

THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

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Chicago has a toolkit

Undaunted by COVID-19, Friends of the Chicago River stepped up and invented a Summer Challenge that sparked people to pick up litter on their own as part of the overall drive for a Litter Free Chicago River. Participants embraced the Challenge. All of those surveyed said they would continue to pick up litter independently, volunteer and event coordinator Annette Anderson told *Litterland*. The Friends group created a [toolkit](#) and an [interactive map](#) to share freely. Their work is an example to us all. Visit the [website](#) for more information.

Retired nurse Tilda Shalof's collection of sterile plastic stoppers, connectors and caps from the medications she administered over her 28 years working in intensive care at Toronto General Hospital [became art materials](#) for the awesome mural pictured above. She approached her friend, artist Vanessa Herman-Landau to create the piece that now hangs on a wall of the hospital. It has a dual goal: beautiful and educate about diverting waste from landfill to help "our environment".



At left, detail of the artist's work. Photo, courtesy of Brendan Plonka.

Litter dump sparks citizen anger

The spokesman for Save the Bays and Waterkeepers Bahamas is decrying the spoilage at Port of Call Drive waterway in Freeport. Joseph Darville reported a volume of garbage so intense it overwhelmed volunteer pickers. They quit after filling 12 six-gallon bags and feeling defeated. "Not one inch of ground is free of garbage," he told the Tribune news in Freeport. He's calling for stricter penalties against suppliers of the most commonly littered products, noting the ironic proliferation of plastic bags in the litter haul despite a national ban on them. He reported finding condoms, pregnancy test kits among the dumping ground of items. Darville called for government action.

What the Hull? No more fooling around

Hull, UK has named and shamed 61 people who littered and tried to dodge the fine. Along with being exposed as boors in print, they were each forced to pay £400 fines, quadruple the original penalty. Hull Council uses a hired, team of private, litter-wise officers to enforce.

DID YOU KNOW?

The public consultation about the corporate takeover of Blue Box recycling in Ontario, Canada, closed on Thursday. We saw an opportunity to lobby for action on litter. [Blog](#).

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (NOV 29 - DEC 6)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

Litter seen from satellite view [\(12/3\)](#)

A car park on George Street in Salford, UK is so heavily littered that the mess shows up on Google Maps.

Motorists given free litter bags [\(12/1\)](#)

Here's a civic government that's got its thinking cap on and its litter bags at the ready. Maitland, AU has a promotion now to give away free reusable car litter bags. They're available at four libraries until Dec. 13.

'Pooped out' has a different meaning here [\(12/1\)](#)

Port Coquitlam, British Columbia has a new dog poop dilemma. People out walking the pooch, afraid they will contract COVID-19 from touching the dog poop bin handle, are leaving their bagful of doggy deposits on the ground in front of the bin in a pile. Gross.

Floating bottles used to tag litter [\(12/1\)](#)

Fitted with GPS satellite tracking devices, 500mL plastic bottles are being floated in the Ganges River to follow plastic litter's water pollution pathways in a study headed by Emily Duncan of the University of Exeter.

These forest patrollers had 'can' do attitude [\(12/1\)](#)

A pair of volunteers, Raymond Imbeau and Barbara Kitz, foraged 32,000 cans from the backwoods of Okanagan this summer, donating the \$3,200 in deposit refunds to Central Okanagan Search and Rescue.