

THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

www.litterpreventionprogram.com

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'YUK' IS BACK FOR A RETURN RUN

Until October 2 Sydney's Wynyard Park houses this statuesque reminder to smokers not to litter cigarette butts. Unveiled on Thursday, the monument is stuffed with butts that were handpicked by city cleaning crews. The sculpture debuted last year in litter hot spots like Hyde Park and was deemed a successful deterrent. Still, Australians litter an estimated 7.2 billion cigarette butts a year.

Litter factors into Toronto mayor's race

Our littering survey for candidates for mayor of Toronto had its first respondent. One of the frontrunners, John Tory, submitted his answers well before the deadline. In it he was quick to agree that Canada's largest city has a littering problem. *Litterland* will publish the full slate of responses prior to Election Day, Oct. 27.

*** Philadelphia's transport arm, SEPTA, took a shine to an unbranded sign campaign, "Dude, It's Rude ..." – an attempt to cure passengers of nasty habits like littering and seat hogging.



Source: SEPTA

DID YOU KNOW?

The local council in Waveney, UK in Sussex will be contemplating a ban on the release of balloons and sky lanterns for environmental reasons. The proposal is up for discussion this week at the urging of fire safety, wildlife and animal welfare groups.

AUSTRALIAN STUDY FINGERS PLASTIC

Plastic refuse dominates Australian waterways and shorelines, concludes a report released September 15 after three years of marine debris research. Part of an education program co-developed by Earthwatch Australia, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and energy group Shell, it identified the two prime culprits of ocean pollution – littering and illegal dumping. The report said plastic comprises 75 per cent of coastal litter and warns it is ensnaring, entangling and killing wildlife. CSIRO scientist Denise Hardesty believes one-third of the world's marine turtles have ingested litter, estimating 5,000 to 15,000 turtles have been killed in the Gulf of Carpentaria in northern Australia from being trapped in "derelict fishing nets, mostly from overseas."

"Our analyses predict that plastics ingestion in seabirds may reach 95 per cent of all species by 2050, given the steady increase of plastics production," the report said.

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (SEPT 14- 21)

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

Indian Railways add new tier of enforcers (20/9)

The employee who checks your train ticket in India could now be the same person who tickets you for littering. Ticket checkers were recently handed a berth on the railway enforcement and passenger crackdown team.

Motorcycle Ms is chucking litter into cars (16/9)

A masked Russian woman on a motorcycle is a viral star thanks to a video of her tailing littering motorists, tossing their trash back into their vehicles through the open car window and driving away. *Litterland* sees tossing garbage into cars as littering too and recalls the saying, "Two wrongs don't make a right." Such confrontations have provoked violence and have claimed lives on occasion.

Chinese tourists in hot water with President (20/9)

China's President Xi Jinping used a speech in the Maldives Monday to tell Chinese tourists to "not litter water bottles everywhere" and generally to clean up their act abroad.

Harare hung up on littered cans and phone cards (16/9)

Zimbabwe is pledging to develop a "statutory instrument" targeting manufacturers to reduce littering of mobile phone cards and beverage containers, environment minister Saviour Kasukuwere announced at the official launch of Clean Up Zimbabwe on Monday.