

THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

www.litterpreventionprogram.com

October 9, 2016

Editorial: Toronto needs a plan

Toronto Council approved changes to the city's littering bylaw on Thursday. New rules put the onus on small businesses to clean up after their smoking clientele - all around their premises including the city-owned frontage of sidewalk or boulevard. In an age now where indoor smoking is illegal and those with the habit are pushed outdoors and away from entrances, the city is handing businesses a pretty tall order. Naturally we applaud the intent of clean lot bylaws. Every property owner should be responsible for a tidy site up to the curb. But let's be fair. Not all cigarette butts on the sidewalk emanate from patrons of licensed establishments. They're flicked from cars and bikes, dropped by pedestrians and office workers and tossed by tourists. There is a need in this city for a council appointee with clout over the litter file, a litter czar who can get things done. Government has to plan the education, marketing, analysis and enforcement of the updated bylaw.

'Use the chute, balcony tossers'

Singapore's National Environment Agency will [use a "soft approach"](#) over the next three months in a new experiment to reduce the stuff flying off balconies. Residents in 534 units in two rental buildings will be given bags, 35 a month, each coming with a printed reminder to bag, tie and send full bags down the garbage chute. Stickers at the elevators will reinforce that proper disposal message. The NEA recorded 2,800 cases of high-rise littering last year and 2,500 in 2014 when it was dubbed "killer litter" after falling debris caused one death and several injuries to people below. The agency would prefer to educate offenders rather than shame them.

DID YOU KNOW?

CCTV imaging led to the arrest of Joshua Scrivens, a litter vigilante, who assaulted a man after [confronting him about littering](#). On Wednesday a Bristol judge handed Scrivens eight months in jail, 200 community hours, a three-month curfew and fines totaling £2,175. The victim suffered a broken jaw and lost several teeth in the altercation. The trial was the first to be broadcast as part of Bristol's test of televising court cases.

Dumping ("fly-tipping") in Brighton and Hove will be dealt with using cameras to monitor hot spots. A new, private squad of ["fly-tipping police"](#) use images to identify and ticket culprits. CCTV monitoring must respect privacy laws while scanning for evidence of dumping. Mumbai is considering using cameras. Dublin and other UK jurisdictions already do. Wearable cameras are the latest addition to constabulary apparel. So will high tech gadgetry be the way of the future for stopping litter?



HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (OCT 2- 9)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

1 fan + 1 can = one black eye for Toronto (10/6)

The fan alleged to have thrown a can of beer from the bleachers at visiting Texas Rangers outfielders during a Toronto Blue Jays major league baseball game says it wasn't him. Nevertheless, Ken Pagan, identified and charged with mischief for the incident after police circulated a photo taken from stadium cameras, was pilloried in the media and is banned from Rogers Centre.

Dow Chemical donation (10/5)

Dow Chemical Company announced an injection of US\$2.8 million over two years for seeking solutions to marine litter at [Our Oceans Conference](#) on Sept. 16.

America's Judge Judy sounds off (10/5)

When [asked on a talk show](#) which crime she felt needed to be taken more seriously television's colorfully opinionated Judge Judy lists "littering". She goes on to say people sitting on her car bothers her too.

Leithers Don't Litter founders win laurels (10/7)

Top honours flowed to Leithers Don't Litter founder and indie ad man Gerry Farrell. He and wife Zsuzsa picked up the Grand Prix prize at the [Scottish Creative Awards](#) Thursday night for their "Crapatilism" campaign designed by Gerry Farrell Ink. You can see the video [here](#) holding litter purveyors to account.

Please note: 'Litterland' will be on a flexible publishing schedule over the next few months due to current events.