

# THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

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Top: Tobacco giant PMI steps up a campaign for smokeless nicotine products as one solution to cigarette butt littering. At right, Clean Up Britain and InYourArea.co.uk gang up against littering.



## [Sixty thousand flip-flops at island atoll](#)

In the environmentally sensitive Seychelles Islands scientists and 12 volunteers from Oxford and Seychelles Universities removed an accumulated mess of plastic, including fishing gear and 60,000 stray flip-flops from Aldabra atoll in the Indian Ocean in five weeks in 2019. The footwear comprised roughly 25 per cent of the 20 tonnes of plastic waste removed, which represented just five per cent of what's there, say the authors of the [study](#), now out, that examined the cost of cleaning up.

## [One billion masks vs. butts](#)

Canadian ocean plastics expert [Dr. Max Liboiron](#) of Memorial University, Newfoundland says the proclivity of cigarette butts concerns her more than the one billion masks reportedly littered in the past year. That's because the masks are tending to stay land-based whereas a lightweight, polluting cigarette butt quickly and easily finds its way into waterways after a smoker litters it. Watch a short [video](#) featuring Dr. Liboiron's work studying plastic trawls.

## [New group collects/counts cups](#)

Muskoka, Ontario known for its lakes and idyllic cottage life is where Gravenhurst resident Christina Hunter and her year-old, 196-member *Trash Walking Cup Count Muskoka* [Facebook group](#) are ridding the landscape of littered coffee cups one cup at a time. Altogether they've removed 2,820 of them and plan to continue.

## [This is the Plastic Age: study](#)

An article in the journal *Antiquity* deems we're in the Plastic Age now. Researchers unearthed 2,000 hidden litter items dropped by visitors over 35 years at two historic sites in Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, Wales. Plastic - children's lunches were singled out as a source - dominated, a concern because of its ability to destroy nature.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Guidelines for Canada's manufacturers should be in place by December 2021 to try to control the use of misleading marketing words such as 'flushable', 'recyclable', 'compostable' and 'biodegradable' on products. A joint federal-provincial committee (CCME) hopes "to facilitate a common understanding and better inform purchasing, recycling or disposing of these products." Explaining the definitions to the public will be the job of local jurisdictions and waste managers, an Ontario official told *Litterland*.

## HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (JAN 10 - 17)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

### **Floating garbage islands choke Balkan rivers** [\(1/5\)](#)

Drina River in Bosnia is in sad shape. Islands of floating garbage have clogged the river and threaten water problems for Serbia and Montenegro and the workings of a Bosnian hydroelectric dam in nearby Visegrad. Complicating a chronic problem of sloppy waste handling and management, on Tuesday winter flood waters spilled over a landfill site, creating a crisis.

### **Youth go on a cleaning mission** [\(1/5\)](#)

Remnant party trash left irresponsibly beachside around Mandasa, India spurred a youth group to form *Great Mandasa, Clean Mandasa* to reverse the litter tide by cleaning areas every Sunday and holiday and educating tourists about hygiene and cleanliness as they go.

### **Their resolution? A litter-free New Year** [\(1/6\)](#)

A Treasure Island, Florida [group](#) held its first litter pick of the year on January 1, declaring 3.82 miles of beach litter-free after clearing 600 pounds of trash from it.

### **Snow-riding litterbugs get a cold reception** [\(1/6\)](#)

Naicam Snowblasters in Humboldt, Saskatchewan put out a press release telling snowmobilers to quit littering.

### **Texas offers student grants** [\(1/7\)](#)

Don't Mess With Texas has \$9,000 available to award Texas youth with smart environmental plans and action.