

THIS WEEK IN “LITTERLAND”

www.litterpreventionprogram.com

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EDITORIAL:

Headed to sunny Florida this week, dear readers, curious to see if the state's multi-million dollar investment in litter awareness is evident. Here at home, holding a government to account is next to impossible. In the UK, Members of Parliament actively engage in the littering file. On Tuesday they called on the nation to tweet them photos of littered areas and help illustrate how bad the litter problem is over there. Having just watched the Tour de France, with its panoramic views of English and French countryside, this bird's eye sees it being a fair degree cleaner than the view one would garner over Toronto, Ontario. Not to single out the provincial capital of Toronto – litter knows no boundaries. Complaints about littering run far afield. Unlike our British cousins, there is no, underscore no, campaign to fight litter in the Province of Ontario. The keepers of Ontario's environmental fate, those who make and mind the laws of the land, refuse to accept their role in shaping a society that litters far less. Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne responded to our First Annual Report with a form letter that missed the mark. Environment (and Climate Change) Minister Glen Murray, new to the post, has yet to answer our request for a meeting. What of the Environmental Commissioner, Gordon Miller? He does not engage about litter on Twitter and does not acknowledge correspondence we mail to him, public contact not part of his statutory obligations evidently. So where to turn? This is the perplexing question facing us in *Litterland*. Anti-social crimes like littering demand a response from this province. Municipalities need help. At the very least, the good people of the Greater Toronto Area should insist on a litter strategy for the 2015 Pan-Parapan American Games. I can only view with envy those jurisdictions you read about in *Litterland* where leadership on litter dwells. Britain just launched a Litter Enquiry. Read more below.

In Bolton, they'll bust you!

Below, environmental enforcement officers in Bolton, UK use a fleet of surveillance vans to police anti-social behaviours before little headaches become big problems.



DID YOU KNOW?

In the UK, North Somerset Council has empowered parking attendants to hand out tickets for littering and dog fouling, joining the ranks of rangers and dog wardens, who currently do that job.

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (JUL 20 - 27)

Some of what made our News Reel this week
litterpreventionprogram.com/news-reel.html

Twitter part of UK Litter Enquiry (7/23)

British MPs are calling on voters to tweet them photos of litter problems and send an online earful to their Litter Enquiry. "Send us information, send us evidence, send us photos and we will look come up with recommendations to make sure litter is dealt with more effectively in your communities," says Clive Betts, who chairs the select committee. Tweet photos to @commonsclg, using the hashtag #litterpix. The submission deadline is October 16.

Meanwhile in Wales, ex-mayor a litter unhappy (7/21)

Chepstow councillor and former mayor Stephanie Dovey says it's time to stop making excuses for people who litter by cleaning up after them and make clamping down the priority.

Rotting meat as roadside litter causes stink (7/14)

Motorists who drove through rotting meat, possibly chicken, which littered the road in front of a Warren County shopping mall in upstate New York, flooded Queensbury car washes to remove the lingering, putrid stench from their vehicles.

Commonwealth Games' litter legacy is exemplary (7/23)

The 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow will be memorable for more than just the thrills, spills and medals. We believe Scotland to be the first to set an aim of being free of litter as part of its legacy of the Games.