

# THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

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

February 6, 2022

## Feathered friends forage for filters

Södertälje, Sweden, near Stockholm, announced a new addition to its cleaning staff: wild crows trained to pick up cigarette butts. A concept borrowed from Dutch inventors and put into action in 2018 at a French amusement park, the use of crows pits bird sense against birdbrains, i.e. smokers who litter the plastic filter tip when they have concluded their smoking. *Litterland* Vol. 5 Issue 26 reported that the historical theme park, Puy du Fou, in France employed six crows to fetch butts and deposit them in a special bin in exchange for an edible reward. The idea was the invention in 2017 of Dutch start-up Crowded Cities and its founders Ruben van der Vleuten and Bob Spikman.



## UN concerned about butts

United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the World Health Organization said Wednesday they will jointly run a social media campaign to try to reduce the gross pollution caused by wrongly disposed and mishandled cigarette butts. Under the Clean Seas initiative the agencies will enlist Goodwill Ambassadors and Young Champions of the Earth as well as influencers to push for responsible disposal.

## #ChalkOfShame campaign

In Pune, India chalk drawings and comments relay the idea that cigarette butt littering must stop. The innovative #ChalkOfShame project draws attention to butts on a well-travelled, paved footpath by circling and numbering them, drawing illustrations and writing messages and slogans using environmentally friendly chalk. Puneri Ploggers began the project last October, involving between 80 and 100 volunteers every weekend.

## Nature Foundation partnership

In-No-Plastic, a 10-country, 17-member coalition, led by the Nature Foundation of St. Maarten, plans to address the "devastating" plastic litter that's contaminating fresh water preserves which shelter wild birds uncommon to the Antilles region. A number of "social strategies" will be adopted including communications and cleanups.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

Staff at the City of Toronto want views from residents about restricting the public use and sale of fireworks. Send comments to [MLSFeedback@toronto.ca](mailto:MLSFeedback@toronto.ca) by February 22. See [the city's fireworks brief](#).

## MP seeks ban on plastic in cigarettes

Animal rights party PvdD in the Netherlands is pressing to ban the use of plastic in cigarette filters to eliminate the pollution they cause. A parliamentary motion was introduced Thursday. The Dutch tobacco industry VSK admits plastic in filters is a problem and pledged to better inform consumers.

## **HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (JAN 30-FEB 6)**

Some of what made our News Reel this week

### **Tampa Bay gets on top of parade litter** [\(1/31\)](#)

As soon as Tampa's Gasparilla festivities ended, 400 volunteers began cleaning up after the world's third-largest parade and its 300,000 spectators. Among items rescued for recycling, tens of thousands of strands of plastic beads before they wound up in the drains.

### **They do a month-long winter pick here** [\(1/31\)](#)

High Point, NC starts its 6th Winter Wipeout on Feb. 7.

### **Medical waste tenfold increase a threat: WHO** [\(2/1\)](#)

In a report Tuesday the World Health Organization said COVID-19 medical waste threatens human and environmental health. A pile-up of used PPE, test kits, vials, syringes and needles has created a disposal crisis consisting of dumping and unsafe incineration releasing carcinogens into the air. Backgrounders [here](#) and [here](#).

### **Post office outdoor mailbox litter at issue** [\(2/1\)](#)

The council in the town of Ajax, Ontario is looking at paying a waste hauler \$20,000 to clean up unwanted junk mail people drop around Canada Post mailboxes.

### **Florida poised to make changes, smokers** [\(2/3\)](#)

A committee of the Florida Legislature passed two bills on Thursday as a first step to ridding state beaches of littered cigarette butts. If law, local councils will have the power to impose bans and create designated zones.