

# THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

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

March 29, 2020

## Pandemic pet peeve

Despite global health warnings about COVID-19 some people are throwing plastic gloves on the ground. The photos at right were taken outside a Toronto hospital that houses a regional cancer centre. While medical experts preach hygiene and extra care, a thoughtless (and apparently mindless) segment of society feels now is the time to show no love and dump their gloves instead of binning them. A blog here in Toronto ran [photos](#) of the level of inconsideration there, but the littering of gloves and masks during a viral pandemic - this lowest of the low activity, in *Litterland's* view - is no doubt happening worldwide. North of Toronto in Vaughan, Ontario, health care worker, Svetlana Katcharovski, elevated the issue by emailing the city's largest daily. The Toronto Star, ran her photos and wrote a [story](#) about the problem.



During this unprecedented and life-changing crisis *Litterland* will continue to bring you the latest on litter.

## Man and dog go home after their four-year trek

Back in 2016 *Litterland* featured the Feb.1 start of Wayne Dixon's epic litter-picking trek along the UK coast with his dog, Koda. It was supposed to last a year. Now, four years later, Wayne has announced he's ending his self-funded walk, which he launched in memory of his father, John Dixon, an author of historical walks, who died in 2012. Beginning in Knott-end-on-Sea Lancashire, Wayne and Koda, a Northern Inuit Dog, covered more than 4,500 miles picking up coastal litter. As well as building awareness, they raised funds for a mental health charity, [Mind](#), and the [Northern Inuit Dog Rescue Society](#). Along the route people donated lodging, meals, etc.

## HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (MAR 22 -29)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

### Jamaica has a SOLID plan, a 'soft' approach [\(3/24\)](#)

'Clean', 'occupy', 'beautify' are key words in Jamaica's plan - Stamping Out Littering and Illegal Dumping (SOLID). Residents go in and clean an area and it will be converted to green space which they then maintain.

### Trial program gets extended to March 2021 [\(3/24\)](#)

In Wyre the powers-that-be will continue with their strategy for helping dog walkers and litterbugs obey the law after deeming a 12-month trial was an effective aid.

### Litter picking deemed a safe activity [\(3/24\)](#)

Schools in Huntington, West Virginia are closed due to the viral outbreak. One of the recommended physical activities in the take-home curriculum is litter-picking.

### No Washington roadside litter jobs for youth [\(3/27\)](#)

Washington State won't be hiring the youth to clear litter from highways this year due to COVID-19. Usually up to 400 youth land jobs with the [Ecology Youth Corps](#).

### Virus scare brings out worst in people here [\(3/26\)](#)

Officials closed Sleeping Bear Dunes park in Michigan because weekend visitors stole toilet paper, hand sanitizer machines and left a lot of litter behind to boot.

### New, plastic-eating bug may hold promise [\(3/27\)](#)

Headway is being made on a plastic-eating bacterium that could eventually be feeding on a steady diet of junk plastic, at least that is the hope of German researchers.

## Football club records a win

We know all about yellow cards and red cards in soccer, but give this team a green card! The Arbroath FC in Angus, Scotland has registered high marks for its approach to stadium litter, which isn't a problem at the seaside Gayfield Stadium anymore. The team set up a Litter Champions Club, exchanged free game tickets for free help tidying up post-game, made announcements, jazzed up on-site bins, used the power of celebrities to set an example. Before COVID-19 suspended all matches, the stadium was spotless within an hour of a game ending.

## DID YOU KNOW?

On Tuesday the Interior Ministry of Thailand [suggested](#) to citizens that they make and wear fabric face masks rather than squander and then rampantly litter the single-use masks so desperately needed by the nation's health care workers.