

## HOW DO YOU GET TO THE SOCCER FIELD?



With the upcoming launch of the FDSA Green Kicks program, the Green Kicks team has been out and about trying to audit the environmental practices of members and office staff. Here is a quick glance at transportation:

### **Monday July 16<sup>th</sup> at FHS Fields and Stairs Street Fields:**

We went around the parking lot after things settled down at FHS and Stairs Street Fields, and here is what we saw:

Type of Vehicle	Number of Vehicles	Passenger Capacity	Emissions Estimate for the evening (lbs of CO <sub>2</sub> )
SUV	74	444	954.6
Van	68	476	714
Truck	5	15	64.5
Car	104	520	925.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>1455</b>	<b>2658.7</b>

On just two fields there were two hundred and fifty one vehicles present. Given the average capacity of each type of vehicle, we determined a total capacity of 1455 persons. However when looking at membership numbers, and very liberal estimates we know that there were no more than eight hundred players and spectators on the field.

Consider the ill-effects of such overuse. Firstly, FHS and Stairs Street get extremely crowded on soccer nights, and people often park illegally. Such overcrowding is not only an annoyance, but it is a potential safety hazard. What if there was an emergency? Would emergency vehicles be able to enter in a timely manner to help your children? Secondly consider the price of gasoline, and the toll on the environment for unnecessary vehicle usage. Based on an average round trip to the fields of 12kms, and average vehicle emissions of each vehicle class, nearly 2700lbs of carbon dioxide was emitted for transit to just two fields. Imagine the overall impact from *all* FDSA events over a one year period.

Passenger road transportation accounts for almost 50% of the personal greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions produced by Canadians. Why are these emissions a problem? GHGs such as carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) have been linked to climate change, a serious environmental problem that could have consequences for our health, our economy and our children's future.

Consider the numbers, and consider the impact. Now consider the action that needs to be taken in order to reduce vehicle emissions. Carpool, stroll, rollerblade and bike. Do it, and help sustain the sport of soccer in a healthy environment.