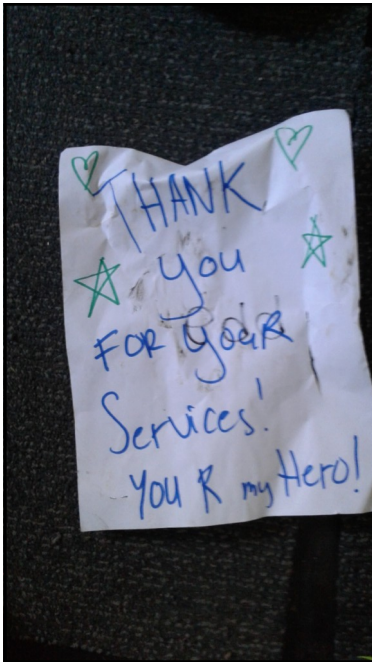


THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

litterpreventionprogram.com

May 31, 2020



Littering can be accidental. Attaching a thank-you note with flimsy tape outdoors in the wind? Not a good idea. It will end up as litter on the ground like this handmade sign saluting health care workers did. While not intentional, it's still littering.

Corner Brook, Canada is a prevention leader

May is Clean Up Month in Corner Brook, Newfoundland, even in a COVID year. City staff used this month for education and events, including our favourite, Ca\$h for Cup\$, a month-long buyback program for disposable coffee cups. Other events on the roster include: Campsite Clean Up, Car Litter Prevention, , Curbside Giveaway Weekend, Spring Clean Up and Community Clean Up.

'Ontario: Do better!'

The publisher of *Litterland* says Ontario needs to tidy up its plan for action on litter. In a letter May 26 to Jeff Yurek, the minister in charge, Sheila White said in a letter that the first ever Day of Action on Litter on May 12 and its web-based campaign material "falls well short of what is desirable." You can read the letter, critique and background [here](#) in a blog post.



"Ontario's environment ministry should have the word 'litter' on its [home page](#) and content that matches the importance of the subject ."
-- Sheila White to Ontario's Environment Minister

French alarm over PPE litter in the sea

Operation Clean Sea (Opération mer propre) grabbed [international attention](#) after releasing a video documenting "virus litter" languishing on the floor of the Mediterranean Sea. Fearing a growing pollution problem, the French environmental group filmed used gloves and masks among the underwater trash they surveyed in a seabed near the Antibes resort on the Riviera. In Paris street cleaners are on edge due to the frequent emergence now of PPE litter.

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (MAY 24-31)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

Ravenous rats compete for scraps (5/25)

The US Center for Disease Control reports a surge in aggressive rat behavior in major cities during the pandemic. Reliant on garbage, the rodents are starving due to an absence of restaurant food waste and litter.

Los Angeles crackdown may be coming (5/27)

LA City Council has ordered a report from staff on how to best crack down on people who litter PPE.

McDonalds' drive-throughs reopening in UK (5/28)

MP Stephen Crabb said he has been assured of three daily litter picks around McDonalds outlets when the chain reopens all 1,000 of its UK locations for drive-through and delivery by June 4.

Fifty years later, Green Up Day still a go (5/28)

Coronavirus hasn't curtailed Vermont's get up and go. The private, non-profit Green Up Vermont went ahead with Green Up Day on Saturday anyway to mark the event's 50th year while incorporating safety steps like physical distancing in the cleanups.

Memorial Day madness closes beaches (5/28)

Memorial Day weekend in New York prompted the closure of beaches in the Hamptons due to over-the-top littering by an inconsiderate throng. In Ventura County, CA, Paradise Falls was closed [for the same reason](#).

UN study tracks plastic pollution

The United Nations has documented plastic marine litter's journey in Asia from beginning to end. Funded by Japan, the UNEP study, "Promotion of Countermeasures Against Marine Plastic Litter in South East Asia and India" identified key plastic leakage hotspots at nine sites in Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam and India. Researchers hope the findings will guide the development of targeted, local solutions.

DID YOU KNOW?

Keep America Beautiful just announced 47 recipients of merit-based grants totalling more than \$500,000 for tackling cigarette litter. Since the inception of KAB's Cigarette Litter Prevention Program in 2002, funding has assisted 1,800 communities in reducing cigarette butt litter by 51 percent on average.