

April 3, 2014

13th Annual Community Pitch-In

Pitch-In Smiths Falls is just around the corner, April 19 to May 4. This will be the 25th year that the Rideau Environmental Action League (REAL) has taken part in a spring litter cleanup, and the 13th year the group has organized a community-wide effort, inviting other families, groups, business and schools to join in. Last year 220 bags of garbage and recyclable materials were collected. "This is a feel-good activity that benefits our community. The impact of the cleanup is clearly visible", commented Brenda King, a long-time organizer of the event.

REAL matches volunteers to locations to ensure as many neighbourhoods, parks and streets as possible are covered without overlap. Past participants have been notified, and can pick up their pitch in supplies at the REAL Deal Store beginning Thursday April 3. The store is open Thursdays through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., but is closed Good Friday.

Residents are invited to participate by contacting Bonita at (613) 283-1174 or at the store, 283-7999, or by e-mail to bjlucas@live.ca. Organizers would especially like to interest more places of business to participate. Every year there are some "hard to adopt" sites, particularly roadsides, that could stand a cleanup and don't get done.

Bright yellow pitch in bags and clear pitch in recycling bags are supplied through Pitch-in Canada and their sponsors. The local Tim Hortons stores are a regular supporter of the effort with gloves and t-shirts, and this year Walmart has contributed gift cards towards the supplies as well.

For people who would prefer to work with a group, REAL is planning a "Group Effort Day" to do Ferrara and Fergusson drives, Saturday April 26 from 9 – 11:30 a.m. Volunteers should remember to dress for the weather, and wear work gloves. REAL will bring the bags. "In the past, many volunteers have expressed an interest in cleaning this area, but it is really too big to tackle alone," reported Bonita Lucas, Event Coordinator.

More details are available on the REAL's website, <http://www.realaction.ca/pitchin.htm>.

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For more information, contact:

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