



RAVEN RECYCLING

Our Commitment is the Environment

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BICYCLING – GOOD FOR YOUR BODY AS WELL AS THE BIOSPHERE

If Whitehorse isn't careful, it is going to end up with a pretty amazing bicycle trail system.

With the recent tender of the construction contracts, Whitehorse will soon have a bicycle trail going down Two-Mile Hill.

There will be another around the north end of the Airport that connects with stairs on the Black Street ravine.

Numerous road improvements in the downtown core and on Hamilton Boulevard will accommodate bicyclists and improve vehicle flow.

Waterfront trails already extend, in one form or another, from the Wal-Mart site to the Robert Service Campground.

Here they will meet up with the future pedestrian and bicycle bridge over to Riverdale.

Given all these non-vehicle access routes to downtown, non-fossil fuel based transportation is starting to look mighty attractive.

While the health benefits of walking and bicycling are obvious the environmental benefits are huge as well.

Vehicle emissions are pollution in the form of smoke and gas. In the summer months, it is largely unseen.

In the winter it can be very noticeable. It can contribute to the delightful cloud of ice-fog that envelopes our fair metropolis.

Vehicle emissions are the gases that come out of the exhaust tailpipe.

These include carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds, nitrogen oxides, sulphur dioxides and particulate matter.

All these things are not good for humans and other living things. From clogging our lungs to heating up our planet vehicle emissions are nasty.

Anything that reduces them is good.

Leaving the vehicle at home and walking or bicycling is one way to do it. The Whitehorse trails and road modifications will greatly facilitate this.



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Using an existing vehicle efficiently is another way to reduce emissions.

Make sure tires are at the correct pressure. If a tire is five percent under inflated, gas consumption will increase by one percent.

This not only means money being wasted, but the extra consumption means more exhaust fumes.

As with other things in life, size is not what matters. Rather, it's how you use it.

If a vehicle is mainly used for commuting and running errands, a large pickup truck or sports utility vehicle is not needed.

A smaller, gas-efficient vehicle will do the job just as well.

To really reduce exhaust emissions a Super Ultra Low Efficient Vehicle (SULEV) such as some of the hybrid vehicles presently available might be an option.

With fall in the offing, now is the time to consider winterizing vehicles.

Battery blankets, block heaters and oil changes should be considered.

If doing oil changes at home, dispose of the oil correctly.

There will be household hazardous waste days on September 10th and 11th at the City of Whitehorse landfill. Check this column and the City pages closer to the date for more information.

On HHW days up to twenty litres of oil from household oil changes will be accepted for safe disposal. Antifreeze is also accepted on these days. Please bring these fluids in correct containers that are properly labelled.

During cold seasons, there is no reason to idle vehicles. Ten seconds of idling can use more fuel than turning off an engine and restarting it.

The Northern Climate Exchange will be having a big anti-idling campaign this winter.

For more information contact the Aunti Idle coordinator at 668-8735 or visit www.taiga.net/nce. Click on the Aunti Idle link.

Lewis Rifkind is an employee of the Raven Recycling Society.