

THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

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two-pager

May 25, 2014



SUPER SURFER PICKS UP LITTER

The Sustainable Surfer, MICHAL CZERNICK, 32, will be riding the waves of Scottish seas, spurring the cleanup of 30 beaches as he goes, with the support of the Marine Conservation Society. The former software developer quit his job to focus on his eight-week, wake-riding solo tour, set to launch June 1 from Aberdeenshire's Lunan Bay.

PHOTO, RIGHT: MICHAL CZERNICK

GARBAGE ENDANGERS KITCHENER'S RARE SALAMANDER'S HABITAT

Pity the poor, endangered Jefferson salamanders in Doon South in Kitchener, ON, their lives made poorer by a habitat awash with strewn garbage. But cheers to resident Angela Slager. She blew the whistle and installed a "please do not litter" sign in ten languages and got the city involved, after picking up 43 bags of litter there herself since March. Among other items in the haul, at least 100 dirty diapers littered the wooded preserve abutting Stauffer Road.



A Jefferson Salamander (left), hurt by people who litter and dump. A Kitchener woman sparked action. See story, left.



Above: Taking a get-tough tack, Birmingham, UK has upped its fines for cigarette butt littering and has ended its early payment discounts. Council appears determined to change the culture and perception of smokers who litter.

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (MAY 18 - 25)

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

Mountaineers keep trashing Everest: report (5/21)

Website himalayanglacier.com shares the latest report of the Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee. On average, a mountaineer left behind 65 kg of burnable trash in the Everest region in 2013. In 2012, trash per Everest climber was 48.5 kg. True outdoors lovers? Not.

'Groundhog cameras' get green light (5/21)

A litterer's nightmare - "groundhog" cameras with motion sensors, camouflaged street-level high def cameras that snap clear images, day or night, of wanton acts of roadside littering, used as hard evidence in court. They have them at rotating secret locations in Union County, SC, thanks to a Palmetto Pride grant.

Litter closes a downtown park in Bend, Oregon (5/20)

A park next to library properties in downtown Bend has been sealed off due to serial littering and nuisances.

Balcony litter nearly kills woman (5/21)

Mahani Abdullah, 67, is lucky to be alive. The woman required surgery to regain use of her limbs after being struck in the head by a bicycle tire hurled over an apartment balcony in Singapore's latest case of "killer litter." A 16-year-old boy has been charged.

DID YOU KNOW?

Birmingham collected £70,000 in fines and prosecuted 1,807 people for butt littering in 12 months compared to the 218 penalized in 2012/13. Authorities' biggest challenge is convincing smokers that flicking a filter is littering.

Ireland has the right mindset when it comes to littering

Ireland's turf war on litter is stretching and sticking. An expanded attack on gum litter has brought a decrease in gum litter and an increase in public awareness to a record-high 93 per cent, the National Litter Pollution Monitoring Survey reports. Gum comprises 17.59% of all litter in 2012. It was 30.79% in 2000. Cork alone spent €37,000 on cleaning gum from three city centre streets last year. The Council pushback includes text messages to all 1,550 university-student housing owners and landlords in its UCC registry, telling them to tidy their properties or risk financial penalties.

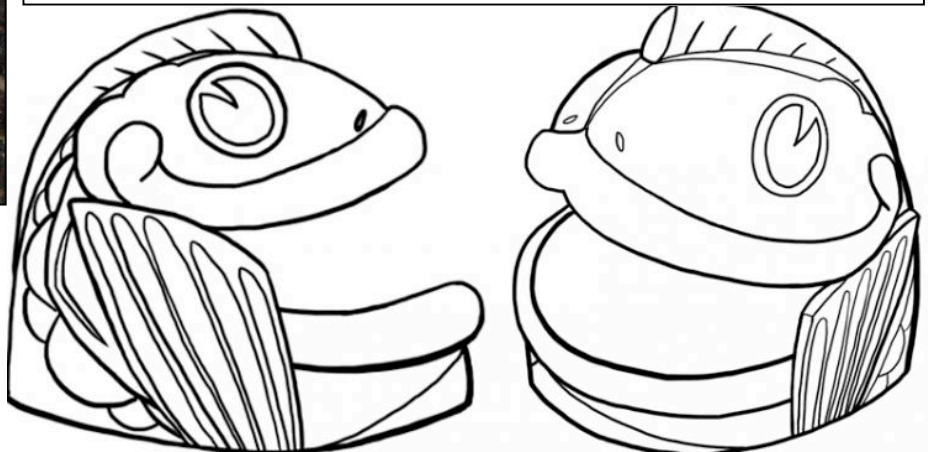
The Irish Examiner reports a new push from Irish Businesses Against Litter for a levy on gum and standards to precipitate "degradable" chewing gum that does not adhere and is not a petroleum product. A multi-partnered Gum Litter Taskforce (GLT), which includes industry's voice, wants advertising and education, not new taxes, and has put €9 million into building awareness. GLT's current funding is guaranteed until the end of this year, and will likely be renewed for another two years, a spokesman said.



JERKS, PERPS & TWERPS

The above scene is no way to show respect for the dead. Mourners in a South African funeral procession were publicly identified as the ones responsible for this mess in Winchester Hills. Some of the people who litter are real dandies. In Barr Beacon, UK, picnickers trashed a treasured war memorial by using it as a barbecue. Then, in Laurens, SC, a man was arrested for a string of offences, including littering, after police saw him throw a bag containing marijuana out his car window. In Kaieteur, Nazir Hussein, 35, in jail to face a littering charge, tried to avoid it by escaping custody during a power blackout. He received a one-year sentence.

NOTHING FISHY HERE



The Fishtown Neighbourhood Association (FNA) of Philadelphia will be retrofitting their public trash cans with lids shaped like fish heads. In February FNA's Beautification Committee issued a call for artists to decorate the fish lids by submitting their design ideas by the end of April. Local sculptor Eric Allen has created the fish head sculpture and Cowpainters will reproduce replica lids for the project. The group draws on the Fun Theory - using fun activities to elicit better behaviors.