

THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

www.litterpreventionprogram.com

September 15, 2013

Chicago nixes idea of \$1500 fine in favour of a more workable litter law

With the mayor's backing, Chicago approved a littering from cars bylaw Thursday. Eschewing the proposed on-the-spot \$1500 fine, city council made that sum the cap in a range of fixed penalties, most \$50 to \$200, depending on the offence. The new law will take effect in 30 or so days. Introduction of "permissive towing" into the litter enforcement lexicon is a most intriguing development. Police officers will be empowered to impound a littering motorist's vehicle as well as issue tickets as they see fit for everything from butt flicking to ashtray dumping.



This sign spells trouble!

Haringey Council sent anti-littering signs like the one above to the scrap heap after townsfolk carped that the multilingual monikers were in Greek, Kurdish and Turkish, but not English. Flurries of complaints and articles in the media sent red-faced officials scurrying within days to remove the signs and vowing never to revive them. A town spokesperson said many who litter in Haringey do not speak English. Complainants pointed out that unilingual English-speakers litter too.

DOWNTOWN TORONTO BUSINESSES POINT THE WAY TO CITY STREET ASHTRAYS



On Toronto street bins in its district the ever-diligent Downtown Yonge BIA added "Cigarette Disposal" labels to draw attention to the ashtray built into the city's public waste containers, which many smokers don't seem to realize is there.

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (SEP 8 - 15)

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

A litter hotline that never sleeps (9/11)

While eight US states have hotlines established to receive complaints about littering, Arkansas has opened up its line to operate around the clock, according to its website.

Birdwatchers leave their droppings behind (9/12)

It wasn't the birds pooping on the pristine scene in northwest Portland. Birdwatchers, flocking there to gawk at the dazzling flight of the swifts, left such a quantity of litter behind that residents filed complaints with the press about those birdbrains.

Bristol considers 'late night levy' on nightspots (9/10)

Charging bars and restaurants a late night levy is being contemplated in cities and towns like Bristol across the UK to pay for the mess alcohol-imbibing patrons create by littering the streets after dark. Newcastle has already opted for such a levy.

Bermuda's trash art rips the runway (9/11)

Trash is in fashion. The Bermuda Society of Arts' *TrashArt Litter-arti* exhibit, on until Sept. 17, showcases Deondre Cumberbatch dresses made from chip bags, plastic utensils, newspapers, old shower curtains and black trash bags.

Getting ahead of festival litter (9/12)

Hong Kong wants to curb litter, wax burning and sky lantern flying for the Autumn Festival on Sept. 19 and 20. To that end, the government issued a press release Wednesday announcing that 1000 watchful enforcers will be on duty at the event.

DID YOU KNOW?



Seen here, Scott Golbourne, left-guard UK star Wolves footballer, upon signing with the team this week, immediately offered to lead a campaign to clean litter from seven UK car parks in Wolverhampton and Walsall. A *Litterland* high score!