

THIS WEEK IN “LITTERLAND”

www.litterpreventionprogram.com

September 4, 2017



Bag in, bag out. In Kildare too many tea bags land at the base of a town monument, so signs on the fence remind takeout tea-toting pedestrians “NO teabags or rubbish.”

Busted in B.C. for tossing cigarette butt

In Langford, British Columbia, Canada a police officer handed motorist Tony Reaume a \$575 ticket for littering a cigarette butt out his truck window. In a season marred by provincial wildfires the ticket was for dropping, releasing or mishandling a burning substance. The driver said his smoke was out and called the fine “ridiculous” and “crazy”. Nevertheless, he couldn’t escape the fact that he had littered and had to pay a price for it. [See video.](#)

It took one pet peeve and a phone call

Carmen Angilletta, 53, tore York Region, Ontario to shreds after witnessing his pet peeve – road workers cutting the grass before collecting litter, creating a bigger mess. He filed a complaint and went public, telling the Vaughan Citizen newspaper, “If we throw out one piece of garbage and create ten by cutting it, we’re all screwed, we’re all going to be living in garbage.” Calling the incident a policy breach, an official said crews would tend to the mess the next day. Pick, then cut, cities and towns!

Here’s to these bars and eateries

A toast to Keep Golden Isles Beautiful drink coaster outreach campaign in Brunswick, St. Mary’s, and on Jekyll and St. Simons islands in Georgia, USA. “This Is Litter Too” involves 28 local pubs and restaurants in the distribution of 7,000 coasters stressing that butts don’t belong in planters, waterways and roadsides. The Golden Isles group, with the University of Georgia Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant as partners, earned a grant from Keep America Beautiful.

Woman challenges “Hey Tosser”

The EPA’s *Hey Tosser* program in New South Wales, AU suffered a blow when a woman fined for littering a coffee cup from her car based on an online tip was able to throw the integrity of the agency’s reporting system into question. Karen King insisted she didn’t do it and refused to pay the \$250 fine. She attacked the presumed guilty implication inherent in online litter incident reporting, The EPA withdrew its charge against her but insists its fines are fair and warranted and are confirmed by the courts 84 percent of the time.

DID YOU KNOW?

Wayne Dixon set out with his dog Koda 18 months ago on a [five-year mission](#) to clean up Britain. To date he has collected 42 tonnes of litter and trash -- 6,000 bags equal in weight to eight killer whales.

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (AUG 20 - SEP 3)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

Scottish business asked to sign up (8/21)

Among suggestions from Zero Waste Scotland in seeking out corporate support for its national anti-litter campaign is asking businesses to display posters in their windows that discourage customers from littering.

Reaching smokers, bit by bit, butt by butt (8/21)

Calgary, Alberta hope smokers in this western Canadian city will be swayed by #ButtFreeYCC, a new campaign to encourage proper cigarette butt disposal and impart the negatives linked to the littering of smoking materials.

Sun fest watchers leave very little litter (8/24)

The throngs watching the August 21 eclipse at Oregon SolarFest in Madras weren’t blind to the idea of doing their part to keep festival grounds clean. Surprised organizers reported the site was left nearly free of litter.

New from the underwater app store (8/23)

For the deep sea gadget lover: a new app lets divers chart marine litter levels. Data will be fed to [Project AWARE](#) to help scientists and conservationists undo global plastic pollution. Dangers to sea life include death by entanglement, ingestion and contamination.

Railway workers also enforce cleanliness (8/29)

India’s Western Railway empowered all its ticket checkers to issue fines, which are now at record levels.