



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

## 760 kg of Litter Collected from Environment

In September & October, approximately 100 volunteers from 6 non-profit organizations participated in **Mission Adopt-A-Block's Annual Fall Community Litter Clean-up**. Thanks to the hard work of all the volunteers who participated in the event, a total of **760kg** of litter (not including recyclables) was collected off the roadsides and green spaces in Mission and properly disposed of



Communities in Bloom participate in this year's fall clean-up!

at Minnie's landfill pit. Fall clean-up participants included: Mission Central & Christine Morrison elemen-

tary, SAINTS, Rotary (morning club), Farmers Market and Communities in Bloom.

Application for Adopt-A-Block's **Annual Spring Community Litter Clean-Up** are now being accepted and are available on the society's website. All interested Mission non-profit groups are welcome to apply to participate in a clean-up for the award of \$250. **Application deadline is January 31.**



Volunteers show up to participate in litter control despite the heavy rains.

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### HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Spring Clean-Up Application Deadline January 31**
- **Annual General Meeting held in March. Open to the public. For more information contact the office 604-826-9423.**
- **Booking Now for Spring School Litter Audits (April-June 2010)**

Students from Mission elementary schools participated in a school litter audit this fall 2009. Thanks to Tim Hortons sponsorship of the society's litter abatement program, four elementary school groups were selected to participate in a school litter audit for the remuneration of \$100 to go towards special school projects and activities.

During the school litter audit students learn first hand about litter in the environment, first with a discussion about; what type of litter can be found

in the environment, where it originated from, what excuses people might use to litter and other points to ponder. Then the students take time to collect litter and analyze it before discussing what can be done to prevent and reduce litter around the school yard, home and the community. The school litter audit, in a sense, introduces a 'science' to litter and at the same time empow-

ers students to be active agents in finding solutions to arising environmental problems, like that of litter.

School litter audits are now being scheduled for the spring! A school litter audit is a complimentary activity to include near Earth Day (April 22) or Canada's environment week (June) and for any other occasion that includes learning about environmental stewardship. Information about the society's litter audits and education program can be found on the society's website.



## Litter, and Lunches and Fall Leaves...Oh My!



Students from Albert McMahon participate in Adopt-A-Block's School Litter Audit this year.

## From the Photo Album of Adopt-A-Block



At this year's Children Festival and Mission's Celebration of Community at Heritage park, **Adopt-A-Block's mascots, Enviro Girl and Litter Bug** made an appearance. L. Bug showed up in his new duds, a brand new face and costume for Mission's annual community events. Enviro Girl kept an eye on L. Bug as he worked his way through the festival crowd attempting to recruit visitors as his litter bug allies. Enviro Girl made sure he didn't cause too much ruckus.



In response to the **Celebration of Community's** theme, **Active Mission**, the Mission Adopt-A-Block society volunteers were invited to be a part of a landmark group photograph, showing just how 'active' Mission is, in litter control that is! Adopt-A-Block would like to thank everyone who came out to show their support at this year's event.



**Communities in Bloom** awarded **Mission Adopt-A-Block** the **Clean Environment Award** for the society's efforts in litter control in 2009, including the annual spring litter clean-up.



### 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.

### Is Your Business A Part of the Litter Solution? 'Adopt' the Mission Adopt-A-Block's Voluntary Code of Practices to Prevent & Reduce Litter!

#### Some Reasons why 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



# Volunteers in Action!

## Welcome New Volunteers!

Carolyn Arnolds  
Angela Greenwood  
Ann Harper  
Julie & Eric Clark



Starbucks (Mission Junction)

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

- Feel good about helping out in your community and 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 a part of a cause.
- Add to your resume.

## Making it their 'Business'

It's heartening when businesses think of 'litter control' as a volunteer opportunity and as a means to contribute to the good of the community. Businesses can play a big role in modeling ecological citizenship to others! Here's what some businesses in our community have been up to in litter control.

\* \* \*  
Mission's Royal Bank participated in a clean-up of Railway Ave. and the West Coast Express station area as a part of their bank's



Every contribution in litter control along London Ave. helps to keep litter like this out of Lane Creek!

National Community Week (June 22-26) agenda. Two by two, bank employees took turns tidying up

neighboring areas, collecting bags of litter and properly disposing of it. Adopt-A-Block's colorful vests, pickers and blue bags were proudly used in this successful community contribution. Imagine spending an hour of your work day volunteering, getting outside, contributing to the health and well-being of the community, being a role model in environmental action... Can anyone say, team building and employee moral booster?

\* \* \*  
Adopt-A-Block would like to welcome Starbucks (Mission Junction) as a volunteer litter control team and is pleased to recognize their contribution in litter control. In June 2009, the Starbucks team adopted the heavily littered route of London Ave., the main access road that takes all traffic coming and going from the Junction. This street is not only a hot-spot due to its location to 'food on the go' retailers and its function as a joining street between the main highway, commercial areas and the industrial area nearby;



Fraser River Safari business owners, Rob and Jo-anne Chadwick make litter control their 'business'.

but Lane Creek, a sensitive salmon habitat runs in the same neighborhood. All litter tossed into the ditches along this street ends up in this waterway to some degree. The Starbucks team engages in a litter clean up of this significant litter route once a month.

\* \* \*  
Rob and Jo-anne Chadwick, owners and operators of the Fraser River Safari have been active in litter control with Adopt-A-Block since 2006. This hard working couple continues to manage the litter along Harbor Ave. and other surrounding streets as a part of their 'adopted' blocks.

## Mission Moving Mountains in Litter Control

**Mission Adopt-A-Block** would like to give a round of applause to the **District of Mission** for taking steps towards reducing litter in the environment by initiating two significant changes in garbage disposal behaviors including **increased surcharges on uncovered loads** to the landfill and **mandatory curbside garbage litter bin**.

In February 2009, The District of Mission implemented a surcharge of \$5 on unsecured loads, an effort to reduce the amount of litter found on access roads to the Mission landfill. This surcharge resulted in the percentage of unsecured loads dropping from approximately 55% to 31% within two months, and to 11%



over the following three

Putting residential garbage in bins with secured lids helps to reduce the amount of garbage littered in



months. In October 2009, the surcharge rose to \$10 in hopes to further reduce the percentage of uncovered loads to the landfill.

In June 2009, the District of Mission made it mandatory that residential curbside garbage be secured in litter bins,

and no longer left on the curb side in plastic bags. The purpose of this change is to reduce the amount of litter caused by animals (crows, dogs, raccoons, etc.) that rummage through curbside garbage! The implication of this change is incredible, as much of the litter in Mission's residential neighborhoods is caused by the poor handling of and disposal of curbside garbage; and plastic bags make it all too easy for animals to rip apart their tasty

'midnight snack'.



Look for the  
NEW Voluntary  
Code of Practices  
Online!

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## Reduce Litter & Waste Around the Holidays

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 2009 not only to REJOICE... but to REDUCE, REUSE, & RECYCLE!

Merry Christmas from the Mission Adopt-A-Block Society!



Are you an off-roader litter control participant and looking for other volunteers to manage litter in ravines and urban green spaces? Parks? Forestry areas?

If you are a volunteer looking to team up with other registered Adopt-A-Block volunteers, please contact the Adopt-A-Block office to see if there are other volunteers interested in similar litter control efforts.

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has"*  
-Margaret Mead-

### 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
- Fair trade coffee
- Home-baked goods

### 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

### Non-Item Gifts:

- Gift Certificates (IE movies, the spa, ski pass, fitness gym, coffee shop, restaurant)
- 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 to dinner

## Green Ideas

### 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

## Volunteer Litter Picking Creative Challenge

2009 Adopt-A-Block proudly supported by:



Tim Hortons

**Mission Adopt-A-Block** would like to hear from you! How many fast food coffee cups do you pick up along your adopted route? How many cigarette butts? How many fast food packaging wrappers? Adopt-A-Block challenges volunteers to record the amount of litter they collect and to keep track of the type of litter and how often it is collected; as a part of an **Adopt-A-Block Litter Control**

**Challenge** for volunteers. Send your results to Adopt-A-Block in the form of a graph, short story, picture, or other creative piece; to share your litter control experience (**submission deadline April 10**). Winning contribution will be published in the Adopt-A-Block spring newsletter and will receive small gift of gratitude for their thoughtful contribution. Thank-you to all our volunteers who continue to main-

tain their litter routes in Mission, rain or shine, winter or summer! You are making a difference!

