

Doing Your Part

Outdoor Canada

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“Follow the yellow trout road. Follow the yellow trout road.”

Several honey-sweet voices sang these words to the tune of *Follow the Yellow Brick Road* in our small Alberta town one long-ago Saturday morning. A bevy of youngsters – including our daughters, aged six and 10 – from the local Junior Forest Wardens troop used stencils and yellow paint to place small trout symbols on the street beside dozens of storm sewage drains.

Wearing blaze-orange safety vests, the kids had loads of fun as they raced to paint the next trout symbol. But their mission was dead serious: highlighting the dangers of flushing hazardous substances such as oil and paint thinner down storm sewers.

They knew these substances are poisonous to trout, other wildlife, bugs, indeed every creature that lived in the local river into which the sewers drained.

Many of these kids already regularly fished this river and feeder streams. They’d excitedly caught trout, and dutifully collected streamside litter.

That’s why, for them, participating in the Trout Unlimited Canada Yellow Trout Road program was a great reason to forsake Saturday morning cartoons.

They learned early what countless anglers and hunters have known for many generations: *giving* something back trumps *taking*.

Every time.