

THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

www.litterpreventionprogram.com

December 1, 2013

A race to clean in 2014

Scotland is bubbling with the beginnings of a national effort to rid the nation of litter. Cleanup events in Edinburgh started Nov. 25, kicking-off a legacy plan to involve a record one million Scots in cleaning up the country before the Commonwealth Games and other international events in 2014. Students at Barrhead High were the first among schools to stage a litter pick after signing Keep Scotland Beautiful pledges in October.

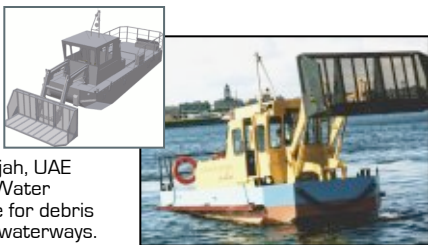
Three cheers for Port Pirie, Australia!

"Litter-free public places" We like it when mayors talk that way and it's the language of Port Pirie, AU Mayor Brenton Vanstone. His positive leadership would have contributed to the region's KESAB 2013 award for sustainable communities. Youth and city officials cooperated to eliminate litter at the skate park, beach and boat ramp. Forget dry, rigid, bureaucratic approaches: this one put young people in the driver's seat. They filmed BMX riders being cool and using bins in a YouTube video ad, by Mav Media and Ben Heidrich.

WATER WITCH

Photo, right:

Places like Sharjah, UAE use heavy-duty Water Witch to dredge for debris people dump in waterways.



NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION INSPIRES >>

Last week we told you about Litter and Glitter, a combo cleanup and after-bash in downtown Annex, Toronto, organized by three residents' groups with merchants. After the scrub, the throngs trekked back to a local cinema to walk the red carpet, enjoy food from the area's famed eateries, party and win prizes.



ENGLAND'S FIRST LOCAL NO-SPIT LAW IN PLAY

After a two-year fight, one could say lawmakers in Enfield are salivating for December 8's arrival, the day its court-tested, local anti-spit litter law comes into effect - England's first - complete with fines of up to £500 for spitting. Officials say the idea isn't to ticket, but to educate, and success will be the day no summonses are issued.

Litter law given green light in Guyana

It's a 'go' today for Guyana's promised clampdown on people who litter. All buses, taxis and trains used for public transport must have at least one handily located waste bin on board or pay a fine. Littering, including from vehicles, intentional or not, is outlawed and drivers will be deemed ultimately responsible for fines equaling \$US72.15 to \$481. Breach the new law twice and the fine will double.

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (NOV 24 - DEC 1)

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

Size of waste delegation and itinerary raise ire (11/21)

Goa's deputy minister took public heat over his 38-person delegation going to Austria, Germany and Italy on a waste management fact-finding tour. While well meaning, it seems their Venetian boat rides and side trips to the Colosseum and other tourist sites rubbed Goans the wrong way.

Singapore takes the kindness route (11/27)

If you want to be cool, clean and community minded in Singapore, you can sign up at kindness@kindness.sg

Paper elephant lanterns shed light on litter (11/26)

It's no paper tiger - Newcastle, UK arts development team has created a paper elephant, a lantern fashioned from littered paper, on show at Millin Centre in a litter education display. A photo op for tourists, the pachyderm has become quite the conversation piece. Nicola Lynch, artist-in-residence, hopes to make another one soon. The tusked prop has also helped highlight a study into the links between child poverty and the environment by Children North East.

Boston likely to ban smoking in parks (11/29)

Boston is the latest big US city to announce an intention to ban smoking in its parks due to litter and secondhand smoke. Let's hope for ash receptacles at the perimeters!

DID YOU KNOW?

Our First Annual Progress Report is available in PDF format on the News Reel at www.litterpreventionprogram.com. Excellent reading material for office waiting rooms, public libraries and government info racks, feel free to print it and share the contents with others.