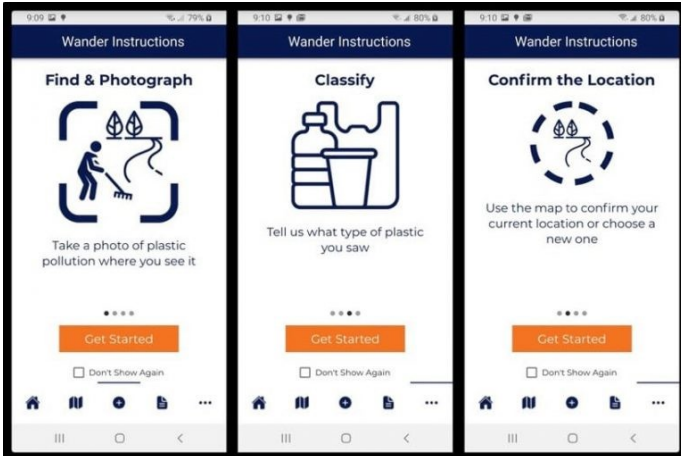


# THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

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

April 19, 2020

## An app for Earth Day's 50th birthday



Photo, left: Too close to home. This photo gives lie to the often-quoted statement that "Toronto is a clean city." With the entire city and nation captured by the daily impacts of the novel coronavirus, litter action has fallen to the bottom of the heap as a priority.

Calling all citizen scientists: there's an app out now for feeding real time plastic pollution data to scientists. Earth Challenge 2020, developed by the US State Department, Wilson Center and Earth Day Network, uses technology by the global mapping firm [ESRI](http://ESRI) to aid reporting of sightings.

## **They're taking action during COVID-19**

La Porte, Iowa city mayor Tom Dermody is championing an idea that lets every person be a champion even in COVID-19 times. He's asking every citizen to [Take 5](#): pick up litter for five minutes, share a photo of it and receive a La Porte Proud t-shirt. Although the [Quinte Trash Bash](#) in Belleville, Ontario is called off for now, the city issued a press release saying individuals "can still do their part" by picking up litter while out walking, using gloves and a garbage picker, preferably, and washing hands afterwards.

## The gloves are off in Central NY

Rome, NY for one has given police the job of enforcing penalties against people who litter protective gloves and masks (PPE). Police warned of \$500 fines and reminded people of the law they are breaking by dropping PPEs.

## Retailer sets up a glove bucket

Lowes has buckets set up outside its stores in Picopee, Mass. to receive used gloves and masks just as customers exit and before they litter them on the ground.

## She's says it with photographs

Photographer Sonia Bashir of Preston, UK pointed her camera's eye to the ground to show Twitter the level of protective equipment littering she was seeing. "Horrified" by all the throw downs, she told the Lancashire Post she hoped her images might alter behaviours.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Muntinlupa, Philippines banned spitting and the littering of masks and gloves in an ordinance approved by the mayor on April 13 as a coronavirus control measure. Everyone there is mandated to wear a face mask when out of doors. The local government wants the public to photograph or video and report any violations so authorities can follow up.

## **HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (APR 12 - 19)**

Some of what made our News Reel this week

### **Qatar urging a show of love for environment [\(4/12\)](#)**

The Doha Environmental Action Group in Qatar has tips for potential litter quitters: "Start with the basics, put your trash in the bin." #keepqatarclean

### **Cannibal rats on the streets of New York [\(4/13\)](#)**

Rats in NYC are eating each other due to a shortage of littered food waste as restaurants remain shuttered and people stay indoors during the pandemic.

### **India launches first Digital Earth Day [\(4/16\)](#)**

How to celebrate Earth Day despite COVID-cancelled group cleanup events? India invented a Digital Earth Day, creating a website of ideas for kids and parents.

### **The should stick to banging pots and pans [\(4/16\)](#)**

First they were banging pans on balconies to applaud health care workers. But when Arun, England's tower-dwellers began sending fiery lanterns skyward to show their thanks, officials rushed to stop that.

### **Arizona quiz has kids talking trash [\(4/16\)](#)**

ADOT, Arizona's transportation department, has started posting quizzes and activities for young people [online](#).

### **Litter Day of Action still on the schedule [\(4/17\)](#)**

Minot, North Dakota will proceed with a scaled-back litter action day. The city condones individuals picking up litter if they keep a safe distance from one another.