

THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

www.litterpreventionprogram.com

April 21, 2013

TWIN TIMS

At right, the sight of littered beverage cups is everywhere. These two Tim Hortons cups litter a Brooklin gas bar, ironically, on the day of the big cleanup. See story below.



April 22, 2013

Happy Earth Day!

Oakland's Jeff Kirschner, founder of www.litterati.org, catalogues and geo-tracks global litter on his "digital landfill" site. Find a piece of litter. Photograph it with Instagram via #litterati and then dispose of the item correctly. Twitter @litterati

On the road to Brooklin, Ontario's most successful clean-up community, we see the first sign (photo, right) that this swelling town north of Whitby takes littering seriously. Yesterday brigades of brightly vested crews scoured parks and roadsides while others tackled Lynde Creek on a morning that began with snow. Tightly tied bags full of litter dotted the landscape with a truck not far behind to pick them up. Founded by resident Shawn Williamson ten years ago, volunteers and new leaders keep Pitch-in Brooklin growing and going strong.

(PHOTO: Road sign on Brock Street heading into Brooklin)



BRITISH COLUMBIA'S "DIRTY DOZEN"

From a 2012 Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup list of most frequently littered items:

1. Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters - 217,822
2. Food Wrappers/Containers - 41,439
3. Bags (Plastic) - 26,143
4. Caps/Lids - 19,540
5. Beverage Bottles (glass) - 13,847
6. Bags (Paper) - 13,232
7. Cups, plates, forks, knives, etc. - 10,247
8. Beverage Cans - 10,156
9. Building Materials - 8,704
10. Straws/Stirrers - 8,508
11. Beverage Bottles (plastic) 2L or less - 7,761
12. Cigar Tips - 7,199

Source: Campbell River Courier-Islander

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (APR. 14-21)

Some of what made our News Reel this week litterpreventionprogram.com/news-reel.html

- Not chicken Down Under to take on fast food litter (17/4)**
KFC has an extra \$40,000 in its bucket from the Queensland government to invest in recycling bins. The Australian Packaging industry group recommended the chicken chain for the grant for public space recycling of fast food litter.
- Police probe cyclists littering in Belgium race (19/4)**
Designated areas are in place to receive litter from cyclists racing in today's Liège-Bastogne-Liège classic. Police investigated 30 riders for littering during the 2012 race after environmentalists complained about select riders tossing empty water bottles and energy gel wrappers along the way.
- Fining sports groups for littering playing fields (15/4)**
Riverdale, New Jersey is toying with the idea of fining youth groups who litter the city sports fields that they rent.
- Gold star for Silver Cross Hospital (15/4)**
CEO Paul Pawlak runs his Chicago hospital like a hotel, instructing staff to pick up litter, greet patients and walk them to their destination rather than merely give directions.
- Head cams and spot fines, the UK way (18/4)**
Two Brit' towns launched pilots. In Walsall, litter enforcement officers started wearing head and body cameras. Leeds began a six-month trial of on-the-spot fines, £75 for littering cigarette butts and gum, to be administered by a private firm.

DID YOU KNOW?

WARNING: CONTENT MAY BE OFFENSIVE TO SOME!!

The Ohio Litter Study in 2004 counted how many urine-filled bottles were pitched along state roads and highways. In examining roadside litter biohazards such as diapers, syringes, needles and plastic bags containing feces, consultants chose to count urine-filled bottles because they were common and high in number. Final tally? 972,372. To be sure a male problem, we have a name for this type of littering: "Projectile Dysfunction." Source: Davey Resource Group 2004