



# The Mission Adopt-A-Block Society- Community News

## 1340 Kilograms of Litter Collected from Mission's Roadways & Green Spaces

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The U13 Select Silver Soccer Team gets ready to tackle the litter in Centennial Park and nearby streets.

litter items to old tires was collected and properly disposed of. A many thanks to all individuals who came out to the fall event to improve the aesthetic beauty and environmental health of the community for everyone to benefit.

A reminder to all Mission non-profit groups that applications are now being accepted for Mission Adopt-A-Block's Annual Spring Clean-Up to take place in April & May 2009. The Spring Clean-Up, alike the Fall Clean-Up, entails the acceptance of 8 Mission non-profit groups to participate in a large litter clean-up for the remuneration for \$250. This is a great opportunity for groups to raise funds to support their programs, as well as participate in a rewarding community project that benefits all citizens and aspects of Mission.

**Application deadline is January 30.** For more information and application forms visit [www.missionadoptablock.com](http://www.missionadoptablock.com) or call (604) 826-9423.

Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> marked the conclusion of Mission Adopt-A-Block's Annual Fall Litter Clean-Up. Approximately 160 volunteers from 8 non-profit organizations participated in a large community litter clean-up along major roadways and green spaces in Mission. The event took place over four Saturdays in September and Octo-

ber and participating groups profited the reward of \$250 for their involvement in the event.

A total of **1340 kg** of litter was collected from Mission's green spaces, ditches and roadsides, NOT including the recyclables collected including: glass, metal, cans, dry paper and bottles. Everything from fast food

## Mission Adopt-A-Block Receives Grant from Tim Hortons

The Mission Adopt-A-Block Society received a grant from Tim Hortons in the amount of \$2100 to go towards this year's 2008 campaign, including the purchase of new pickers, brochures and education program costs. This grant is significant to Adopt-A-Block as it covers basic program costs that are otherwise costly to the small

non-profit. Last year, for example, Adopt-A-Block welcomed 32 new volunteers to the society, a cost of over \$1800 to supply litter control equipment, a fundamental program necessity for the continuing of the "adopt" a "block" program. With the financial help of Tim Hortons, Adopt-A-Block purchased 50 new pickers just in time for this

year's Annual Fall Clean-Up. Thanks to generous supporters like Tim Hortons, Adopt-A-Block is able to continue to offer the community a litter prevention and reduction program and work together with citizens alike to Keep Mission Clean! Thanks Tim Hortons, you are making a difference!

**The Annual Spring Clean-Up 2009— Application Deadline is January 30th**



**Tim Hortons**

## Education Program

### Just for fun...



#### Sarah Cynthia Sylvia Stout

Sarah Cynthia Sylvia Stout  
Would not take the garbage out!  
She'd scour the pots and scrape the  
pans,

Candy the yams and spice the  
hams,

And though her daddy would scream  
and shout,

She simply would not take the  
garbage out.

And so it piled up to the ceilings:  
Coffee grounds, potato peelings,  
Brown bananas, rotten peas,  
Chunks of sour cottage cheese.  
It filled the can, it covered the floor,  
It cracked the window and blocked  
the door

With bacon rinds and chicken  
bones,

Drippy ends of ice cream cones,  
Prune pits, peach pits, orange peel,  
Gloppy glumps of cold oatmeal,  
Pizza crusts and withered greens,

Soggy beans and tangerines,  
Crusts of black burned buttered  
toast,

Gristly bits of beefy roasts. . .

The garbage rolled on down the hall,  
It raised the roof, it broke the wall. . .

Greasy napkins, cookie crumbs,

Globs of gooey bubble gum,

Cellophane from green baloney,

Rubbery blubbery macaroni,

Peanut butter, caked and dry,

Curdled milk and crusts of pie,

Moldy melons, dried-up mustard,

Eggshells mixed with lemon custard,

Cold french fried and rancid meat,

Yellow lumps of Cream of Wheat.

At last the garbage reached so high

That it finally touched the sky.

And all the neighbors moved away,

And none of her friends would come

to play.

And finally Sarah Cynthia Stout said,

"OK, I'll take the garbage out!"

But then, of course, it was too late. . .

.

The garbage reached across the

state,

From New York to the Golden Gate.

And there, in the garbage she did

hate,

Poor Sarah met an awful fate,

That I cannot now relate

Because the hour is much too late.

But children, remember Sarah Stout

And always take the garbage out!

**Shel Silverstein, 1974**

## Mission Elementary Students Explore Mission's Landfill

Where does all our garbage go after being collected from the curb? Here in Mission, garbage is transported to Minnie's Pit, our city's landfill. But is this the end of the road for our trash?

The amount and type of waste tossed into our community landfill has environmental, social and economical consequences. As garbage decomposes moisture filters through it producing a toxic liquid known as leachate. Decomposing garbage also produces two greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide and methane. Methane is an invisible, odorless and highly flammable gas, 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Decomposing garbage can take hundreds to millions of years to disappear! Water and oxygen are required to break down garbage, but water and oxygen are in short supply deep in a landfill, so decomposition

takes place very slowly. In fact, when researchers cored down into a landfill in the United States, they discovered newspapers over 30 years old still in readable condition! Reducing the amount of waste we produce is by far the most effective way to battle the negative environmental impact waste has on the earth, and to solve its social and economical implications.

On behalf of the District of Mission, Mission Adopt-A-Block welcomed Mission elementary schools to take a tour of Minnie's Pit for students to see first hand why it is important to be conscious not only of waste habits, but consumer choices as well, and why smart behaviors like reducing, reusing, recycling and composting can really make a difference!

Landfill tours run for approximately 2 hours, and take place annually October–November and May–June. This

year, with the generous financial support of Tim Hortons, Mission Adopt-A-Block covered the expense of bus transportation for five schools to participate in a tour.

Mission Adopt-A-Block's program coordinator, Laura Cameron reports, "topics discussed during the landfill tour are relevant to the building of healthier communities by means of improving waste management practices, which indirectly play a significant role in litter prevention and reduction. Simply, waste is bad for the environment, and all measures that can be taken to reduce, recycle, and reuse waste products are good choices. Cameron adds, "being conscious about waste, from the moment an item is purchase to the place where it comes to rest (whether disposed of properly or not) is already being apart of the solution".



*E.S. Richards Elementary – Grades 4 & 5 visit Minnie's Pit this Fall 2008.*

## School Litter Audits—A Spring Time Affair

Mission Adopt-A-Block invites elementary schools in the Mission District to consider participating in a School Litter Audit this Spring 2009. The litter audit program allows your students to take an active role in being responsible for the cleanliness of the schoolyard and expands their knowledge about litter and the consequences of it in the environment. The program consists of an in class litter awareness question & answer period and a safety talk, a school yard cleanup period and an

evaluation and discussion period following the clean up. The total anticipated time to complete all the activities is about two hours, but can be modified to suit class time restrictions.

A litter audit activity is an excellent means to measure



your school's environment social responsibility status – and can help reduce the amount of litter found on and/or around the schoolyard, but most importantly it is an activity aimed to develop positive environmental thinking and behaviors in litter prevention and reduction. By taking time to observe the problem of litter in the environment, it is Mission Adopt-A-Block's objective that students will learn to be responsible for their own trash, today and in the years to come.

## The Annual Fall Clean-Up—The Experience

Volunteers arrive early on four Saturday mornings at their designated meeting place in Mission, some still sipping their morning coffee and others wondering whether or not they have put on enough warm clothes to endure the outdoor chill as they pick up litter for the next 2-4 hours.

When the last member expected to show up to the event arrives, group volunteers receive instructions to what the clean-up entails, with special attention given to safety, and each volunteer collects their needed litter control equipment (garbage bags, vest, pickers, etc.) and is sent on their way to tackle their assigned litter route.

This year, as luck would have it, the morning chill gives way to beautiful weather lasting throughout each clean-

up. Volunteers returned to base after finishing their litter routes feeling invigorated from the fresh air and proud of their litter clean-up successes. Each volunteer shares a different story about litter items collected, many volunteers surprised at the amount of cigarette butts improperly discarded and many disturbed at the large amount of fast food litter items found strewn along roadways. Strange and outrageous litter items become the central topic of conversation among returning volunteers, while others question how such items come to be left in the environment and wonder who would think to leave these items lying behind for others to stumble upon. One group was shocked to learn that 54 syringes were found along their route— each safely handled by an experienced adult and properly

disposed of.

Year after year, annual community litter clean-ups, like the Fall Clean-Up, entail an eye-opening experience for each participating volunteer and reveal evidence to the problem of litter in the environment. One can not walk away from participating in a community litter clean-up without feeling a concern for the environment and also determination to see a litter free society. Most volunteers that share in this experience return year after year to participate once again in a community clean-up.

For more information on how to become involved in Mission Adopt-A-Block's programs visit online at [www.missionadoptablock.com](http://www.missionadoptablock.com) or call (604) 826-9423.

All photographs taken at Fall Clean-Up 2008.



### Some Reasons to Why Becoming An Adopt-A-Block Volunteer Has Benefits...

- Feel good about helping out in your community.
- Feel good about contributing to the health and well-being of the environment.
- Know you are making a difference.
- Spend time outdoors, get exercise and have fun.
- Get to know the people in your community.
- Be apart of a cause.

## Welcome New 2008 Volunteers!

Phil Beauchamp  
Linda Cucek  
Cindy Forward  
Marie Gill  
Sonya Hughes  
Nikolaas Jakobs  
Dorothy Kipp

Allen Jones  
Louise Lacerte  
Stella Laidmai  
Roxanne McCallum  
Helen McElroy  
Beth Maenpaa



Jill Mullis  
Tammie Munro  
Jenny Obando  
Andre Paris

Branden Richards-  
Hornbrook  
Allen Russell  
Diane Ryz  
Vicky Scowen  
Joyce & Bruce Smith

## Are You An Anti-Litter Superhero? Here's How You Too Can Be...

\*Always set an example by not littering, no matter where you are.

\*If you see a friend or family member litter – tell them why litter is harmful to the environment and encourage them to put their litter where it belongs, in the trash.

\*When you put out the trash at home, make sure that garbage can lids are on tight, and that bags are tied tight so no loose papers or other items blow away in the wind.

\*If you own a car, make a litterbag to put in it and/or put a litterbag in your family's car.

\*Keep your yard clean and

free of things that can blow into the street and become litter.

\*Whenever you visit a park or beach, carry out what you bring in. Keep unwanted items in a bag or backpack until you can put them in a litter basket.

\*Adopt a street or an area in your community with your family and help keep it litter free.

\*Get involved in a community litter clean-up.

\*Get your school or family to help clean-up the litter pitched on the schoolyard or neighborhood.

\*Write to your council members and leaders about the issues of litter in your community.

\*Write to your local papers about litter issues and encourage fellow citizens to keep the community litter free.

\*Bring a litter-less lunch to school or to the office – put sandwiches and drinks in reusable containers.

\*Make a list of things that could be done to stop litter. Share it with your friends, work mates, family...

\*Put up signs around the work place, lunchroom, school hallways, etc. to

remind others not to litter.

\*Conduct a litter audit – of the types of litter found in your neighborhood, school yard, workplace and develop solutions to reduce the type of you find.

\*Form Partnerships with environmental groups, municipalities and other interest parties in antilitter and cleanup programs.

YOU can make a difference!

Enviro Girl



## The Adventures of Enviro Girl & the Litter Bug...



The Saga Continues...

Are you a comic book artist? We are looking for a talented & dedicated volunteer to develop our Enviro Girl & Litter Bug comic strip! Learn more...

## Mission Adopt-A-Block's Enviro Girl Visits the Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival



The Mission Adopt-A-Block Society attends the FVBEF annually.



FraserValleyBaldEagleFestival.ca

For more information about the annual festival check out: [www.fraservalleybaldeaglefestival.ca](http://www.fraservalleybaldeaglefestival.ca)

### Newsflash:

*Enviro Girl & L. Bug made an appearance at this year's Children's Festival and Canada Day Celebration. Enviro Girl & L. Bug competed against each other in the annual Mission Mascot race, Enviro Girl beat the litter bug, but lost the race as Smokey the Bear grabbed her cape just before crossing the finish line. Once again, L. Bug was up to no good, throwing litter all over the park grounds and encouraging others to do the same. Enviro Girl kept a close eye on L. Bug, and the both of them took time to tell the mayor a thing or too...*

The Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival takes place annually each November—to create awareness and preservation of B.C.'s eagle and salmon habitats. Mission Adopt-A-Block's mascot, Enviro Girl shares her experience attending this year's festival:

Auntie Litter, L. Bug and I carpooled to the event as sharing transportation helps to reduce pollution and traffic congestion, and a lot of moving translates into a lot of energy consumption. At the start of the day, I packed a lunch, using reusable containers and made sure to include cloth napkins to endeavor the saving of the trees and reduce waste. Before leaving my superhero Litter-free Launch Pad, I turned off all the lights and energy consumption devices at my residence, and equipped with a paper notebook made of 100% recycled fiber and a digital camera using rechargeable batteries, I zipped out the door. Before heading out on the road, I checked the air in my tires, as keeping your tires fully inflated improves gas mileage by about 3%. After picking up Auntie Litter and L. Bug on the way, Auntie Litter requested a stop to purchase her afternoon tea from a local fast food retailer. I had Auntie Litter keep on eye on L. Bug

while I went into the premise to get her some tea in the durable travel mug she brought along, as we superheroes say "down with drive-thrus and to-go packaging". In fact, if idling was avoided by all Canadians in just one day, we would save 1.8 million liters of fuel and prevent 4,500 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions from entering the atmosphere. On the way to the festival, Auntie Litter and I gave L. Bug a strict talk on his habit of littering and took some precautions to prevent it. Auntie Litter installed a super duper litter bag in the vehicle to keep the garbage in the trash and not on the streets and I kept the power safety lock beside L. Bug locked, just in case L. Bug decided to be himself. Upon arrival at Harrison's home, we were mindful to put nature first- staying to the trail, leaving nature alone, carrying out all our garbage generated and even picking up litter as we encountered it.

Leaping Litterbug! I couldn't believe how many eagles we sighted during our visit. L. Bug mentioned on the drive home that he had no idea that the eagle is primarily a fish feeder and mumbled something about the impact his littering might have on the fish habitat.

Auntie Litter couldn't quite hear him and ask him to repeat what he said, but L. Bug changed his demeanor and teased Auntie Litter on how eagles should scavenge for litter like the crows. Later, Auntie Litter commented on the connection between our behavior and its impact on the environment and came away from the event with only one complaint. She complained about the dogs present at the event and grumbled that people should know better not to take their dog to the event, because they scare away the eagles and disrupt the natural setting. Goodness knows, Auntie Litter has enough on her plate to grumble about when out and about in the community addressing the litter problem. Nonetheless, we all enjoyed the event, but most especially, we learnt so much more about Harrison and his family. Even L. Bug behaved himself, or so it seemed, but you might want to talk to Auntie Litter about that, once she finishes cleaning out her purse from all the trash L. Bug squished into it when she wasn't looking.

Mission Adopt-A-Block's Anti-Litter Superhero,

Enviro Girl



## Enviro Girl's Photo Album



*We are on the web!*  
[www.missionadoptablock.com](http://www.missionadoptablock.com)

The Mission Adopt-A-Block Society  
P.O. Box 3245 Mission, B.C. V2V 4J4  
(604) 826-9423  
[missionadoptablock@gmail.com](mailto:missionadoptablock@gmail.com)



### Tell Us Your Story!

The Mission Adopt-A-Block publishes a newsletter bi-yearly in the Spring and Fall and welcomes contributions from volunteers, supporters and friends. If you have a story to share about your litter pickup experience, if you have ideas to share about litter prevention and reductions, or if you have any questions or concerns that need to be addressed — please send your stories and/or questions to the Mission Adopt-A-Block coordinator at [missionadoptablock@gmail.com](mailto:missionadoptablock@gmail.com) (Please send submissions by the end of October for the Fall Newsletter and by the end of April for the Spring Newsletter)



## Mission Adopt-A-Block Wishes A Green Christmas to All!

The average North American generates 25% more waste during the holidays. More waste means more pollution, more energy consumption, more extraction of our Earth's precious resources, less space in our landfills and on and on and on. Becoming environmentally conscious, eco-friendly or GREEN,

means making better consumer choices, including; buying eco-friendly products, choosing items with less packaging, items that are recyclable and/or made from recycled products and items that are bio-degradable. Mission Adopt-a-Block challenges volunteers, supporters, and friends to all make green

choices when shopping for and planning for the upcoming holidays.

**Take time this Christmas 2008  
not only to REJOICE...  
but to REDUCE, REUSE, &  
RECYCLE!  
Merry Christmas from Mission  
Adopt-A-Block!**

### Around the Home:

- set of cloth grocery bags
- basket of ecologically friendly soap products/cleaners
- durable, battery-free toys
- reusable lunch bag, with cloth napkin and reusable drink container
- Energy saving gifts: a water-saver showerhead, a dimmer switch for lights, rechargeable flashlight, energy efficient light bulbs
- items made from recycled products
- Food items (bottle of wine, cheese basket, canning, pickling, baking, fair trade coffee)
- Fair trade art forms; weaving, metal work, wood work...

### Home Made Gifts:

- pass on a memory (special treasures in your home)
- memory book from old photographs
- candles, soaps, paper
- sewing & knitting projects
- Christmas baking
- homemade jams, vinegars and oils
- pass along your favorite recipes
- make a picture or video presentation of your favorite memories with loved ones



### Gifts for the Gardeners & Outdoor Enthusiasts:

- birdseed, bulbs & seeds, plants
- gift certificate to garden center or outdoors store
- compost bin
- picnic hamper with reusable plates, cutlery, cloth napkins
- reusable drink containers for the road

### Non-Item Gifts:

- Gift Certificates (IE movies, the spa, ski pass, fitness gym, coffee shop, favorite restaurant, etc.)
- Long distance calling card
- Transit pass
- Concert tickets
- Music lessons
- Sponsor a child overseas
- Donate to a charity in name of your loved one
- Your time: babysitting, cooking a meal, etc
- Treat a friend for dinner

