

# THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

[litterpreventionprogram.com](http://litterpreventionprogram.com)

April 18, 2021

## Toronto pulls plug on its cleanup

COVID-19 has put a halt to the annual Earth Day cleanup in Toronto, Canada. In the face of a province-wide, stay-at-home order and now a wholesale lockdown for six weeks, holding Clean Toronto Together was deemed unsafe. In Hamilton, Ontario, where cleanup events happen all year, they were to [continue with conditions](#) - solo pickers and family groupings only, equipment supplied, register one week in advance and wear a mask while working, but that may be on hold now. Back in Toronto, Scarborough resident Cheryl Benson received emails from city employees last week insisting that her ongoing litter-picking efforts weren't allowed. Cheryl, a member of the new, eastern offshoot of People Against Littering, an Ontario Facebook group of active pickers founded in Brampton that's gathering steam, cleaned up a park anyway. When asked, Toronto's cleanup program manager told *Litterland* there is no policy against litter picking during a stay-at-home order. On April 9 Mayor John Tory announced the [deployment](#) of 150 vehicles and 1,400 employees to tackle the mess.



"Give a hoot about littering," a wise owl once said. We can all be wise.

Solo litter picking is allowed during the pandemic if the applicable law permits outdoor exercise and work that cannot be done remotely to continue.

## Rolling up their sleeves in PEC

The eager beavers of Prince Edward County bill their annual Earth Day Trash Bash on April 24 as "an outdoor socially distanced event." Home Hardware stores in Wellington and Picton are depots for picking up free bags and gloves and Midtown Brewing is one of the drop-off points. About 60 people are [registered to participate](#).

## Cycling body flip flops after flap

UCI, the global governing body for cyclists, is [backpedaling](#) after its two-week-old, hard line rule against littering failed its first test. At the Tour of Flanders on April 4 racer [Michael Schär](#) was automatically [disqualified](#) after he tossed a water bottle outside a designated litter zone. [Hue and cry](#) from cyclists and teams led the world federation this week to rethink and relax the rule and penalties. Instead of instant ousting, a fine and point deductions will precede disqualification and other options for dealing responsibly with empties and other discarded waste were added.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Great Britain's [Million Mile Beach Clean](#) "aims to inspire 100,000 volunteers to walk 10 miles while tidying up." In a survey, 54% of Brits blame COVID-19 for a surge in plastic and in waste (59%) and 51% say they see more plastic on the beach than wildlife.

## HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (APR 4 -18)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

### **During COVID climbing lull, trash is taken out (4/5)**

A Sherpa-led team carted 2.2 tonnes of orphaned trash from a now-quiet Mount Everest base camp in Nepal.

### **Developing nations get help tackling plastics (4/8)**

A UN-backed program, GloLitter Partnerships Project, will help 30 developing nations reduce marine litter.

### **Two friends won't let sleeping masks lie (4/11)**

Rather than ignore littered PPE on their walks, Montreal friends Elizabeth Barbosa and Alcina Lopes picked it up: 3,500 masks and 200 gloves so far in their area.

### **Students have \$1,000 incentive (4/13)**

Senior students in Jefferson Co. Alabama will vie for \$1,000 in cash for their school by creating captivating litter video PSAs and garnering the most 'likes' on social media for them, part of the [Litter Quitters](#) program there.

### **Fed up council raises fine to check littering (4/13)**

Trafford, UK will boost its litter fine to £150 from £100 and double the dumping fine to £400. Council is fed up with the rise in littering during the COVID-19 era.

### **Litter pick loan hub established (4/13)**

The easier it is made to pick up litter the more inclined people will be to do it. So teen George O'brien set up a loan hub for litter picking equipment in Barnard Castle, UK. Local toy store, Connelly's, stored the gear for him.