

# Green Up Day The first Saturday in May!



The first Green Up Day was launched statewide by Governor Deane Davis on April 18, 1970. The Interstate Highways closed from 9am–12pm for litter pick up by volunteers. Schools bused kids all over Vermont to lend a hand while the Governor covered many miles in his helicopter, landing on the Interstate to praise volunteers. This very successful first Green Up Day was reported in newspapers throughout the state. 70,000 volunteers cleaned up nearly 100% of all roads and because 90% of litter picked up were beer bottles, state government passed the “Bottle Bill.”

Shrewsbury has been an active participant in Green Up Day since its inception! The Governor’s challenge this year was for every town to “Green Up” every road. That challenge was not necessary in Shrewsbury because, every year, Shrewsburies walk all 60 miles (both sides) of our Town roads to pick up litter that has accumulated over the past year. This year was no exception. On May 7, 2022, 102 people, young and old, gathered early at the Meeting House for wonderful homemade pastries, doughnuts, juice and coffee, and to inform the coordinators which roads they would “green up”. Quickly the map filled with assigned segments of roads and families left with an armload of green bags, showing that, again, Shrewsbury takes pride in seeing its roads all cleaned up for the warm season ahead.

It was wonderful to see whole family groups and lots of kids taking part in this statewide ritual which started 51 years ago. Since that first event, the first Saturday in May is Green Up Day throughout Vermont. Vermont is the only state without an “adopt-a-highway” program, instead maintaining this hands-on, grassroots tradition of community residents picking up the roadsides on their local town roads and State employees cleaning up the State highways.



This year 101 bags of trash, 6 tires and 1,850 bottles and cans were collected and delivered to the Transfer Station. The bottle redemption money (\$111) will help support next year’s Green Up and the ongoing work of the Conservation Commission. Three generations of volunteers often show up now. We thank all of you who help on Green Up Day as well as pick up litter on our roads at other times of the year when out walking. It makes a huge difference and it feels great to give back to your community.

