

THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

litterpreventionprogram.com

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Fix potholes or pick up litter?

Reacting to a television news story, Ohio's Department of Transportation spent two days last week removing littered disposable face masks from the shoulders of Highway I-90. The occasion allowed an official to ask, "Would you rather us fill potholes or pick up trash?" Described as a "huge problem" in Ohio, litter picking interferes with necessary work like road and bridge repairs. Crews fill 40,000 bags, devote 26,000 hours at a cost of \$4 million a year in District 12 (Cleveland) alone, one of 16 state districts.



BC lookouts marred by shell casings

Photo, above: Too bad Kelowna, BC's gun enthusiasts aren't more enthusiastic about a clean environment. Shooters have ruined the appearance of dozens of Okanogan Valley beauty spots and vistas by littering the ground with their spent shotgun shell casings, which are plastic. South Okanogan Trail Alliance has started a [petition](#) calling for a shell casing buy-back program.

EDITORIAL

A litter setback

COVID-19 isn't helping the environmental sustainability cause. From PPE littering to a return to plastic bags and takeout cups, more single use items are being added to the waste stream. Coupled with group projects being nixed and cities now mired in complex problems that keep litter low on most politicians' priority lists, the crafty coronavirus challenges us to be more creative and more persistent in our fight against litter.

Soap celebrity sounds off

UK television actress Jessie Wallace, star of the BBC soap opera EastEnders, revealed her acute distaste for littering to her legion of fans on Twitter. In a post to her 86.4K followers she decried the "disgusting, selfish" people who littered in a North London Park she had visited on Thursday. "Just take your rubbish home with you!!!" she ranted.

Paper runs essay contest

North Island Gazette is a small community newspaper making a big contribution to the fight against litter. The Port Hardy, BC paper sponsors an essay contest on the topic of why people litter the area and what can be done about it. This week's entrant suggested that people could "learn to not be so lazy".

DID YOU KNOW?

Drinking on Cocoa Beach, FL will be allowed again beginning June 1. Police have already begun to make it known they want visitors to clean up their trash. A littering epidemic swept that same beach a few weeks ago when beachgoers left behind 13,000 pounds of litter over the first days of reopening.

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (MAY 17 - 24)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

High fine proposed in France over face masks [\(5/20\)](#)

A French legislator wants people who litter face masks to pay through the nose. MP Eric Pauget, a right winger, has proposed a no mask littering bill and a €300 fine to replace the existing penalty for common littering, €68.

New maps a boon for Europe's litter tracking [\(5/20\)](#)

Digital maps of seafloor and beach litter are now on view online. Produced by [EMODnet](#), a free gateway to European marine data, the maps can be found [here](#).

Prince Edward Island women do the job [\(5/21\)](#)

Amid a host of cancelled clean-ups due to COVID-19 fears, the P.E.I. Women's Institute plowed ahead with its weekend event by changing the emphasis from working in groups to working alone. That's the spirit!

Litter prevention for children available [\(5/22\)](#)

Despite cancelled classroom visits Mississippi DOT continues to make its "Don't Trash Mississippi" litter prevention program for K-5 students available online. It features an animated [video](#) starring Myrtle the Turtle.

Town of Piney is angry at the railway [\(5/22\)](#)

Piney, Manitoba has unloaded a list of complaints onto the desk of Canada's national railway, CN. One thorny issue is the garbage strewn near work sites and left there indefinitely. "Littering is awful, all along the tracks," councillor Ken Prociw told local media outlet, Steinbach.