

# Enviro-Greetings!

## Idling's Out

A recent commentary on the CBC indicated that idling your car, including to warm it up on a cold winter morning, is no longer the way to go. Not only does it create excess air pollution and waste fuel, but it's not good for the engine. I also heard about in-car heaters, which can be operated similar to block heaters, to take the edge off the chill inside your car. Don't forget the timer switches to minimize electrical use.



## Fuming Buses

Have you noticed or been bothered by the exhaust fumes of parked school buses on Northmount Drive? Or their noise and the inherent waste of fuel when idling, especially with no children in sight? The Captain John Palliser School council has initiated a traffic committee to deal with traffic issues on the increasingly busy, and thus hazardous, stretch of road between the school and Nose Hill library. In particular, if you have any concerns about "abandoned," idling school buses and their excess exhaust on this stretch of road, please call Patty at 282-2715 or send me an e-mail. Remember, not only is there a school, pool, sportsplex, library and senior centre on this stretch, but it is single-lane traffic in a playground zone. Watch out for pedestrians.

## Moisture Deficit

Yes, we've had some lovely snow recently, which has kept the skiers and tobogganers happy, but there is still a huge water shortage in the prairies. Most of the water conservation tips come in the summer and remind us to cut down on lawn watering and outdoor hose use. What can you do to help the situation and save yourself money too?

A little question: what do you do with that not-quite-finished water bottle at day's end? Empty it down the drain and perhaps toss the bottle in the trash? Try emptying it into a container for watering household plants or for household cleaning and then, of course, either storing the bottle for reuse, or putting it in your 'refundable' bin for your next trip to a bottle depot.

Every drop costs us and every little bit you do to conserve helps.

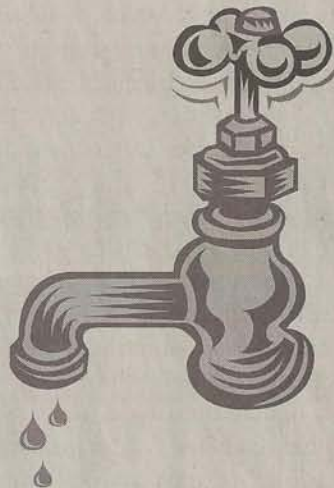
The things you can do are many; check out the following Web site from the Union of Concerned Scientists:

100 Ways to Save Water

<http://www.wateruseitwisely.com/100tips.html>

Environmentally yours,

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