



ONTARIO DAY OF ACTION ON LITTER 2020

Keep Hamilton Clean and Green Meeting

September 15, 2020

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- The **Provincial Day of Action on Litter** is celebrated on the second Tuesday of May each year in Ontario. However, due to COVID-19, Ontarians are being encouraged to make efforts to take action against waste during '**Waste Reduction Week in Canada 2020**'.
- Ontarians are taking action to reduce the amount of waste going to landfills or becoming litter by bringing awareness to the impacts of waste on our environment and encouraging people to take action at home and in their community to help keep our environment clean and healthy for generations to come.
- Reducing litter and waste in communities, encouraging meaningful local environmental actions, and keeping the province clean and beautiful are key commitments in the Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan.

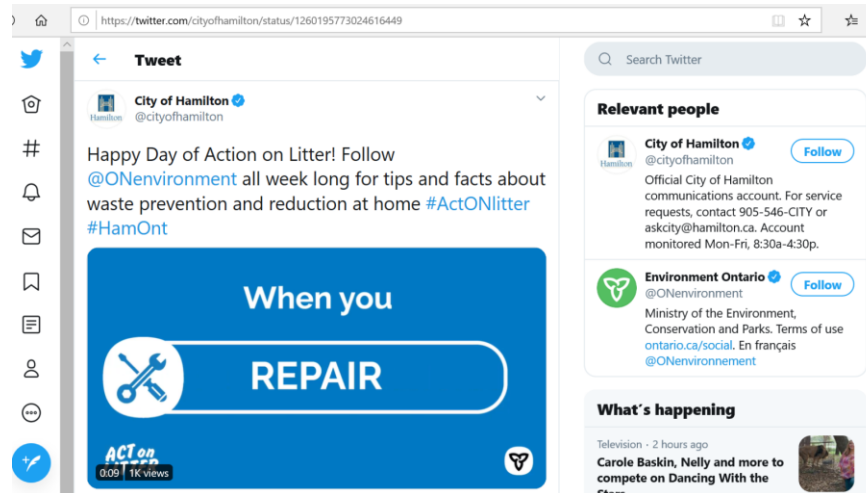
Day of Action 2020

- This year, the **Provincial Day of Action on Litter** was held on May 12, 2020.
- Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, actions were restricted due to social and physical distancing measures. However, action could still be taken to put litter in its proper place.
 - **Reducing waste:** giving old products new life instead of throwing them away.
 - **Diverting waste:** recycling or composting materials when and where possible to divert waste away from landfills.
 - **Preventing waste:** stopping waste before its created.
 - **Properly disposing waste:** making sure anything that does belong in the trash, such as disposable gloves and masks, is placed in properly tied or sealed garbage bags to keep our neighbourhoods clean and safe

Supporting the Call for Action

- On May 12, 2020, the City of Hamilton supported the call to action by posting the following advertisement and information, although group activities were unable to be held due to the COVID-19 closure.

<https://twitter.com/cityofhamilton/status/1260195773024616449>



Why it Matters

- Ontario generates nearly one tonne of waste per person every year. It is estimated that almost 10,000 tonnes of plastic debris enter Ontario's lakes and rivers each year.
- When food and organic waste breaks down in landfills it produces harmful greenhouse gases. Ontario's greenhouse gases from solid waste in landfills totaled 3.4 million tonnes CO₂e (carbon dioxide equivalent) in 2018.
- Waste that doesn't get recycled or go to landfills, ends up as litter in environment, which can have a negative effect on local ecosystems.
- Litter along our shorelines, in our green spaces and on our streets can spill into our waterways and break down into micro-plastics in the environment, which can hurt or even kill wildlife and damage ecosystems.

What Can Be Done

- **‘Waste Reduction Week in Canada 2020’** is October 19th – 24th and is focused solely on the principles of circular economy, resource efficiency and waste reduction.
- **‘Waste Reduction Week in Canada’** further provides information and ideas to reduce waste in all facets of daily living, creating the solutions to the many environmental challenges we face including climate change, water pollution and preservation of natural resources.
- Organizing an event during **‘Waste Reduction Week in Canada’** is an excellent way to engage the community in the 3Rs and circular economy. Although many in-person events may not be possible this year due to COVID-19, it is encouraged that participants to get creative and organize low-risk and virtual events.

Thought, Ideas & Suggestions

Does the Keep Hamilton Clean and Green Committee have any thoughts, ideas or suggestions on initiatives that directly correlate and/or support the **‘Ontario Day of Action on Litter’** and **‘Waste Reduction Week in Canada 2020’**?

Questions?



Hamilton

THANK YOU