

THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

www.litterpreventionprogram.com

January 24, 2016

CHARITY DUMPING

Goodwill Industries shuttered 16 of its stores and ten donation centres Jan. 18, instantly throwing about 430 people out of work in Greater Toronto, Barrie, Orillia and Brockville, and seriously hobbling the non-profit's future. Pictured at right, one day after the shock announcement, this scene was typical at Goodwill donation centres. Charity boxes and drop-off locations often become magnets for trash. Instead of leaving gently used items, some people use these sites as repositories for their litter, garbage and broken stuff, giving no thought to who will clean it up or how. Victoria Litter Action Alliance in Australia created a toolkit for tackling charity dumping to help vendors and councils mitigate the mess. (litter.vic.gov.au)



GOODWILL'S MONDAY MORNING SHOCKER IN TORONTO!

"It's a sham." Community work orders thrown into question

Community payback orders (CPOs) are under the Ministry of Justice microscope in the UK following accounts that minor crime offenders, supposedly fulfilling mandatory community service hours picking litter and removing graffiti, are spending much of that time drinking in pubs, sleeping in parks and hanging out in restaurants. A man who went through the program run by Purple Futures in Humberside, Lincolnshire and Yorkshire, told the Mirror he "gained two stones" from sitting around so much during his 200-hour CPO. "It's a sham", Nigel Edwards, 51, told the paper as part of its exposé. The National Parole

Service farms out 70% of rehabilitation and probation services to private firms. Purple Futures is re-examining CPOs internally as the justice ministry starts to probe.

United State-Side Happenings

A mere slice of US goings-on: Keep America Beautiful readies for its national conference in Orlando, Feb. 1 to 3. Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful just announced it has signed up for KAB's Cigarette Litter Prevention Program. Arkansas volunteers gathered a 1.6-million-pound litter haul in 2015. Louisiana is staging a cleanest city contest. (We hear Oakdale's keen on taking that title.) Missouri's innovative "NoMoreTrash" poster contest got underway. Oklahoma's calendar art contest, closing Jan. 29, is expected to attract 12,000 entries. Pennsylvania Resource Council revealed the winners of its 24th annual Lens on Litter Contest.

DID YOU KNOW?

Jamaica's National Solid Waste Management Authority took 812 people to court in 2015 for breaking solid waste laws (344 of them for littering) and failing to pay fines within 21 days. Some 203 bench warrants were issued last year to those who skipped their court dates.

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (JAN 17 - 24)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

Report sounds alarm over plastic in seas (1/20)
A World Economic Forum report this week called for urgent action on the problem of marine litter, saying there could be more plastic than fish in the oceans by 2050 unless something is done. Eighty per cent of ocean plastic starts as litter on land.

Out to make kids the voices of the future (1/17)
"Pester -power" is being advocated to combat littering in Aberdeen. A new public-private Litter to Leadership campaign for children is in the works.

New York looking to relax penalties (1/21)
New York's Broken Windows theory may be in for a patch-up job. City council has signalled a wish to lower fines and do away with arrests and jail time for minor violations like public urinating and littering, hinting that cops should not pursue minor misdeeds with a heavy hand. Another measure would allow the substitution of community service hours for the payment of a fine for a lower-income person.

Cebu cleaners and enforcers praised (1/20)
A drop in the 'after-mess' from Cebu's Sinulog Grand Parade last Sunday is being credited to education before the event and enforcement during. More than 900 charges were laid. Cleaners picked up 110 tons of dropped trash vs. 197 tons in 2015.