

# THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

[www.litterpreventionprogram.com](http://www.litterpreventionprogram.com)

April 30, 2017

## Cash for coffee cups

Cornerbrook, Newfoundland has announced a bold Canadian first: a cash back scheme for littered coffee cups. Called Cups for Ca\$h, the city promises to pay five cents for every littered cup that citizens return during the month of May. Payouts will be made at the local curling club parking lot on May 27. Another sweetener of an incentive - city staff city will plant four bonus cups among the many that are littered. If found, these specially marked cups will be redeemable for \$100. Unlike a deposit scheme, Cornerbrook's bounty program will be funded by corporate sponsors. Robin's Donuts has already signed on.



**CARPET OF JOY** is a 2,000 square meter [installation](#) in Saligao, Goa, India, created by Israeli artist and architect, Uri De Beer and 3,000 children who helped him make 150,000 "plastiflora" - flowers fashioned from discarded plastic bottles of various colours. The artist [used crowdfunding](#) to get the work made.

## **Not mincing his words**

Trinidad/Tobago MP Fuad Khan describes the capital Port of Spain as "floating on mounting piles of garbage."

"To have garbage pollution now occur in our tourist destinations not only tarnishes our brand, but conveys a message to the world that we are comfortable in our filth," he said. Give this pol the quote of the week.

## Caterpillar science

Researchers from Institute of Biomedicine and Biotechnology of Cantabria in Spain suspect that a plastic-eating caterpillar may present a viable solution to ridding the ocean of littered plastics. Lead researcher Frederica Bertocchini accidentally discovered that the larvae of a honeycomb moth nibbled through a plastic bag. [Current Biology published the team's findings](#) that showed these caterpillars were able to digest and convert the plastic they consumed into ethylene glycol, one of the building blocks for making polyester and antifreeze. In 2014 [Chinese research](#) found the Indian mealmoth had a similar ability.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Seafood and fishing industry forces in the UK [released their plan](#) for attacking the problem of "ghost gear" like nets, lines and rope let loose in waterways. A group of 40 stakeholders endorsed the Global Ghost Gear Initiative ([GGGI](#)) - recommendations for combating the problem across the supply chain - a world first!

### **HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (APR 23-30)**

Some of what made our News Reel this week

#### **Canadian city to test poop power project (4/24)**

Waterloo, Ontario is laying plans to make dog poop a valuable commodity by converting it to fuel and fertilizer using anaerobic digestion. A pilot announced this week will make use of special collection bins for collecting and storing the material underground for a couple of weeks to ready it for processing. Dog waste is the most commonly discarded material in the city's litter bins.

#### **Litterers under Swiss watch (4/27)**

Littering [is up](#) in Switzerland and tolerance for it seems to be down. A parliamentary proposal for mandatory fines is the subject of a three-month public consultation and could become law on January 1, 2018.

#### **Guinness watches diverse Newport, Wales (4/25)**

Newport, South Wales wants to claim the title as world's most diverse litter pick and was to seek a place in the Guinness Book of World Records for their event on April 29. To beat the existing record for "Most Nationalities Collecting Litter", the cleanup event would need to involve persons from 61 or more different countries.

#### **The cost of littering in California calculated (4/25)**

The State of California figures it could save \$67 million a year if people refrained from littering.