

THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

litterpreventionprogram.com

February 28, 2021

Cycling rules

Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI), world governing body for cycling, is cracking down harder on littering with an edict some may argue is overdue. Its newly published guide notes higher littering fines in a fresh package of rules approved by the UCI board for road races. UCI says it represents two billion cyclists globally, 197 cycling federations, five continental bodies and 1,500 pro riders. "Riders can no longer empty their pockets on the road. We use the public roads and if we want to continue using them, then we have to clean-up our sport," said UCI's president, David Lappartient.



THE 'BARE' FACT: This bear was sculpted using remnant plastics gathered in litter picks to illustrate how huge the littering problem is.

Clean Up Australia Day next week

As a country and a continent, Australia asks its populace to attack the job of litter removal during Clean Up Australia Day every March. Businesses are requested to roll up their sleeves on March 2. On March 7 the schools participate and March 9 is a rally cry to the entire nation. Annual cleanups are well-meaning, essential awareness-boosters, but progressives point out that Australia lacks a universal container deposit system and could be doing more to curtail the use of plastics at source.

Portland does some heavy lifting

Droves of volunteers in Portland, Oregon, 270 in all, descended on the downtown Wednesday and gave it a scrub. They hauled more than 3,000 pounds of rubbish off the ground and used the proper means of disposal to contain it all. The group SOLVE forged alliances with business groups and has sponsored six monthly cleanups since September and claims credit for removing 20,000 pounds of litter to date.

Sarnia has a champion in Carole

If every neighbourhood had a Carole Mitro living there, the world's litter problem would be well on its way to being eradicated. Carole has taken her knack for solid citizenship to the next level in Sarnia, Ontario, lobbying her politicians and city departments, doing more than her share of litter picking and writing to corporations she feels share in a duty to solve the litter problem. From just "a small portion" of the city, including three main city parks, the Northgate neighbourhood, plus a small corner of the Village of Point Edward, Carole and helpers she recruited stuffed 1,036 plastic grocery bags with the trash other people had mishandled. Now she's looking for earnest backup from the city fathers and mothers and provincial highway authorities. *Litterland* will keep you updated on her progress. Thank you, Carole!

DID YOU KNOW?

NGO, [Waste Africa](#)'s one-day training for commercial litter pickers earned praise from Nigeria's Secretary of State. The program, funded by Swiss Embassy in Nigeria, Chanja Datti recycling company and the Coca-Cola Foundation, gave health and safety training plus access to subsidized health insurance and PPE to 500 litter collectors in Abuja.

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (FEB 21 - 28)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

Tsunami litter creates underwater nightmare [\(2/21\)](#)

The world's largest "[ocean floor landfill](#)" is in the Strait of Messina, which contains more than one million items per sq. km., a University of Barcelona study reports.

County aims to stop littering after trend up [\(2/22\)](#)

Prince Edward County, Ontario is poised to step up enforcement and require anti-litter signage at drive-thrus after noting an uptick in littering in 2020. It was regarded as the top drag on regional tourism by 700 respondents in the county's online survey.

Earth-loving group at work in Saudi Arabia [\(2/23\)](#)

A new group in Saudi Arabia, "Love Earth", hosted a litter awareness workshop in Jeddah, part of its plan to take the Pathways to Sustainable Living program into schools and workplaces and also to sponsor cleanups.

California cannabis growers volunteer to help [\(2/25\)](#)

Santa Barbara's cannabis farmers removed 150 pounds of litter from the [local watershed](#) as a corporate gesture.

Why not skip the straw? Good question. [\(2/26\)](#)

The fact that this special day doesn't get its fair due, well, it sucks. The final Friday in February is National Skip The Straw Day in the US. Plastic straws are on the litter pollutant hit list. Use a reusable substitute or none at all, recommends the sponsoring group.