

THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

litterpreventionprogram.com

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Double whammy!



Photo, left: A coffee cup that someone has enmeshed in a harmful invasive species called Dog-Strangling Vine (swallowroot) spells double trouble for this forested area. Instead of adding to the visual pollution with his or her "careful littering", that person could have used the cup to collect seed pods from this dreaded weed to stop its spread. Those pods and the stubborn vines belong in the garbage. Do not compost them. The plant, *Vincetoxicum rossicum*, is a legally recognized invasive species and should be removed. [How-to video.](#)

"Even A Little Litter's A Lot."

[She's a politician with a difference](#)

For those who believe the stereotype that politicians don't like to get their hands dirty, meet Rafah Dicostanzo, MLA, Clayton Park W., in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. After hearing a constituent's ideas for stemming litter's tide, she dove into the issue. Her hands-on approach includes active participation in a cleanup group, talking to people about litter and challenging other parts of the province to best her area's efforts. The goal Dicostanzo has is to make her jurisdiction the cleanest in the entire province. To that end, she's looking to form a litter committee to advise on further measures to curb the behaviour.

[Philadelphia fines are up 300 per cent](#)

Stepped-up enforcement hasn't made the hoped-for dent in Philadelphia's littering problem, according to analysis by billypenn.com. An increase in tickets issued over the past decade - 7,000 in 2009 to about 20,000 last year - hasn't abated the city's litter problem, and North Gratz Street residents feel enforcement is unfairly targeted on them.

[Plastic bag use falling in China](#)

A Chinese government report says the nation is using 66 per cent fewer plastic bags in supermarkets today than one year ago. A bag ban last June and other measures since 2008 have helped the Chinese avoid the use of 40 billion bags and 1.6 million tons of petroleum.

[He's out to establish a new trend](#)

#FillTheBottle describes the act of filling empty plastic beverage bottles with found cigarette butts. French teen Amel Talha took 20 minutes to fill a bottle to its top. His friend, Jason Prince, posted a photo of it on Twitter. Their online pals responded with copycat bottle-filling of their own. The butts get repurposed by French company [MéGo](#).

DID YOU KNOW?

Up to 100 orange-shirted Citizens Against Trash volunteers, members of [The CAT Club](#) in Havre de Grace near Baltimore attack litter with a smile, a friendly greeting, litter grabbers and orange buckets every Saturday morning as a recognized non-profit community project.

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (AUG 4 - 12)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

South Carolina shores face unusual threat [\(8/5\)](#)

Every major beachfront resort in Hilton Head Island, SC was contacted by the town about unusual piles of litter posing hazards to wildlife: abandoned hotel towels.

'Love your streets, no butts' the message here [\(8/3\)](#)

A personal pocket-shaped ashtray bearing the label "park your butt here" is the reward to smokers who discard their cigarette butts responsibly in a container in a new campaign in Cheshire West and Chester, UK.

Scurrying to clean up after inmates axed [\(8/7\)](#)

To save money, Walker County, AL wound up its inmate work release program, including its litter-picking crews. The corrections board is now looking at how best to address what one commissioner describes as a littering "epidemic."

Fireworks enter a North Dakota courtroom [\(8/9\)](#)

It rarely happens, but a court in Minot, ND accepted a man's plea of guilty of littering for his use of fireworks.

Railway's efforts to control littering roll on [\(8/7\)](#)

India's Northeast Frontier Railway tweeted these numbers on August 5: 1,818 persons fined for littering in trains and stations so far this year.

Litter/cleanliness body forms in Islamabad, PK [\(8/7\)](#)

Islamabad set up a special committee in part to ensure litter doesn't block drains. Fining for that began Aug. 6.