

"Keeping Mission Clean, One Block at a Time."

Fall 2007
Bi-Yearly Newsletter



The Mission Adopt-A-Block Society—Community News

235 Bags of Litter Collected!

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District of Mission – Public Works department for their participation in this year's Fall Clean-up in the removal of litter garbage bags.

It takes team work to improve the aesthetic beauty and environmental health of the community and a many thanks to all who were involved, to make this year's Fall Clean-up another success!

Any non-profit organization can apply to participate in our annual Fall Clean-up. It takes a group of approximately 15 people to pick litter on an assigned route anywhere between 2-4 hours on a Saturday in the Fall, after which your group earns \$250 in return, to benefit your organization's program.

Due to the popularity of participating in this Fall Clean-Up Fundraiser, we select groups by a lottery process each Spring. For more information on this Fundraiser, visit us online.

www.missionadoptablock.com

Mission Adopt-A-Block would like to thank all the volunteers who came out this year to be apart of our Annual Fall Clean-Up. Approximately 250 volunteers from 10 non-profit organizations participated in community litter clean-ups, over four Saturdays, in September and

October.

A total of 235 litter garbage bags were collected off the streets and green spaces in Mission. Everything from fast food litter items to old tires, recyclable items, and construction debris, was collected and properly disposed of. A many thanks to the



The Adopt a Highway program offers both non-profit and for-profit organizations opportunities to contribute to their community and province. This program is aimed at promoting community pride and a means of publicly recognizing the organization's efforts. Specifically, the opportunity is for organizations to "adopt" a section of provincial highway to help carry out or sponsor such activities as mowing, weeding, landscape beautification and litter pickup.

Forgotten Highways? MOT Volunteers Needed!

Mission won the Communities in Bloom competition awards for community involvement and environmental awareness, a significant success for all of Mission this 2007. While the District was praised for its environmental initiatives, there remained areas marked "needing improvement", one being the amount of litter found along Mission's highways. Unfortunately due to liability and legal issues, as well as safety issues, Adopt-A-Block does not recruit vol-

unteers for litter control along highways, which is especially unfortunate for Mission, as its central roadway, is a provincial highway. There is a solution to the litter problem along these stretches. The Ministry of Highways (MOT) administers an anti-litter program, similar to AAB, whereby volunteers adopt a portion of the highway, in return, they are given equipment, bag removal services AND recognition, in the form signage.

AAB would like to encourage Mission resident, including already AAB volunteers to consider adopting areas of the Lougheed Highway in Mission, through the MOT's anti-litter campaign. For more information on this significant volunteer opportunity, see the MOT website at: http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/adopt-a-hwy/adopt-a-hwy_home.htm or email the MOT anti-litter coordinator at: Loretta.Carlson@gov.bc.ca

Mission Adopt-A-Block Welcomes all New 2007 Volunteers!



- Romeo Lavoie
Curtis Bower
Ross & Carole Ferrier
Ann Janousek
Carola Summerfeld
- Anita Quinn
Thomas Murray
Farmer's Market
Mai Iverson
Dave Allen
- Alex & Sandra Dagleish
Christine & Jonathan La Pointe
Phillip Kopp
Donna Melbourne
- Sharon Syrette
Kerry Kinney
Maggie & Daphne Henderson
Darren & Claire Aussem

Becoming a Community Volunteer Has Benefits

- Build and expand your knowledge base.
- Meet new people.
- Make lasting connections.
- Add to your resume.
- Provide others with your expertise.
- Increase your networking opportunities.
- Feel good about helping out in your community.
- Know *you* are making a difference.
- Have fun.
- Participate in some great events in your community.
- Get to know the people in your community.



Where is "Away" Anyways?

For more information on how your School can get involved in a Landfill Tour at Minnie's Pit, please contact the AAB Coordinator at (604) 826-9423.

*Funding may be available to cover bus costs to and from the Landfill.

Why Recycle? Why throw it 'away'? Where is 'away' anyways? This Fall, students from Mission elementary schools visited Minnie's Pit, to learn about what happens to our garbage when we throw it away and what types of garbage need not to be thrown away, but rather recycled, composted or reused! What does it mean that garbage the weight of 5000 elephants went into Minnie's Pit in 2006? What impact does all this garbage have on our environment? What can we do about that smelly garbage juice called leachate and all the gasses that are produced when waste decomposes? What happens to a Landfill when it is too full to take anymore garbage? Just

how long will that garbage sit there? Archeologist dug up 6 landfills in the US, to see how long it actually takes garbage to decompose after it has been tossed. They found newspapers from the 1970s of which they could read the front page clearly! Along with the newspapers, these archeologists found six hotdogs and a steak bone with the fat still in tact to boot. The point is, there is no 'away', when you throw items away! Waste takes years to decompose after its tossed, and during all these infinite years, leachate and greenhouse gases continue to be a result of the decomposing waste. How can we reduce the negative environmental impact waste has

on our environment? Rethink, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. This begins with each one of us from the moment we pull items off the store shelf. Here are some suggestions... can you think of others?

- * avoid non-recyclable plastics (check the bottom of containers for the recycle #)
- * buy reusable and refillable containers
- * buy in bulk instead of single servings
- * buy durable products OR products designed to biodegrade fast
- * don't buy things you don't really need
- * take your own cloth shopping bags



For more information on what items that can be recycled in Mission—and on composting, visit the District of Mission's web page.

Volunteers Having a Barrel of Laughs!



Another year, another great time at Mission's Annual Celebration of Community (September 15, 2007). This year, The Mission Adopt-A-Block Society hosted a Barrel Painting Contest, in which several non-profit groups came out to add their creative touch to the blank canvass of a garbage barrel. Each group designed and painted a barrel, to promote a positive environmental message. Barrels were judged for first, second and third place and a gift of appreciation was given out to all the participating groups. The painted barrels will go to

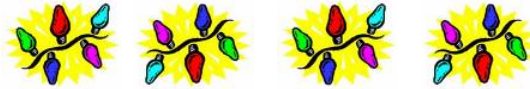
replace the old barrels in Mission's Sports Park. Adopt-A-Block would like to thank the following groups for their participation:

- *Mission Early Childhood Education Development Committee
- *Women's Resource Society
- *Fraser Valley Humane Society
- *Big Brother's & Sisters
- *Mission's Farmer's Market
- *Revolutionary Knitting Circle
- *Mission Central Team
- *Girl Guides of Canada

There are still more barrels to paint! If your organization, group, club would like to paint a barrel, that will go to replace some of the old barrels in Mission – Give us a call to arrange a Barrel Painting Event. We bring the barrel, and supply the paint...



Upcoming Events



November 2007

Mission Adopt-A-Block will be attending this year's Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival at Leq'a:mel Hall, just east of Deroche, both Sat. November 18th and Sun. November 19th (10-5pm). If you are not already a volunteer and would like to register with Adopt-A-Block and/or if you have any questions regarding our anti-litter program, we will be happy to assist you at this event. See you there!

December 2007

Mission Adopt-A-Block will be participating in this year's Candle Light Parade, hosted by the Mission Chamber of Commerce, which takes place on Friday, December 7th. We are looking for registered volunteers who would like to come out and march along with us wearing our yellow vests, to promote community awareness about our volunteer program. Interested volunteers are asked to call **(604) 826-9423** to find out more on how they can get involved.

Feature Story— Volunteers Hard at Work

Mission Adopt-A-Block would like to introduce to you two extraordinary volunteer, Keenan (8) and Gavin (6) Ready. These boys are members of Adopt-A-Block, a naturalist club and are active Geocaching participants, where they practice "CACHE in, and TRASH out" while hunting for treasure with their GPS device. Geocaching sometimes requires trekking in Mission's backyard parklands, where these boys get to see just how far the social ill known as litter spreads out into the environment. Gavin and Keenan's mother, Sheryl Ready commented, "When we use the

"Adopt-A-Block" bags, vests and tongs we really stand out and people always seem surprised to see 2 little boys working hard at cleaning garbage but what surprises them most is the boys' determination and cheerfulness!" Ready adds, "Part of the fun of cleaning is going off the path, in the water filled ditch and all, in the name of retrieving that piece of "plastic" that may choke an animal! claim)". Keenan and Gavin, are just two of the many AAB volunteers who take responsibility for litter discarded by other people, for the health of the

environment, for the safety of our children, and for the beauty of our community. Boys! Your courageous hearts, and noble hard work is appreciated by us all.



Gavin (yellow), & Keenan (green), stand at the top of their family property viewed from Cedar Street – looking down on the streets



Visit Us Online at:
www.missionadoptablock.com

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Great Photo Op at the Mission Recycling Depot! These bails of recycled papers are waiting to be picked up to be processed into new products, and while they wait, they tell an important message.

Recycling Facts:

By the age of 6 months the average Canadian has consumed the same amount of resources as the average person in the developing world consumes in a lifetime.

One pound of newspaper can be recycled to make six cereal boxes, six egg cartons or 2000 sheets of writing paper!

Recycling one glass jar saves enough energy to light a bulb for 4 hours.

North American has 8% of the world's population, it consumes 1/3 of the world's resources and produces almost half the world's non-organic waste.

Canadians take home over 55 million shopping bags every week.

The average baby will use about 10,000 diapers before toilet training. An estimated 1 billion trees a year are required to produce disposable diapers.

One Edition of the Sunday New York Times consumes about 75,000 trees.

"I'll Have a Green Christmas!"

Mission Adopt-A-Block challenges volunteers, supporters & friends to have GREEN Christmas this year. What does it mean to be Green this Christmas? It is being aware of what one is using to wrap gifts and thinking about what types of gifts one is buying in the first place. For Christmas wrap, make sure to buy wrap made out of recycled paper products, OR re-use last year's Christmas wrap, OR make home-made paper, OR re-use old and unwanted cloth items. When buying gifts, buy items that promote a GREEN lifestyle, such as durable or biodegradable items AND items that are energy saving efficient AND avoid excessive packaging. You can even try NOT buying ITEM gifts, thereby reducing waste, but rather buy gift certificates or service orientated gifts.

See the list of GREEN gift suggestions.

- Gift Certificates (IE the movies, a 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
- Food items (bottle of wine, cheese basket)
- Pass on a memory (special treasures in your home)
- Memory book from old photographs
- Homemade sewing or craft projects
- Christmas baking
- Homemade jams, vinegars and oils
- Pass along your favorite reci-

pes

- Set of cloth grocery bags
- Reusable coffee filter
- Basket of ecologically friendly soap products, cleaners...
- Durable, battery-free toys
- Reusable lunch bag, with cloth napkin and re-usable drink container
- Picnic hamper with reusable plates, cutlery, cloth napkins
- Energy saving gifts: a water-saver showerhead, a dimmer switch for lights, rechargeable flashlight, energy efficient light bulbs.



"Give me a fish and you feed me for a day. Teach me to fish and you have fed me until the river is contaminated or the shoreline is seized for development. But teach me to organize, and I can join together with my peers and we will fashion our own solutions."

