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Clean Up Day a hit Residents turn out in force to collect 21 tonnes of trash

The residents of Halton Hills gave this town a spring-cleaning like never before on the second annual Clean Up Halton Hills Day, Saturday.

Keith Smiley, senior public works supervisor tallied the mounds of litter:

- 12 tonnes of metal (including fencing, bedsprings and hubcaps)
- 6 tonnes of regular garbage
- 3 tonnes of wood (including plywood and fence posts)
- 60 tires

Last year, about 30 groups, families and neighbourhoods collected eight tonnes of litter.

"It was great!" said an enthusiastic Jane Fogal, chair of the Halton Hills Litter-Free Task Force, Monday. "It really was fantastic; we had groups out over town."

About 60 groups were registered with the town, but Fogal said there were many who were unregistered and just went out to

collect on Saturday.

There was a good turnout also to the town's works yard during the day, where first-time sponsor Tim Hortons was serving up refreshments.

"People were in great spirits, and trading stories on how much litter there is out there. Everybody was astounded at the amount of litter and how quickly you can fill those garbage bags," said Fogal, Ward 3 Councillor, who picked up garbage with her family.

Among the amazing finds: a large-size pool cover, sofas, shopping carts, and diapers.

"The number of wine bottles were down, but now it's water bottles. They've become the scourge of the town," said Fogal.

"Now our job is to prevent it from happening again, and that could be a large battle because (littering) seems to be ingrained behaviour," she said. "We have to raise awareness to make it not okay."

The Litter-Free Task Force will be meeting soon to come up with more strategies to keep the town clean, she said.

—By Cynthia Gamble, staff writer



Acton Councillor Rick Bonette, Halton Hills senior public works supervisor Keith Smiley and Acton BIA co-ordinator Josey Bonette cleaned up an alley by the Acton BIA office Saturday during Clean Up Halton Hills Day.



Justin Poirier, 15, and Tristen McCausland, 13, picked up garbage at Christ the King Secondary School.

Photos by Stephen Uhraney

Short candidates' list shrinks by one

The number of candidates who have declared to date for the upcoming municipal election is back down to one after an Acton man withdrew from the race.

Stephen Grasby, who originally filed to run in Ward 3 for the position of councillor, then changed his mind last Tuesday and switched to run in Ward 1 instead, withdrew his name completely on Monday.

That leaves only Mayor Kathy Gastle on the declared candidates' list for the November election.

"My family is just way more important," said Grasby explaining his decision. Grasby said he entered the Ward 3

race because "that was my home ward" (where he was raised) and after "a few people" asked him to come back to Acton where he ran unsuccessfully in the last election, he switched to Ward 1.

He planned to bring attention to the need for a four-way stop sign at Greenore Cr. and Kingham Rd., then switch his candidacy back to Ward 3 where he wanted to tackle issues such as sidewalk snow removal on Ewing St. and Dominion Gardens parking problems.

Grasby said he will not get back into the election race, "based upon the issues that I've brought out with absolutely zero attention. Can you blame me?"

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

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