

THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

litterpreventionprogram.com

April 5, 2020

\$10,000 fine sought for mask dropping

Richard Stewart, mayor of the Metro Vancouver city of Coquitlam, BC, is suggesting a \$10,000 fine for littering single-use gloves and masks. Whether his comments will translate into action on a law or not, let alone stop the practice, they speak to the growing agitation erupting in communities worldwide over some people's careless behaviors during the COVID-19 pandemic. "Whatever you're using, don't just leave it there, don't throw it into the ground, and don't leave it in the shopping cart. It has to go into the garbage," said the mayor in a [Facebook video](#).

Finally: A quiz for identifying litterers

"You can't judge a book by its cover." So the saying goes, and the same is true about people who litter. You can never tell by their appearance. Borrowing on an idea that made waves in the UK some years ago, *Litterland* created a quiz to detect litterbugs.



Credit Toronto's Sir Adam Beck Public School students for the above panel installed to face the city's waterfront. "Keep the beach clean for everyone," it says. That would include the 65 per cent of smokers who litter their butts illegally rather than use a pocket ashtray or a city bin and anyone who spits, or litters masks/gloves/gum during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Would you do this?	YES	NO
1. Toss materials out car windows		
2. Hold the door for someone		
3. Not recycle properly		
4. Walk 13+ steps to put trash in a bin		
5. Pass parking tickets to others to save them money		
6. Fail to pick up after your dog's fouling		
7. Pocket change when given the wrong amount		
8. Leave your disposable coffee cup wherever you happen to be at the time		
9. Eat or drink at the wheel		
10. Not clear your table at a take-away restaurant or workplace lunchroom		
11. Leave newspaper on a transit car		
12. Put your feet up on the train seat		
13. Party on the beach & leave a mess		
14. Stick chewed gum to hard surfaces		
15. Cycle on a sidewalk		
16. Avoid waste fees by dumping		
17. Text/use cell phone while driving		
18. Throw down cigarette butts		
19. Spit in public places		
20. Drop litter in the street.		

SEE SCORESHEET BELOW, BOTTOM RIGHT →

DID YOU KNOW?

A weeklong virtual #GreatIndyCleanup was held instead of the usual annual event in Indianapolis, cancelled owing to the coronavirus pandemic. Individuals used their lunch hour to clear the litter from their own neighbourhoods and posted photos of their efforts on Instagram afterwards.

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (MAR 29 - APR 5)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

Littering epidemic accompanies pandemic (3/31)
 From [Boston](#) to [Taipei](#), [Brooklyn](#) to [Tokyo](#), littered protective masks and gloves during this deadly, global pandemic is a dominant big-city theme. As cleanup events get nixed, officials should add not littering to their kit of overall hygiene instructions to the public during COVID-19. In the words of George Latimer, an exec in Westchester Co. south of NYC: "Don't be stupid."

Warning sounds over wipes clogging pipes (3/30)
 Water workers must worry about people flushing their cleaning and personal wipes down the toilet. Toronto, for one, has cautioned that wipes are never flushable and create sewer system backlogs when misused.

Clean up plans called off due to virus (4/2)
 Although Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful has suspended cleanup activities statewide due to COVID-19, it wants communities to soldier on, so keepbeautiful.com offers free bags, vests & gloves and price breaks on disposal to individuals. Usually *Pick Up Pennsylvania* supports 5,000 group cleanups from March 1 to May 31.

SCORING:
 For "YES" answers
 0 pts - 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 12, 15, 17; 1 pt - 3, 10; 3pts - 8, 19; 7pts - 1, 6, 11, 13, 14, 16, 18, 20
TOTAL POINTS:
 0-2: Low litter risk. 3-6: Caution! 7-12: Litterer, be mindful!
 13-20 Litterer in urgent need of reform
 21+ - Warning: anti-social tendencies