environment is important to people
- A clean business is attractive to tourists, existing and new business investors etc.
- People feel safe and happy living in a clean area
- A litter free environment contributes to; attracting long-term commercial investors and long-term tenants
- Clean environments deter anti-social behaviors

The Voluntary Code of Practices:

- Step One:** Understand the litter around your business
- Step Two:** Provide public education on litter prevention & reduction
- Step Three:** Reduce waste from your business
- Step Four:** Manage waste properly
- Step Five:** Manage the litter around your business.

Adopt-A-Block proudly supported in 2010 by:

