

THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

litterpreventionprogram.com

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Photo, above, an arresting 30-foot sculpture by Canadian artist and activist Benjamin von Wong stands outside UNEP headquarters in Gigiri, Nairobi, Kenya, site of the [UNEA-5 conference](#) on stemming the world's plastic pollution crisis.

UNEP marks 50 years

At a crucial period of environmental sensitivity for the world the United Nations Environment Program [marked its 50th anniversary](#) at the global UNEA-50 conference in Nairobi where more than 100 countries agreed to begin the hard work of negotiating the agreement for cutting global plastic production, sale and use. The next two years will be spent spelling out the details for a legally binding global treaty by 2024 to stem plastic pollution.

These cafes do their part to stop litter

Thanks to *Litterland* readers in Toronto for noting that changes are brewing at the city's more progressive cafes. Places like [Lourdes](#), [Poured Coffee](#) and others don't offer takeaway cups at all. Bring your own or sip your java in-house.

DID YOU KNOW?

Wirral Deen Centre in Birkenhead, UK is running a [litter poster contest](#) that offers a £100 prize for the poster best illustrating a no littering, no fly-tipping message and depicts litter's harm to wildlife. The focus then is on preventing litter rather than clearing it after it happens.

Australia focuses cleanup on mask retrieval

This year's Clean Up Australia Day will concentrate on one item: masks. Organizers have called on "citizen scientists" to enlist in the effort to remove the piling proliferation of plastic masks that has created a disaster for the environment and wildlife.

Top ten excuses officers hear from litterers

People who litter offer one of ten excuses for littering after receiving a ticket, say officers in South Oxfordshire, UK. These excuses are helpful to know before entering a discussion with a litterer. By knowing them in advance, time can be taken to prepare an informed and effective response that may get that person to stop littering. Here are the top ten excuses of the untidy: 1) I didn't think a cigarette butt was litter. 2) It was already littered so it won't matter if I add some more. 3) I didn't know it was against the law. 4) I didn't know you could be fined for dropping litter. 5) I'd have to walk all the way over to the bin. 6) I keep the road sweepers in a job. 7) You go and stop others first, then I will stop. 8) It's bio-degradable. 9) I couldn't see a bin. 10) There are no signs about not littering.

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (FEB 27 - MAR 6)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

California out to be a model for litter action [\(2/28\)](#)

If you want some inspiration, take a look at the follow-through on Governor Gavin Newsom's promise: "Clean California", a \$1.1-billion program run by Caltrans that puts litter prevention front and centre. [Video](#). [Website](#).

Artist opens a museum of waste [\(3/2\)](#)

Ibadan, Nigeria is home to the Waste Museum, a showcase for art, furniture and fashions created from waste materials. According to its founder, visual artist Jumoke Olowookere, 44, it's Africa's first such venue.

Litter-trapping device in waterway is working [\(3/2\)](#)

In Baton Rouge, LA a \$1,200 litter boom has netted 900+ pounds of litter since it was installed last May.

A day for highlighting smokers' negligence [\(3/3\)](#)

Keep Pearland Beautiful held its annual Cigarette Butt Litter Awareness Day that is devoted to picking up cigarette butts at 20 intersections in town.

Help wanted for Butt Blitz across Canada [\(3/3\)](#)

A Greener Future is recruiting volunteers for April's [Butt Blitz](#) to collect cigarette butts in 33 Canadian cities.

Louisiana chief takes a stand against littering [\(3/3\)](#)

Sterlington Police Chief Barry Bonner issued a missive on Facebook saying, in part, "I can honestly say I have never seen so much total disrespect for our community than what I have been seeing the past few years." He called on townspeople to stop turning a "blind eye" and to hold each other accountable for littering and report it.