



June 5, 2009

Youth pump up the volumes for annual highway cleanup

Participants clean 2,100 more kilometres than previous year

Edmonton... The numbers of participants and kilometres of right-of-way cleaned went up sharply for Alberta's 33rd Annual Highway Cleanup Day, compared with 2008 levels.

Volunteers from 505 clubs and non-profit community groups cleaned more than 7,100 kilometres of right-of-way and earned an estimated \$596,000 for their organizations. Last year, volunteers from 360 groups cleaned approximately 5,000 kilometres of right-of-way and earned \$418,000 for their organizations. Total volunteers rose to 6,024 this year compared with 4,974 in 2008.

The 6,024 youth were assisted by 5,381 adult supervisors to keep the event safe. There were no reported injuries nor major incidents associated with this year's cleanup.

This year's participants filled 47,313 garbage bags. If placed in single file, the bags would stretch the length of 230 football fields. Last year's participants collected 32,316 bags of garbage.

The 33rd Annual Highway Cleanup Day wrapped up on the May 9 alternate day for groups working south and west of Lethbridge, while groups working in all other areas were able to finish the cleanup on May 2.

The highway cleanup is held annually on the first or second Saturday in May, as weather permits. Established as a fundraiser for non-profit and community groups, the program also helps keep Alberta's highways clean and safe by removing garbage from rights-of-way.

Visit www.transportation.alberta.ca/605.htm for more details on highway cleanup programs in Alberta.

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