

Subject: Gas leaf blowers etc...a Dirty Business

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From Living By Water Newsletter:

THE SCOOP ON MOWING DOWN POLLUTION

Did you know... the small engines found in lawn mowers, leaf blowers and weed trimmers produce between 3 and 5% of Canada's air pollution? Garden equipment emits high levels of carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrogen oxides. A typical 3.5 horsepower engine can emit the same amount of VOCs in an hour as a new car driven 340 miles. Gasoline spills are also a major problem. It was recently estimated in the US that over 17 million gallons of fuel are spilled each year while outdoor power equipment is being filled. That's bad news, especially for shorelines and other sensitive areas.

Enter Mow Down Pollution, an initiative of the Clean Air Foundation. It encourages the exchange of old gasoline mowers in return for a rebate towards the purchase of cleaner electric or cordless rechargeable mowers. Launched as a pilot project last year, it retired around 405 old gasoline lawnmowers at 37 locations in Vancouver and Toronto this spring. The program helps promote new push mowers, or electric or cordless rechargeable mowers which are easy to start, require no gas or oil and are very cheap to run. In addition, some of these mowers generate about half the noise levels of their gas-powered counterparts, so hey - even the neighbours benefit! For more information visit www.mowdownpollution.ca or contact Ersilia Serafini, eserafini@cleanairfoundation.org, 416-922-9038 ext. 42.