

# THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

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

December 8, 2019

**NEATLY UNTIDY**  
 A customer at an ATM deposits a cup and bag left from the morning's snack. Here in Toronto, Canada banks tend not to have waste receptacles on their properties. But let's not blame the banks. "Careful littering" is when a person neatly leaves a mess somewhere.



## Whale's death a jarring reminder

An autopsy on the body of a sperm whale found on Seilebost Beach, Isle of Harris in Scotland has brought marine litter's tragic consequences to the surface. While it could not confirm that litter ingestion caused the whale's death, Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme (Smass), a group that investigates whale and dolphin deaths, said a dissection revealed a 100kg "litter ball" in the mammal's stomach. Ingested materials included rope, plastic cups, fishing nets, bags and packing straps, sources linked to both land and sea activity. The group reports that instances of stranded dolphins and whales in Scotland have increased to 930 in 2018 from 204 in 2009.

## Reward offered to whistleblowers

Why not sweeten the pot? That's how one city politician views litter prevention. Mayor John Geesnell "Baba" Yap of Tagbilaran City, the capital of Bohol, The Philippines has added a cash incentive to the city's program of fines and enforcement. He's offering a 3000-peso reward for confidential photos and video that identify people who leave garbage debris on the roads.

### **HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (DEC 1 - 8)**

Some of what made our News Reel this week

#### **City tackles tacky Christmas light tourists [\(11/26\)](#)**

Police in Richmond, Virginia want tourists to be bright lights when visiting the city's Tacky Light Tour through neighbourhoods, a 30-year holiday tradition. Among the force's behavior guidelines for this year: obey litter laws.

#### **This community has an anti-litter council [\(12/2\)](#)**

Powhatan, Virginia's Anti-Litter Council meets monthly.

#### **Man complains about littering students [\(12/2\)](#)**

A man says littering by students attending Perth Grammar School near his Muirton home could drive him out of the neighbourhood. "The school is not taking it seriously and the kids don't care," said Tom Davidson.

#### **County gives up grocery bag recycling [\(12/3\)](#)**

Kent County, Michigan is abandoning its recycling of plastic grocery bags citing dwindling world markets, rising processing complications and increased costs.

#### **Woman couldn't reach bin, gets fined [\(12/3\)](#)**

A woman with dwarfism who wasn't tall enough to throw some cardboard boxes into the bin so put them to the side was fined £100 for littering in Plymouth, UK.

#### **State contemplates no single-use bags at all [\(12/6\)](#)**

A bill has moved a step forward toward a ban on single-use plastic and paper bags and polystyrene containers within the next two years across New Jersey.

## Philadelphia pushes forward

Next week a Philadelphia law banning all plastic bags effective July 2020 is expected to win city council approval with the mayor's sign-off anticipated before year's end. Once in place, retailers must use paper bags. Meanwhile, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and state agencies are in the throes of building a framework of measures to reduce specific littering behaviours. A [report](#) will be ready for open discussion early in the new year. It was informed by the Pennsylvania Litter Research Study, 2018-2019, funded by transportation and environmental protection departments.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

Zhong Congrong, 54, a Chinese multimillionaire in Chongqing, is well known for overt anti-litter activities. The owner of three companies - real estate, auto parts and foam products - constantly cleans up and he confronts people who litter. He campaigns publicly using a mini microphone to broadcast his 'please don't litter' message. He gives away free T-shirts, emblazoned with the slogan, "Don't throw trash to our descendants."