

THIS WEEK IN “LITTERLAND”

litterpreventionprogram.com

January 31, 2021

[Study looks at litter as a habitat](#)

A [study](#) emanating from University of Nottingham has something good to say about litter in urban rivers, but its authors don't want their findings to encourage any more littering. In the three local rivers they studied the scientists found more invertebrates such as snails and insects in littered items than on rocks. Litter such as plastic bags harboured more life and diversity.

[‘PPE disposal problem’ alarms](#)

Three researchers from Guelph University in Ontario, Canada decided to count littered face masks, gloves and wipes and were alarmed by the prevalence of the PPE littering problem. They sampled six locations in west end Toronto. These included a river trail, around a hospital, two grocery store parking lots and two residential neighbourhoods. In five weeks in an area the size of 50 football fields, they found 1,306 littered PPE products, said the [study](#) published in the science journal, “Environmental Pollution”. Almost half (44%) were gloves, then masks (31%) and wipes (25%). Single use items dominated their pick, (97%).



[Severe plastic trouble in the Balkans](#)

Two weeks ago [Litterland](#) reported plastic plaguing Bosnian and Serbian waters, choking rivers and threatening hydro plant operations. Pictured above, the scene on the Lim River by the Potpec Dam in Serbia. Troubles continue.

[Canada’s plastic pact debuts](#)

Canadian industry players announced their #CanadaPlasticPact, a promise to control plastic pollution through investments in better recycling and new packaging. See the [website](#). Critics says the plan isn't good enough if it doesn't include cuts in plastic production.

[Ireland’s clean standard tested](#)

Winners of Ireland’s tidiest towns competition have been announced, with Kilkenny taking top spot and Ballymun landing in the dumper. Judges noted COVID-19 has affected Ireland’s level of cleanliness: an increase in littered coffee cups and PPE litter, mostly masks. More towns were less neat than in previous years. IBAL, the business group against litter, and national environmental agency, An Taisce, sponsor and run this contest.

Kudos to Durham Region in southern Ontario near Toronto for [publicizing not to flush sanitary wipes!](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

Dogs in the UK put out 3,000-plus tonnes of pooh per day. dogfoul.org, - “We Watch. You Pay.” - reports a spike in mismanaged pooch deposits during the pandemic. The Daily Mail described the pooh-adorned trees in certain towns as “the hanging gardens of jobbylon”.

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (JAN 24 - 31)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

Canadians concerned about plastics: poll [\(1/26\)](#)

Canada is banning the sale and use of six egregious single-use plastic items by the end of this year. A new Abacus Data poll conducted for Oceana Canada hints that most Canadians would agree to further bans.

Sri Lanka, India, the Maldives part of project [\(1/27\)](#)

Dr. Hussain Rasheed Hassan, environment minister for the Maldives, launched the Promise Project aimed at attacking litter in the Lakshadweep Sea tourist clusters. First Lady Fazna Ahmed urged citizens to change their habits and litter-educate themselves and their children.

‘A Litter and Fly-tipping Free Wales’ unveiled [\(1/28\)](#)

The Welsh government is seeking public feedback on its national anti-litter plan, which includes an awareness campaign and a deposit return system for containers.

Pairing volunteers with 3,600 km of roads [\(1/28\)](#)

Ireland’s Meath County Council launched the Green Kilometer: Adopt 1 km of road and keep it nice for a year. Native trees and litter gear are given as rewards.

Holy sh*t! Doggy doo-doo plagues UK [\(1/30\)](#)

Judging from The Guardian, UK’s nine million dogs need to better train their handlers to take full poop bags home if bins are unavailable or closed. The paper reports an “excremental” problem of dog poop dumping.