

THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

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May 30, 2021

G7 plastic summit sought in Cornwall

Nestlé and British supermarket players Aldi, Iceland and the Co-op, groups Surfers Against Sewage and A Plastic Planet, and British TV presenter Chris Packham are among signatories of an open letter imploring G7 leaders to tackle plastic pollution with a binding worldwide treaty at June's meeting in Cornwall, UK. "The pandemic has only sent us deeper into this crisis. Globally, three million face masks are thrown away every minute 129 billion every month – mostly disposable, mostly plastic," they write.



MOBY THE TRASH WHALE is an art installation by Billy Sherry in Surfside Beach, Nantucket, Mass. More than a backdrop to bins, it will be stuffed with found trash "from jaw to tail" to make a point.

Toronto planning a new push in July

Canada's largest city is planning a public education campaign about litter to run in July, *Litterland* has learned. Pandemic-weary Toronto is scrambling to combat a steep rise in anti-social behaviours such as illegal beach bonfires and [fireworks](#) in parks and residential areas, and [wanton littering](#). This past long weekend was especially challenging. The city's goal is education and gaining compliance, not penalties or tickets, a spokesperson said. More bins, increased emptying of them and more litter picking in key areas by staff are strategies too. No littering tickets were issued in 2021, par for the course.

Balloon bill elevated to the Senate

Rep. Genevieve McDonald's bill to penalize balloon releasing across Maine by classifying discarded balloons as litter passed 83-64 and is headed to the Senate. "People may not realize they are littering, damaging ocean life and harming our livelihoods, but that's exactly what is happening," she said.

Dock foam bill floats in Ontario

A new law introduced by MPP Norman Miller (Parry Sound-Muskoka) intends to ensure that existing and new docks are encapsulated to encase the polystyrene foam and prevent erosion and seepage known as dock foam from entering waterways. May 20, 2023 will usher in the new industry standard, welcome news for groups like [Georgian Bay Forever](#) whose advocacy was instrumental to the [private member's bill](#) becoming law - a rarity.

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (MAY 23 - 30)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

A litter support goes a long way here [\(5/22\)](#)

Huntington, WV dug into its budget to fork out funds for 10,000 garbage bags, 200 litter sticks, 250 pairs of durable gloves for resident keepers to use on the job.

Fired up over fireworks, and rightfully so [\(5/26\)](#)

Residents of Richmond Hill, north of Toronto, say rogue fireworks exploding in the wee hours of a recent holiday weekend awakened babies, traumatized birds and frightened pets. Lots of litter was left behind too.

Columbus eyeing a higher minimum fine [\(5/26\)](#)

Columbus, Georgia could be moving to a minimum \$1,000 fine for littering. Council will vote on it June 8. One council member remarked that the problem of litter had reached "epidemic proportions".

Washington says, "secure your load" [\(5/27\)](#)

We Keep Washington Litter Free, a state campaign, is set to launch June 6 in tandem with National Secure Your Load Day. The initiative will target unsecured cargo loads, a frequent source of roadside litter.

Australia facing criticism in report [\(5/27\)](#)

[The Plastic Waste Makers Index](#) lists 20 firms that produce 55% of global plastic waste. It named Australia as the world's leading generator of single use plastics per capita, more than the US, Britain or South Korea.



'ButterflyCup' in the UK: a new design for coffee cups, no plastic, part of a sustainable café culture.

DID YOU KNOW?

Hawaii Pacific University researchers in Honolulu are investigating the origins of "ghost nets", the washed-up, mass tangle of abandoned commercial fishing nets that haunt the Hawaiian coastline. The objective is to trace these ghost nets back to their originating fisheries and manufacturers.