Dedicated to lowering the rate of littering Issue 26, Vol. 3

THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

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Ontario, Canada Corner: Bits and bites

June marked the passage of the Waste-Free Ontario Act, somewhat misnamed since its scope excludes litter. Bill 151 obligates Ontario to establish a process for mandatory engagement in a sustainable, circular economy. Details are yet to be worked out. In Ontario's largest city it appears Torontonians are sloppy recyclers. Current ads urge them to recycle with care. A load contaminated with the wrong items is costing the city dearly in penalties, and/or landfill space, if the load is deemed unfit and must be dumped.

To the east, mayors in Northumberland County stage a weeklong, friendly, annual contest – now in its eighth year – that has its municipalities vying for titles. Numbers for last year's event were reported this week. Winning for the greatest proportion of volunteers – Alnwick-Haldimand Township (9.8%) followed by the Town of Cobourg (4.1%) and the Town of Brighton(1.3%). Title of 'hardest working' for the largest haul per picker went to Port Hope (36 kg). Next was Cramahe Township (31) and Trent Hills (21). No losers here! Everybody wins. A big party winds up the week. In 2015 teams pulled 13,930 kg of litter from roads and parks. Over the years, the presence of food waste has risen dramatically, a staff member acknowledged.

This poster from California's transportation agency, Caltrans, puts littering from vehicles front and centre in its tips to road travellers on fighting pollution. Four of the nine pointers involve properly handling waste, everything from pet waste and butts to trash recycling and litter disposal and a reminder to tarp, tie down and secure loads.

Toronto politician stalling new bylaw

The politician who chairs the committee charged with reviewing key changes to Toronto's littering bylaw had the item yanked from Monday's meeting agenda, *Litterland* has learned. Councillor Cesar Palacio (Ward 17 - Davenport) had the staff report pulled from the docket to ensure it would not come forward on June 27, said a city hall insider who did not wish to be identified. Ready-to-go since January, the report was supposed to land in front of Toronto Licensing and Standards Committee and proceed to Council in March. this is its fourth deferral. The "Chapter 548" bylaw review recommends making owners responsible for any litter on their private property. Currently the bylaw targets the often elusive persons who litter. Palacio was unavailable for comment despite *Litterland's* repeated attempts to contact him.

DID YOU KNOW?

Toronto's month-long "Cigarette Butts Are Litter Too!" campaign will have an extended life, thanks to city business associations. BIAs in Chinatown, Corso Italia, Parkdale, Etobicoke and Kennedy Road have already sought to have copies of the posters for their storefronts. The inconsiderate depositing of cigarette butts is a costly and vexing problem for reputable retailers. In this campaign, smokers are urged to stub out and deposit the butt in one of 6,500 Astral street bins.

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (JUN 19 - 26)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

Port Erquy in French waters site of demo (6/23)
On July 8, Waste Free Oceans Foundation and French fisherman will demonstrate how they catch floating marine litter from the sea, sort and recycle it.

Northampton litter free zone sees success (6/21)
Earning rave reviews - Councillor Rufia Ashraf for her experiment to mark litter free zones in Northampton, working hands-on with local youngsters.

Beitbridge anti-litter road run a good start (6/21)
The Zimbabwean border town of Beitridge will stage a 10km Run against Litter July 30 in conjunction with the Environmental Management Agency.

Business litter tax may be a ballot question (6/22)
Richmond, Virginia may put the idea of a litter tax on businesses ($233 - $3,800) on the ballot in November.

UK's Phantom Litter Man may return to streets (6/21)
Phantom Litter Man may be lured out of retirement to challenge a new, sanitized superhero created by EnviroComms for Hull City Council's £100,000 litter-fighting campaign. The anonymous, costumed "PLM" secretly cleaned streets in Hessle for years. He quit in 2015, even tried to sell his costume on eBay to someone who would continue his good deed, but no one bid.