

THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

litterpreventionprogram.com

April 4, 2021

EDITORIAL

Note to readers: No *Litterland* next week

If you live in Ontario, Canada and want action on litter, write a letter to the environment ministry and communicate your view. That's a tip *Litterland* garnered from a recent meeting with provincial environment officials who are in the throes of organizing the upcoming Day of Action on Litter for Tuesday, May 11. Letters from the public do matter, they advise. This second annual #ActONLitter day, hampered but not derailed by COVID-19 and a province-wide lockdown until April 28, will call on singles and families to get out of their homes and make litter gathering their outdoor, keep fit activity of choice.

[Ocean Conservancy releases study](#)

The polluting impact of the coronavirus pandemic is laid bare in a new study from Ocean Conservancy released March 30. In the last half of 2020 a haul of 107,219 masks and gloves during beach cleanups added to a growing coastal accumulation of litter including takeaway food containers and wipes documented by the California-based group, calling the data the "tip of the iceberg". In a simulated marine environment masks can shed up to 173,000 plastic microfibers per day. [Video clip](#).

[London hordes trash parks](#)

Outrageous levels of littering prompted Royal Parks to tweet photos of the aftermath in London parks as pandemic-weary hordes took to the outdoors with little regard for waste management protocols. "Put your litter in the bins and if the bins are full, please take it away with you, don't leave it where it can blow away or harm wildlife." Litter increased 32% in 2020 over 2019, the agency said. From eight of its parks in June alone the 258.4-tonnes removed equalled the weight of 20 new city buses.

[Go big or go home in Cardiff](#)

To address the problem of overflowing bins in heavily trafficked parks in Cardiff, Wales, whopping 1,100-litre bins have been trucked in to accommodate the mountain of potential mess that people might leave on the ground or beside a full bin, which is also a form of littering. They should take it home when a bin is at capacity.

DID YOU KNOW?

Texas is considering twofold legislation - Senate Bill 1276 and House Bill 4022 - to enact a statewide deposit system on 'throwaway' plastics: a 1-cent fee for each PET bottle, single-use plastic cup and plastic bag that consumers purchase. Fees would go to a dedicated state fund for things like recycling and litter abatement.



[UK wants tobacco company cash](#)

British legislators want the tobacco industry to pay the price for smokers who litter. A sum of £40-million (\$55 million) is being floated as the cash injection needed to address cigarette butt and related littering to mitigate cleanup and disposal costs. The industry has resisted owning responsibility for the bad habit of littering among its product users. Smoking related litter makes up 68% of England's litter and was in evidence at eight out of ten surveyed sites.

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (MAR 28 - APR 4)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

Washington, DC strikes a task force [\(3/29\)](#)

A 90-day, temporary task force comprised of citizens, city department heads and a council rep has been formed in Washington and is rolling up its sleeves to review litter policies and recommend changes.

New York City making moves to be cleaner [\(3/30\)](#)

The mayor of New York is tying his city's recovery to its cleanliness. "A recovery for all of us means a healthy city, and that requires a clean city," Mayor Bill de Blasio said in announcing more frequent litter collections.

Freshwater turtle threat exposed in research [\(3/31\)](#)

Pity the poor freshwater turtles under attack like never before from plastic in their diet. The first review of its type, this open access research into turtle harm from microplastics [appears](#) in Scientific American.

Drones on duty to illustrate mess [\(3/31\)](#)

In Sefton, UK drone images captured the littering mess on the ground from the air. A newspaper printed an aerial image of a park polluted by human littering.

Drop in the bucket sounds good to us [\(4/2\)](#)

A year ago Peter Ormand founded *A Drop In The Bucket* in Hamilton, Ontario. He bought litter grabbers and big buckets for people to fill with litter. Then he raised \$3,000 more to expand his efforts. [Website](#).