

Tooker Trivia: Mar. 3, 2004

1. How old was Tooker when he first ran for Mayor?
 - Around 10 when he ran for mayor of his local park and won – he was awarded a trophy from the local mayor of St. Laurent. A photo of him and the Mayor with the trophy were printed in the local newspaper.
2. What did he do his university thesis on?
 - Garbology, from Hampshire College, Mass. While there he had an alias: “The Masked Energy Phantom”, masked and caped, that made impromptu speeches and turned off lights etc.
3. When was he first arrested and for what?
 - Seabrook, New Hampshire [anti-nuclear protests in 1977](#) alongside 1400 other protestors - largest mass arrest in US history
4. First job?
 - Vieilles Nouvelles in Montreal, one of Canada’s first curb-side recycling programs, late 70’s, bought a truck, hired a second person
5. Second job?
 - Gov’t of Alberta, Energy Department, travelling the province with a team teaching kids about energy conservation. They used puppets – his character was called “the glut”.
6. Ongoing contract work?
 - [Journalism](#).
7. Environmental groups he established?
 - Edmonton Bicycle Commuters – the group was formed before Tooker got involved, but Tooker turned it into an effective bicycle advocacy organization with a workshop called Bike Works for learning about and fixing bikes.
 - EcoCity Society – a dynamic Edmonton group working for a sustainable city. Their initial offices were in the RumpusRoom on Jasper Ave. They paid the rent by hosting smoke-free music and theatrical events.
6. How many [elections](#) did Tooker run in?
 - 7: **1965** Mayor of local park; **1989**, Edm. City Councillor; **1992** Edm. City Council and WON; **1995** Edm. City Council; **1997** NDP MP of Outremont, QC; **1998** Mayor of Edm; **2000** Mayor of Toronto (came second). While he always ran to win, it was also his goal to raise the important issues of the day. He saw elections as an opportunity to reach the public, politicians and media with issues that were most important to him and to give voice to those that weren’t represented. The issues he ran on were: waste (recycling and composting), climate change, energy and conservation, transportation, equity, air quality, sustainable city design, etc.

7. Favorite transportation?
 - Bicycle – not only was he a brilliant advocate for non-motorized transportation within cities, but he also travelled the world by bike, organizing bike trips and documenting inspiring environmental initiatives with the Greenspiration Odyssey.
8. What instrument did he play?
 - Harmonica. He also juggled.
9. Last arrest?
 - [Locked himself inside AB Premier Ralph Klein's office vault.](#)
10. Legacy project
 - [Take the Tooker.](#) After Tooker's passing, cyclists launched a campaign for bike lanes along the Bloor/Danforth stretch through the heart of Toronto in Tooker's honor – today, 20 km have been installed.
 - Bike racks on buses in Edmonton – While on Edm. City Council, Tooker asked the transportation dept. to do a pilot project of bike racks on buses. They said they were open to it but didn't have the budget. So Tooker donated 5% of his salary for bike racks on buses (\$2000/yr) – there was now a line item in the budget. They used that to start the pilot project, putting a bike rack on the zoo bus route. Before long, every bus in the city had bike racks!