

THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

www.litterpreventionprogram.com

October 4, 2015

Bag fee sweeps England

England's 5p plastic bag fee fully inflates tomorrow as big supermarkets and retailers put the nation's new bag fee law into action at the checkout counter. So begins the government's plan, already criticized by some as not going far enough, but a major win just the same for lobby group Break The Bag Habit. Its online poll of 1700 recorded 62% approval for a five-pence charge on each plastic bag.

The government hopes the measure will cut carrier bag use by 80 percent, much needed in a country that used 7.6 billion grocery bags in 2014, or 140 bags per Brit, and is on track to increasing bag use for a fifth straight year in 2015, to 8.5 billion, recent figures show.

Although the law exempts smaller stores and paper bags, the government estimates it will cut litter cleaning costs by £60-million annually and raise £730 million for charities, to whom stores are supposed to give the proceeds. Bag fees are exploding across Europe with the formal recognition that plastic litter kills wildlife, pollutes habitats, chokes oceans and must be abated.

'Non, non,' says Paris!

We say 'oui' to the Parisian enforcement plan to say 'non, non!' to the littering smokers of that belle ville. On day one, October 1, the mayor's office put out word to the media that a 68 euro fine, about \$75, is now in effect to combat cigarette butt littering. This after years of the city massaging the public to get ready, from the retrofitting of 30,000 street bins to give smokers ample ashtray access to the handing out of 15,000 portable ashtrays capable of storing up to five butts before needing emptying. Paris's butt litter volumes? 350 tonnes per year. (That's an annual tally of 910 million cigarette butts by our calculation.)

DID YOU KNOW?

Wigan is under fire for targeting smokers. A resident researched court records and found that 96 percent of all penalty notices were handed to smokers for dropping cigarette butts. Between January and June of this year only 12 of 283 littering offences involved other types of litter.

Toronto will conduct a public review of litter enforcement in November on dates soon to be determined. Watch this space for details. The licensing and standards committee will see a report by March 2016, an official told *Litterland*.



In Wellesley, MA the above sign on Pond Road was derided by some locals because of the sky-high level of penalty posted, a fine they say no one could really afford to pay.

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (SEP 27 - OCT 4)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

Hull, UK taking a page from Disney (9/26)

As host of 2017 City of Culture year, Hull is planning for a "spotless" city centre during the expo and a "Disneyland" approach and intolerance to litter: bins quickly emptied, problems fixed immediately. A multi-million pound makeover is in the works.

Picking up litter is good for you (9/29)

A positive spin from volunteers in South Derbyshire and Northwest Leicestershire where litter-picking is encouraged. A woman says she shed 28 pounds (12.7 kg) from the walking involved in the task.

Tarp Day targets flyaway truck trash (9/30)

Putnam County, TN held Tarp Day Saturday ahead of its crackdown on littering from trucks. The first 100 to arrive with trash at the depot received a free tarp to cover their loads and keep them secure.

Clean Cornwall campaigners get an eyeful (9/27)

Hidden cameras found just two of 266 people who walked past litter stopped to pick it up and bin it.

Litter cops for Dartford? (10/1)

Dartford Council has put the question of having paid litter enforcement teams patrol the town centre starting in mid-January to its residents in an online consultation until October 30. www.dartford.gov.uk