

Vanpooling: new way to conserve gasoline when commuting to work

by Gord Smith, MP
Simcoe East

From the massive search for ways to conserve oil, a relatively new concept for commuting has been developed... called VanPooling.

This concept provides for a group of ten or twelve people, living in the same neighbourhood, or along a commuting route, to ride together to and from work in the comfort of a luxury passenger van.

Each rider, except the driver, pays a low monthly fare which covers all operating and capital costs and makes the operation self-supporting.

The concept is a great energy saver, and as such is being actively promoted by the Government of Ontario.

There are four basic types of VanPools, defined according to the supplier of the van. First is Private, when the van is supplied by one member of the pool, who operates it as a business venture.

Then there is Community Association, when a van is jointly owned/leased and operated by pool members as a cooperative venture.

Next is Employer Sponsored, in which the van is supplied by the employer of a community group.

Companies such as Chrysler Canada, 3M Canada and Bell Canada, among others, pioneered employer sponsored vanpools in Ontario. They have realized substantial benefits from reduced parking demands, improved productivity through better employee relations, reduced absenteeism, and an improved corporate image.

The fourth and final type is Third Party, when the van is supplied by a vanpool agency with the option to return it, without penalty, should the pool fail. Several organizations now offer third party vanpool services in Ontario.

Vanpools

People join and stay with vanpools for two main reasons: saving money, plus comfort and convenience. Not only are there the obvious gasoline expense savings but vanpooling reduces the wear and tear on a personal car, could eliminate the necessity for a second car and results in reduced insurance rates.

Of course, long distance commuters have the most to gain from vanpooling. For example, a commuter who daily makes an 80-km round trip will spend at least \$13/week for gasoline alone, plus the cost of oil changes,

maintenance and tire replacement. The typical weekly VanPool fare for this distance is between \$10 and \$13.

Benefits

In addition, vanpooling offers numerous benefits for the community as a whole. It is a significant energy

conservation measure. By replacing as many as twelve cars, each van can save up to 35,000 litres of gasoline per year.

Expansion of road facilities in response to increasing traffic congestion is both expensive and en-

vironmentally undesirable. Each VanPool takes as many as twelve cars off the roads; thus hundreds of VanPools would take thousands of cars out of rush hour traffic.

This would reduce traffic congestion and associated problems,

and hopefully reduce the need to expand road facilities, which would in turn reduce government expenses and thus keep down the taxes we all must pay. And, by having one van replace as many as twelve cars, the annual amount of pollutants emitted into

the air can be decreased by 3,000 kg.

All impressive statistics.

The government of Ontario is committed to assisting individuals in starting up a VanPool. Basic criteria are that the group have at least 10-12 people, and that a

minimum of 70 km is to be travelled each work day.

If you are interested in applying for assistance, or in obtaining additional information, telephone the Ontario VanPooling Organization at 965-6482 in Toronto.



Midland Library News

Library Hours: Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

At the Library for two weeks beginning Nov. 3, there will be a display of photographs by David Battrick, mainly Ontario scenes. David's pictures are to be shown at the Toronto-Dominion Center, Jan. 5 to 10.

Some 50 magazines are subscribed to by the Adult Library, and are available for your reading pleasure in the Library; back issues may be borrowed on your library card.

Some of the Canadian magazines we have are: Arts Canada; Chatelaine; Harrowsmith; Touring and Travel; Canadian Consumer; Atlantic Advocate; Toronto Life; Canadian Geographical; Saturday Night.

Other popular magazines we receive are Time; Psychology Today; Sports Illustrated; Scientific American; Parents; Popular Mechanics; Gourmet.

There are also numerous periodicals in the reference department.

Mrs. Eileen Goodburne, chief librarian, and Mrs. M. Sheila Moore, vice-chairman of the Library Board, attended the 78th Annual Conference of the Ontario Library Association at Ottawa, the weekend of Oct. 30.

All libraries, large or small, are facing and must respond to, technological change, and the Conference workshops and speakers focussed on the problems of libraries as they enter the eighties.

In the Children's Library, we have three magazines for kids. Owl is a Canadian magazine for ages 8-12.

Owl is full of things to do and think about which will involve children in their environment.

Pictures, drawings, stories, and articles make Owl delight to read. Chickadee is a companion to Owl for four to eight year olds, featuring stories, articles, games and things to do.

World, for all ages, is published by the National Geographic Society, and takes children to far-away places with stories and colour pictures.

The magazines in the Children's Library are for borrowing, or just browsing!

Nursery school openings

The Penetanguishene Nursery School has openings for two children.

Classes are Wednesday and Thursday mornings. Carol Gerow is the teacher. Mothers help on a rotating basis.

For information telephone Kathy Contois (549-2140).

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Township of Flos



Science fair winners

Burkevale Protestant Separate School, in Penetanguishene, held its science fair last week and pictured here with several of the winning projects are the six winners in the intermediate category. From left to right are: Kevin Farthing, (1st place), Kevin Sinclair, (2nd place), Kim McConnell, (5th

place), Brian Murday, (4th place), Terrie Anne Price, (6th place) and Paula McClinton, (3rd place). Judging for the event was performed by Max Wagg, Herb Connell and Fred Hartman, of the ESPSS science department.

On Mon., Nov. 10th,
re-elect

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for Tay

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