

THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

www.litterpreventionprogram.com

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TORONTO BINS WELCOME BUTTS AND GUM

A surprising number of you have exclaimed this week that you only just learned the City of Toronto's public waste receptacles accept cigarette butts. Yes, and gum too, as well as the usual litter and recyclables. But look at this photo. What's wrong with this picture?

Using a bin isn't rocket science. People using this one evidently are not rocket scientists. The coffee cup sticking out doesn't belong there. It goes one to the left. In Toronto, coffee cups are "litter", not included in the city's already robust recycling program.

Toronto has 6,200 of these bins and 5,800 more to come. Note the foot pedal at the base. No need to get "hands dirty", a very common excuse people give for not using bins and littering their waste instead. But the jammed cup prevents this pedal from working well.

At right: Who says Valentines Day has to generate chocolate wrapper litter? Candy wrappers become clothing now. Vest and cap courtesy of TerraCycle.

www.terracycle.ca



HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (FEB. 10 - 17)

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

South Pole turning into waste dump (10/2)

Berlin scientists have sounded alarm over littering after 30-year study of Antarctic shows profound eco-damage.

New York City weighs polystyrene ban (12/2)

Between this proposed ban and the Senate bill calling for a deposit-return system on cigarettes, New York City figures prominently in litter prevention news these days.

N. Jakarta strips identity cards from litterbugs (13/2)

Litterers must sign and pledge to change their ways to have their vital identification cards returned.

Litter police to punish spitting in the street with on-the-spot £80 fine (13/2)

In the United Kingdom around £5.5million comes from the more than 73,500 litter fines councils hand out each year. Roughly 200 fines for littering are issued every day.

Crackdown on fast food litter (14/2)

New figures in the UK say that fast food rubbish is on the rise. Restaurants such as KFC and McDonald's promise frequent site clean-ups, but stop short when it comes to the other steps involved in litter prevention such as education, awareness and reminders. Seventy per cent of litter is related to food, says one study we've seen.

DID YOU KNOW?

Upcycling, the 'green' art of making old things new again, is a thriving new economy. Witness Avani Creations, in Brampton, Ontario, making lovely reusable bags, journals, paper, albums and other useful items from salvage.

www.avanicreations.com