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Provincial posted April 15, 2017 by Laurence Watt



## Plastic bags and cigarette butts top the list of items littering Canadian shorelines

According to the Vancouver Aquarium, over 40,000 plastic bags were found on Canadian shorelines in 2016.



**Vancouver Aquarium** 

@vanaqua

 Follow

Over 40,000 plastic bags found on Canadian shorelines in just one year... save an animal's life & use reusable.

2:15 PM - 13 Apr 2017

  19  22

Unfortunately, plastic bags make up only a small fraction of the overall litter washing up on Canada's shorelines.

Indeed, the Vancouver Aquarium and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) compiled a list of the 12 most collected items of litter found washed up on Canada's shores in 2016.

### Canada's dirty dozen list

Last year's 12 most collected items of litter.

 1. Cigarette Butts <b>445,915</b>	 7. Beverage Cans <b>25,045</b>
 2. Food Wrappers <b>79,339</b>	 8. Other Plastic Bags <b>21,282</b>
 3. Plastic Bottle Caps <b>42,997</b>	 9. Metal Bottle Caps <b>18,285</b>
 4. Other Plastic & Foam <b>35,005</b>	 10. Plastic Lids <b>17,819</b>
 5. Plastic Beverage Bottles <b>31,541</b>	 11. Construction Materials <b>16,887</b>
 6. Straws & Stirrers <b>25,612</b>	 12. Plastic Grocery Bags <b>16,860</b>

[shorelinecleanup.ca](http://shorelinecleanup.ca)

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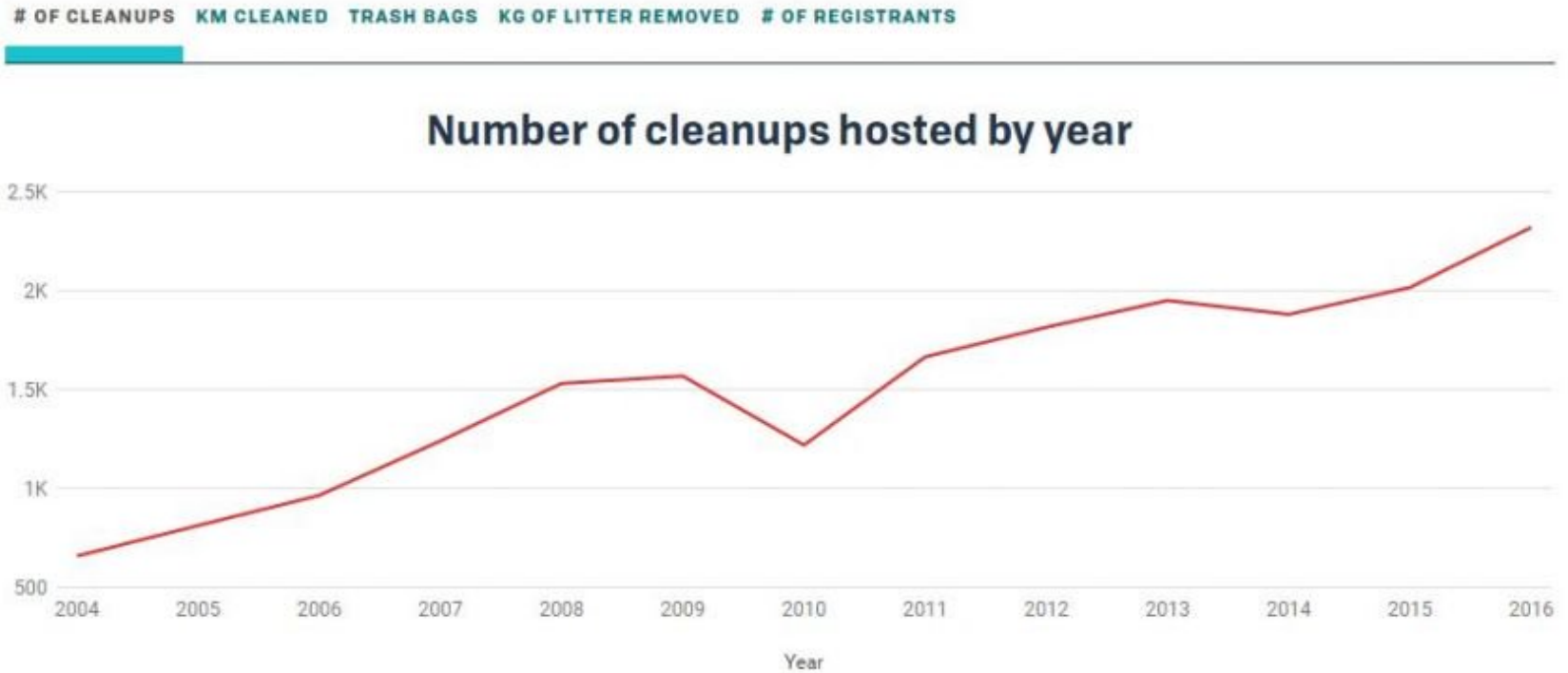
Cigarette butts topped the list of collected litter with a whopping 445,915 Butts being collected by Canadian clean up crews.

Food wraps came in second with 79,339 collected and plastic bottle caps in third with 42,997.

Other popular items included plastic beverage bottles, straws, beverage

cans, metal bottle caps, construction materials and plastic lids.

On a brighter note, the number of cleanups hosted in Canada has increased substantially over the past decade. In 2015 there were around 2,400 cleanups hosted in Canada compared to 650 in 2004.

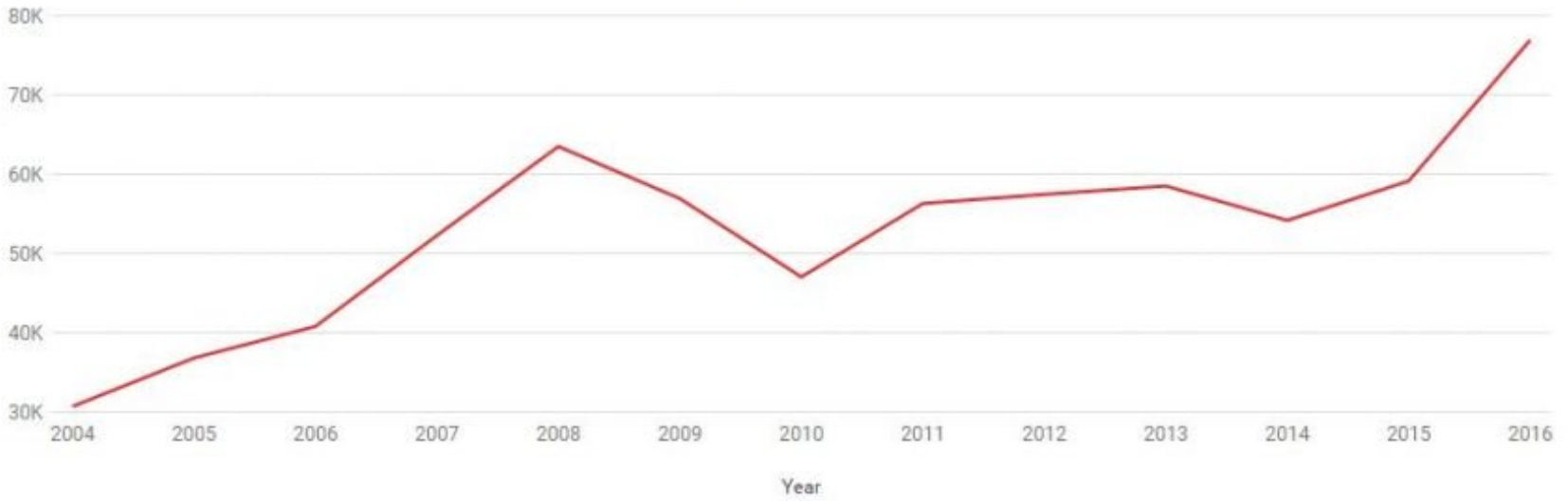


[shorelinecleanup.ca](http://shorelinecleanup.ca)

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As well, the number of registered volunteers to help clean up shorelines has increased in recent years as well. In 2015 there were close 80,000 volunteers registered compared to just under 50,000 at the end of 2009.

## Number of registrants by year



[shorelinecleanup.ca](http://shorelinecleanup.ca)

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If you're interested in helping clean up Canada's shores and play a role in protecting sea life, the Vancouver Aquarium and WWF recommend purchasing and using reusable materials and register to be part of a cleanup crew.

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[Technology](#) • Jul 11, 12:00pm

This interactive map shows all of B.C.'s wildfires



[Kelowna](#) • Jul 11, 11:30am

Kelowna responds to B.C. wildfires with offers of care



[Business](#) • Jul 11, 11:00am

Salvation Army assisting thousands in midst of B.C. Wildfires



[Provincial](#) • Jul 11, 10:30am

UPDATE: 'Crews had a good day,' Gustafsen fire stays at 5,000 hectares



[Kelowna](#) • Jul 11, 10:20am

Knox Mountain Drive is now fully closed



[Provincial](#) • Jul 11, 09:40am

UPDATE: Ashcroft wildfire grows to 7,300 hectares, out of province help on the way

[Provincial](#) • Jul 11, 09:00am

UPDATE: Princeton fire grows by 35% overnight



# TRAIN LIKE A PRO

*The best athlete is made during the off-season*



[Baseball](#) • Jul 11, 08:53am

Kelowna Falcons break losing streak



[Kelowna](#) • Jul 11, 08:39am

Spaceport Union to play in Kelowna July 15th



[5 Things](#) • Jul 11, 08:15am

5 things you need to know this morning: July 11



[Sports](#) • Jul 11, 08:08am

Gardiner Signs AHL Contract

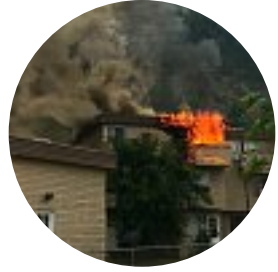


[Food & Wine](#) • Jul 11, 07:35am

Beat the heat with a free Slurpee from 7-Eleven today

[Vernon](#) • Jul 11, 07:15am

Crews battle Vernon apartment fire through the night



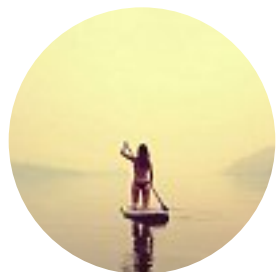
[Must See Video](#) • Jul 11, 06:50am

VIDEO: Escaping through a B.C. wildfire



[Kelowna](#) • Jul 11, 06:45am

A month of declines in Okanagan Lake levels



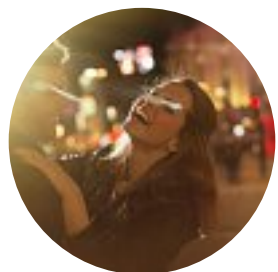
[Health](#) • Jul 11, 06:25am

Special air quality statement: 'Avoid strenuous outdoor activities'



[Food & Wine](#) • Jul 11, 06:00am

Starbucks comes out with a summer menu makeover



[The Style Diaries](#) • Jul 11, 06:00am

Outfit ideas for 5 Okanagan date nights

[In Focus](#) • Jul 10, 11:55pm

In Focus | Dr. Hilary Hart, DC



Provincial • Jul 10, 07:07pm

If you want to help evacuees, the TNRD has setup a central place for your generous offers



Central Okanagan • Jul 10, 06:30pm

PHOTOS: The best of the week for the Central Okanagan



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