

THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

www.litterpreventionprogram.com

May 22, 2016

Sights set on cigarette stubs

American website litterbutt.com lights up discussion and action on tobacco product littering. Cigarette butts (toxic, acetate) are the most prolific polluter, but plastic cigar tips, wrapping, foil, cardboard, and paraphernalia are also problems. The site has litter geo-tracking across three participating states, boasts 4,678 Members, and 101,678 reports filed.



Stash Your Trash campaign for motorists in Northern Ontario

Ontario's transportation ministry and Ontario Provincial Police unveiled "Stash Your Trash" for drivers using a popular stretch of Northern Ontario road from Wawa to Sault Ste. Marie. Dotted the highway between the two locales from May 15 to Thanksgiving Day, fifteen designated and signed roadside disposal sites are in place to receive in-vehicle litter in special containers. Free litter bags form part of the program, helped along by a few sponsors like Canadian Carver and Tim Hortons. Littering laws in Ontario are rarely enforced.

Students up the pressure on balloon releases

A note of chagrin over grieving superstar Celine Dion's unfortunate commemorative faux pas: She and her children released balloons as a memorial to her late husband. [Balloon releases](#) are a source of concern and, at Fort Walton Beach High School in Florida, they are a going concern. Students there are working hard to stop parents from sending balloons sky-high again at this year's graduation ceremony, June 3. Teacher Ashley Daniels contacted *Litterland* to trumpet her students' successful social media push for ending the environmentally harmful practice, which is now the subject of a [lawsuit against the University of Nebraska](#). Unsecured balloons will eventually burst and drop, unwanted, in wildlife habitats and waters.

[Backyard](#), a 10:46-minute anti-litter short film documentary from Australian outfit, Bulimba Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee, tracks litter's trail from roadside to seaside. InTheBin and Anita Ong Media spent four months on it with help from dozens of AU conservation groups.



The word for people who litter? Criminal. Photo, above, shows one of the ten garbage trucks lumbering through the streets of Savannah, Georgia. As reported in *Litterland* last week, the city has picked an arresting slogan that can't be missed.

Youth group Young Band Nation in Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana has an Adele parody on YouTube, "Hello (Litter)", that's [going viral on Facebook](#). Watch it [here](#).

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (MAY 15 - 22)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

Vancouver increases its spending on litter (5/18)

Vancouver will try to curb a growing litter problem with 550 more bins and a bump-up to the annual budget.

Philly's litter 'convenings' have people talking (5/17)

Spell-check may not like the word, but "convenings" – litter meetings hosted by Keep Philadelphia Beautiful – are proving popular with locals.

Yorkshire data leads to trying something new (5/19)

Highway England's contractor says it filled and gathered 4,018 sacks of litter from motorways in Yorkshire in just three months, Jan.1 to April 30, a 55% increase over 2014. Side by side those bags would cover the Wembley Stadium field. A total of 13,780 litter-filled sacks were logged in 2015. A new awareness-builder is being tried to lessen the litter load. Time lapse video, created using a grab cam, shows litter piling up in a known litter hot spot.

Antwerp's singing cans attract attention (5/20)

Twenty new singing trash bins are turning heads in Antwerp. When items are deposited in them, coloured lights glow and pulse as a pop tune plays, titles like Britney Spears' "Hit Me Baby One More Time" and "That's The Way I Like It" by KC & The Sunshine Band.

DID YOU KNOW?

Most of central Dublin littering summonses are going bust. Of 84 citations issued in the first three months of 2016, only 13 met with total success. More than half (47) failed because people refused to sign for their violation letters, adding a huge wrinkle to the city's prosecution process.