

THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

litterpreventionprogram.com

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Edmonton kits keep the spirit alive

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada is catering to cleanup keeners despite the COVID-19 pandemic curtailing the city's usual large-scale group events. Litter kits, pictured above, were distributed - five apiece - to the city's 160 non-profit community leagues, which represent residents and neighbourhood associations across the capital. Kits are replenished as demand dictates. They include

grabbers, gloves, bags and a pamphlet of safety tips. Volunteers are encouraged to clean up while abiding by health and hygiene rules.

ALBERTA HEALTH SERVICES CLEAN UP GUIDELINES:

- MAINTAIN A PHYSICAL DISTANCING OF TWO METRES (SIX FEET) OR MORE FROM OTHERS
- WEAR GLOVES
- DISINFECT THE LITTER GRABBER OR ANY OTHER TOOL USED BEFORE AND AFTER USE
- SECURE AND DISPOSE OF ALL LITTER AND GARBAGE BAGS IN APPROPRIATE DISPOSAL LOCATIONS
- WASH HANDS REGULARLY WITH SOAP AND WATER OR HAND SANITIZER

Reusable bag rhetoric concerns group

Californians Against Waste is telling consumers that reusable bags are safe and remain the best shopping option. The group worries that COVID-19 has sparked plastic industry fear mongering that has ignited an overuse of plastic bags.

DID YOU KNOW?

Ontario's ministry for the environment (MECP) is responding to the problem of littered latex gloves and medical masks by "asking people to learn to remove gloves safely and follow guidelines for disposal so that everyone can stay safe." [Website.](#)

Virus sidelines Ontario's big plans

The first Litter Day of Action in Canada's largest province, Ontario, is said to be going ahead on May 12. However, a government aide this week confirmed that all community and corporate cleanup events across the province have been postponed until Waste Reduction Week, which will take place October 19-25. A spokesperson for the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks told *Litterland* that this year's inaugural effort "will focus on an awareness campaign highlighting impacts and actions of waste in the environment, and what actions each and every Ontarian can take to prevent, reduce and divert waste, right at home." But in our view little planning had occurred prior to the coronavirus hitting. Event details and media materials were consistently unavailable. This first day of action "is just the beginning of 365 days of action that Ontarians can take to make our communities and our province a cleaner, healthier place to live, work and grow," press secretary Andrew Buttigieg said in an email.

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (APRIL 25 - MAY 3)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

Councillor disgusted, out to change mentality (4/27)

Marcus Tignanelli, a litter-loathing councillor from North Bay, Ontario did what politicians do best. He spoke out. As his city will be trying to better educate people on how to dispose of trash, he called for a "cultural change" and urged families to clean up their own yards and involve themselves in [Clean, Green and Beautiful](#) initiatives.

Another COVID-related litter issue surfaces (4/30)

The uptick in take away food orders during COVID-19 restrictions is challenging for Pori, Finland. A city staff environmental engineer says workers struggle to keep the city clean due to more wrappings and packaging being thrown on the street instead of into bins.

Go figure: roadside litter they will pick up (4/30)

A highway traffic jam resulted when motorists stopped to scoop up a free supply of medical masks that had spilled from a transport truck rollover in Hayward, CA.

New rules attempt to shake up Bengalore (5/1)

No spitting, no littering and mandatory masks. Effective May 1, fines in the Rs 1,000 to Rs 2,000 range for these offences came into play in Bengaluru, India.

Nagpur reports its monthly nuisance numbers (5/1)

From March 24 to April 25, Nagpur, India's Nuisance Detection Squad fined 1,339 for littering and spitting.