

# THIS WEEK IN “LITTERLAND”

[www.litterpreventionprogram.com](http://www.litterpreventionprogram.com)

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## WASTE REDUCTION WEEK



Photo credit: TerraCycle

On sale online at Staples across Canada (inquire in-store only in Manitoba and Newfoundland & Labrador), the Zero Waste Box helps consumers capture and recycle all manner of office and household wastes that otherwise would get dumped as landfill or litter. Separate boxes handle each class of material, everything from baby toys and car seats to cosmetics and pens. When full, the owner takes the box to UPS for delivery to the Canadian arm of global recycler and upcycler TerraCycle. Priced starting at around \$80, UPS pre-paid shipping is included in the price. Details at [Staples.ca/terracycle](http://Staples.ca/terracycle)

The Staples chain and TerraCycle are touting the Zero Waste Box as the latest home and office accessory. They unveiled it, quite smartly, during Waste Reduction Week in Canada, Oct. 20 – 26. See story below.



## RESULTS FROM LITTER SURVEY OF WOULD-BE TORONTO MAYORS

With a hotly contested City of Toronto mayor's race to be decided Monday, only one of the top three contenders refused to respond to our hand-delivered survey of mayoral candidates' opinions on various litter issues. Leading candidates Olivia Chow and John Tory did respond, as did a host of other hopefuls vying for the mayor's chair.

Seventy per cent of the respondents agree that littering is a problem in Toronto and all felt more education is warranted. The idea of reviewing the city's litter law enforcement garnered near-unanimous support. Our survey polled on attitudes toward industry-funded recycling programs and asked whether the Province of Ontario has a role in funding awareness and prevention programs. For a complete look at how the candidates fared, please see the full story on Page 2.

## HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (OCT 19 - 26)

Some of what made our News Reel this week [litterpreventionprogram.com/news-reel.html](http://litterpreventionprogram.com/news-reel.html)

**English town puts its money where its mess is** (10/23)  
It stands to reason to expect action on litter offences in a place that employs Environmental Neighbourhood Nuisance Officers. Such is the case in Hull, UK where poop patrols and site tours are part of the culture and councillors use part of their local ward fund to finance clean-ups.

**'Pee' is for 'Paid', in this boxer's case** (10/22)  
Filipino boxing star, Rey "Boom-Boom" Bautista, caught peeing in public in Cebu, now knows the price of celebrity. After much dodging and weaving through the court process, he finally paid the 1000-peso fine, about \$23.

**Packaging group works with NZ government** (10/20)  
The makers of New Zealand's packaged goods are all wrapped up in thinking about litter. The Glass Packaging Forum has pledged to improve product stewardship and "play a major role in commissioning and communicating data around packaging statistics, packaging waste and litter," says its Chair, David Carter. Using the annual New Zealand national litter audit as a baseline, industry will begin targeting urban trouble spots with strategies aiming to change behaviours and reduce littering, he said. Now that's thinking outside the box, and *Litterland* approves!

## DID YOU KNOW?

**Gambia runs a dedicated anti-littering court. In the UK, Essex is witnessing a drop in litter as result of its "Love Where You Live" campaign. Success can be had.**

John Tory agrees Toronto has a litter problem. Olivia Chow disagrees. And Doug Ford did not bother to answer our survey. He gets an "F" grade and is unworthy of voter consideration for ignoring littering as a civic issue. A chief magistrate has to care about such things.

While they differed in opinions, the mayoral respondents showed their concern by participating in our first-ever mayoral survey on littering. Both Chow and Tory would support a review of Toronto's litter enforcement, which is virtually non-existent currently. Chow felt police were best positioned to enforce littering laws. Tory said he wasn't sure. The two leading candidates left the door open regarding a number of the issues raised.

Overall, Chow aligned her answers to 2012 Toronto litter audit results and the city's ongoing long-term waste management plan, whose fate lies far in the future. On key issues, Tory was decidedly "undecided" choosing that response to seven of the questions versus Chow's four. But Chow disadvantaged herself in the unofficial scoring by not answering two of the questions: "Have you ever told a stranger not to litter?" and, "Have you ever littered personally either accidentally or deliberately?" On those two questions, Tory responded "Yes" and "No" respectively.

Our thanks go to all who gave our survey their attention: Jeff Billard, Selina Chan, Olivia Chow, Matthew Crack, Chaitanya Kalevar, Dewitt Lee, Michael Nicula, Erwin Z. Sniedzins, John Tory and Tibor Steinberger. Those who did not bother to answer do not deserve to be in the mayor's chair.

## LITTER SURVEY RESPONSES

Legend: Y=Yes N=No ?=Undecided

| CANDIDATES  | CHOW | TORY | Billard | Chan | Crack | Kalevar | Lee | Nicula | Sniedzins | Steinberger |
|---|------|------|---------|------|-------|---------|-----|--------|-----------|-------------|
| <b>THE QUESTIONS:</b>   |      |      |         |      |       |         |     |        |           |             |
| 1. a) Toronto has a litter problem.   | N    | Y    | N       | Y    | Y     | ?       | Y   | Y      | Y         | Y           |
| b) Litter education and prevention deserves more attention and coordination at the city level.  | Y    | Y    | Y       | Y    | Y     | Y       | Y   | Y      | Y         | Y           |
| c) Police are well positioned to enforce Toronto's littering laws.  | Y    | ?    | N       | N    | ?     | N       | N   | Y      | ?         | Y           |
| d) Agrees that producers of commonly littered items such as cigarettes and chewing gum have an obligation to help fund municipal clean up of these discarded items. | N    | ?    | Y       | N    | Y     | Y       | Y   | Y      | Y         | Y           |
| e) Agrees that the Province of Ontario could be doing more to help municipalities promote a culture of intolerance to littering.                                    | Y    | Y    | Y       | ?    | Y     | Y       | Y   | Y      | Y         | N           |
| f) Agrees there should be a zero tolerance policy for city employees concerning littering.  | N    | ?    | Y       | N    | Y     | Y       | Y   | Y      | Y         | Y           |
| 2. Agrees to a review of the enforcement protocol concerning littering?   | Y    | Y    | Y       | ?    | ?     | N       | Y   | Y      | Y         | Y           |
| 3. Agrees to a city campaign devoted to raising awareness about cigarette butt littering and the existence of the \$365 fine.                                       | ?    | ?    | Y       | Y    | ?     | Y       | Y   | Y      | Y         | Y           |
| 4. Agrees in principle with Canadian beverage industry proposal to help fund away-from home recycling in Ontario.   | ?    | ?    | Y       | ?    | Y     | Y       | Y   | Y      | Y         | Y           |
| 5. Agrees to remove legislative barriers that interfere with the ability to strategically place ash receptacles where they are really needed?                       | ?    | ?    | Y       | N    | Y     | Y       | Y   | Y      | Y         | Y           |
| 6. Agrees with an Ontario-wide litter prevention and awareness campaign funded by the province and partners in industries.  | ?    | ?    | Y       | N    | ?     | Y       | Y   | Y      | Y         | Y           |
| 7. Has told a stranger not to litter?   | ?    | Y    | Y       | N    | Y     | Y       | Y   | Y      | Y         | N           |
| 8. Has ever littered accidentally or on purpose?  | ?    | N    | N       | N    | Y     | Y       | Y   | Y      | Y         | N           |