

THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

litterpreventionprogram.com

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Prime Minister praises litter heroes in UK

British Prime Minister Theresa May lauded the legion of "litter legends" in the UK upon the wrap-up of The Great British Spring Clean. The month-long event is Keep Britain Tidy's baby. Media giant Daily Mail sponsored the effort, which drew participation from 563,163 volunteers across the nation including 175,055 children. Altogether they collected 900,000 bags full of litter. The government invested £9million to supply local groups with gloves and bags. Environment minister Michael Gove took part in several litter picks. Having a committed media sponsor brought tremendous publicity and support for the event and attracted endorsements from sympathetic celebrities and influential public figures.



Canada told to take back its trash

Rodrigo Duterte, President of the Philippines, has threatened to declare a garbage war against Canada over a six-year-old shipment of tainted, Canadian plastic waste that languishes in a port near Manila in 103 shipping containers. Sent to the Philippines for recycling in 2013-14, the shipment claiming to contain plastic was contaminated by food waste, adult diapers and general garbage. On Tuesday Duterte gave Canada one week to take back its rotting mess or, he said, he'll be returning it. "Prepare a grand reception," he said. A Filipino court ordered the garbage gone in 2016.

Plastic bags on the way out in NY

Earth Day witnessed the signing by Governor Andrew Cuomo of a bill banning the sale of single-use plastic bags in New York State starting in March 2020. Primarily targeting shopping bags, the law exempts a range of bags, such as trash bags, food-storage bags, garment bags and bags for takeout food, delivered newspapers, meat, fish, poultry and prepared foods. Merchants may charge 5¢ for paper bags and keep 2¢ of it. Three cents would go to Environmental Protection Fund. California and Hawaii already have bag bans.

Spring break for this publication

"Litterland" will return in a few weeks.

DID YOU KNOW?

Recent statistics from Limerick, Ireland show that pedestrians and motorists are responsible for 44 per cent of litter while retail outlets are the cause of another 44 per cent.

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (APR 21 -28)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

Twitter users take time out from tweeting (4/23)

Young netizens in West Jakarta put down their devices and put their Sunday holiday to good use picking up litter at Ragunan Zoo. They're part of a club whose handle is #anaktwittermulung (Twitter kids pick up litter).

"Trashy" campaign involves library books (4/25)

Crisp County, Georgia will be donating anti-littering books to its school libraries and to its central civic library as part of "You Can't Afford to be Trashy", a campaign launched by the sheriff's office on Wednesday. A high school art class created all the artwork for it.

Raise deposits to capture 'lost' cans, bottles (4/26)

According to Vancouver-based Oceans Legacy Project, one million beverage cans and bottles a day escape reclamation. The group says 387 million of them did not come back to BC's deposit/recycling system in 2017.

Smokers deemed to be a difficult problem (4/26)

Smokers account for 54 per cent of Limerick's street litter, the council heard during a briefing on its five-year Litter Management Plan. Packaging and food-related litter rounded out the top three, followed by dog waste. The plan calls for more work on awareness, education, cleaning and enforcement.

BBC newsman hits the roof, viewers approve (4/23)

Morning news presenter Dan Walker won praise from BBC Breakfast viewers for his on-air rant about a litter-strewn park in his neighbourhood. An exchange with colleagues ended with Walker looking at the camera to exclaim: "Just stop being selfish and pick it up!"