

THIS WEEK IN “LITTERLAND”

litterpreventionprogram.com

June 30, 2019

Trash Mountain

Hikers on mountaineering expeditions are virtually killing Mount Everest with their human waste, tents, trash and empty canisters of oxygen. Guides in Nepal openly complain about the gravely unhealthy state of the mountainside where climbers by the hordes have left it in disgusting condition. Eight Sherpa guides fell ill after drinking water tainted by open defecation at Camp 2, two levels above base camp. While difficult to gain an exact measure, estimates peg the amount of excrement made visible by melting snow there to be in the range of 8,000 kg. Camping gear abandoned by hikers due to their exhaustion is another huge problem on the historic yet degraded mountain. Expeditionary tour companies dodge accountability, thwart penalties and enforcement efforts by cutting out any identifying marks from the fabric of the tents left behind.

[A music fan's guide to going green](#)

CNN turned its lens on music festival efforts to be more sustainable. The piece focused as well on tips for the green festival goer. Travel there by bus. Take your own water bottle. Sleep in a cardboard tent, not a plastic one. Bio-glitter only, preferably none at all. Take trash in, take it out.

Canada launches plastic-weaning site

Launched this week ahead of Canada's eventual ban on certain single use plastic items, the website 10000changes.ca asks Canadians to commit to changing their behaviours and living without plastic. A focus on not littering is less prominent than one might expect from a government website since 80 per cent of plastic in waterways starts from somewhere on land and by someone letting it loose. However, this site does attempt to nudge citizens into commitments to recycle, switch to reusable coffee cups and shopping bags, refuse plastic packaging and take other consumer actions. O Canada, worth a visit.

DID YOU KNOW?

Instagram posts, geotagging and selfies have been a blessing and a curse for Canadian parks, according to a piece on thebigstorypodcast.ca. Joel Barde, writer for The Walrus, says more park visits fuelled litter and garbage woes. Parks officials at Joffre Lakes, BC have a new Visitor Use Strategy this summer. It includes a shuttle service, a reservation system and two educators hired as wardens from a local First Nation.



HAPPY CANADA DAY *JULY 1* 1867-2019

[Eight million anglers recruited for audit](#)

[Fishbrain](#), the app for people who love fishing, is on board with Keep America Beautiful to tap into and recruit some of its eight million users to participate on the Fourth of July holiday weekend in the largest crowd sourced litter audit ever undertaken in the US.

[Festival goers sound study's sour note](#)

A behaviour analysis study of 800 music festival goers by Green Music Australia indicates a lack of caring and responsibility toward event littering, particularly when it comes to leaving tents behind, (23%), and not caring if tents get wrecked (36%). Almost two-thirds felt it was not their role to pick up someone else's rubbish. These findings have spurred the upcoming Splendour in the Grass Festival to pilot free onsite tent repair services. Read [The Music Network's take](#) on the matter.



HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (JUN 23 - 30)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

G-20 ministers agree on declaration to act [\(6/27\)](#)

Environment ministers from the G20 nations signed off on a [framework](#) for dealing with marine plastic litter and microplastics, deemed an “urgent issue” by the meeting's host, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

Group employs homeless people for cleaning [\(6/27\)](#)

Ground Score, a nonprofit in Portland, Oregon hires homeless people for \$15 for one hour's work cleaning up a beach or public space.

Tiny bird with butt in beak triggers outrage [\(6/27\)](#)

A photo of a black skimmer chick on a Florida beach, holding in its beak a cigarette butt which it had been fed by its mother, sparked calls for better littering controls.

I-Clean group could be a model for India [\(6/25\)](#)

Volunteers in Nagpur, India pay a membership fee to fund their litter cleanup and advocacy group, I-Clean, which has an “I” before “you” philosophy. They've tidied 167 areas so far, the latest being Sonogaon Lake. Government supports them by providing equipment and disposal services.

Remember, lit fireworks are litter too [\(6/28\)](#)

After they dazzle, fireworks can lead to fire, injury and water contamination if cleanup rules are ignored. Clark County just published some good reminders about fireworks disposal, perfect for the time of year.