

April 25, 2008

Young Albertans give roadsides a spring cleaning on May 3

Annual highway cleanup day runs for a 32nd time

Edmonton... Young Albertans will give the province's highways a spring cleaning and earn some money for their clubs and community groups at the same time.

The 32nd-annual Highway Cleanup Day takes place Saturday, May 3, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. throughout the province. In case of inclement weather, the cleanup will take place the following Saturday, May 10.

Last year, more than 4,100 young people from 279 clubs and non-profit organizations collected approximately 27,000 bags of garbage from more than 4,600 kilometres of highway rights-of-way. That's enough garbage to fill 46 average-size bungalows from floor to ceiling.

Participants wear bright orange safety vests and are under adult supervision. They must be at least nine years old and attend a safety training program before they can participate. Participants may earn up to \$100 per kilometre of right-of-way for their club or non-profit community group. Last year, volunteers earned \$203,000 for their groups and clubs.

Motorists are asked to slow down, obey signs, and be on the lookout when passing the workers in the ditches.

For more information on highway cleanup day, visit www.infratrans.gov.ab.ca and click on 'Roads and Highways' and then 'Highway Cleanup Campaign'.

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Backgrounder attached

Media inquiries may be directed to:

Trent Bancarz
Communications
Alberta Transportation
780-427-0623

To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

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32nd-annual Highway Cleanup Day

General Information

- Each year, between 4,500 and 6,000 kilometres of highway rights-of-way are cleaned.
- Youth from 4-H Clubs, Junior Forest Wardens, Scouts Canada and non-profit community groups participate.
- Participants must be at least nine years old.
- The cleanup will focus on highway rights-of-way, which is the land adjacent to the highway.
- Participants will not clean medians.
- Cleanup work is done in partnership with Alberta's highway maintenance contractors who collect the garbage bags.
- Workers receive \$100 per kilometre for cleaning both sides of the rights-of-way within 16 kilometres of cities or towns with populations greater than 5,000.
- Outside the 16-kilometre area, workers are paid \$55 per kilometre for cleaning both sides of the rights-of-way.
- Workers receive \$100 per kilometre for cleaning both sides of the rights-of-way for highways deemed "Special Areas" because these highways have unusually high concentrations of garbage.
- For more information on highway cleanup day, visit www.infratrans.gov.ab.ca and click on 'Roads and Highways' and then 'Highway Cleanup Campaign.'

Safety Information

- Participants and supervisors must go through a safety training program before they are allowed to take part in the cleanup.
- Workers wear bright orange safety vests.
- Workers wear gloves and sturdy footwear.
- Supervisors must have emergency contacts and phone numbers with them.
- For safety reasons, workers do not clean highway medians.
- Signs are posted alerting drivers to be cautious of cleanup activities occurring in the area.
- Traffic safety is coordinated with the RCMP.
- There is at least one adult supervisor for every two workers under age 14 and for every five workers aged 14-18.
- Participants must stay off the highway and paved shoulder.
- Younger participants work further away from the road surface than older youth.

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