

TD Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup

2009 Quick Facts

What:

Q: The TD Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup is...

- a) A national conservation program of the Vancouver Aquarium, which began with a group of Vancouver Aquarium employees in 1994.
- b) An environmental initiative supported by TD Bank Financial Group for over 13 years through founding partner TD Friends of the Environment Foundation.
- c) An annual initiative encouraging Canadians to improve local environments by removing litter from local shorelines.
- d) One of the largest cleanups in the world contributing to the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup.
- e) An annual cleanup that happens on the third Saturday of every September.

A: All of the above!

Who:

This environmental initiative is open to everyone and anyone who cares about the environment and is willing to help make a difference. People from all walks of life and hundreds of communities across Canada have participated through one of two ways:

1. Organizing a cleanup by becoming a **Site Coordinator**.
2. Registering to participate in someone else's cleanup by becoming a **Site Participant**.

Visit www.tdgcsc.ca to create an account and register today!

You can also check out www.tdgcsc.ca/connect to sign up for our e-newsletter, join us on [Facebook](#), follow us on [Twitter](#), and view us on [YouTube](#) and [Flickr](#)!

It's a perfect opportunity for school groups, community groups, corporate groups, families and concerned individuals to join a hands-on conservation program.

In 2008, over 63,000 Canadians registered for the TD Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup, and in only one week participants removed 135,467 kg of litter from 1,531 registered cleanups.

When:

The 16th annual TD Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup starts Saturday, September 19 and runs through Sunday, September 27, 2009.

Where:

A shoreline near you! Canada is home to the world's longest shoreline and wherever land meets water, shoreline litter will be found. There are over 2,000 sites waiting to be cleaned and many more yet undiscovered. Visit www.tdgcsc.ca to find a shoreline near you that needs help!

Why:

The impact of litter in the environment extends beyond the aesthetics of litter along river banks, streams, and shorelines. Aquatic litter can leach harmful chemicals into the water, be accidentally eaten by wildlife, or entangle aquatic animals such as otters, sea turtles and birds. It is estimated that over one million seabirds and 100,000 marine mammals and turtles die annually through entanglement and the ingestion of litter. It is also estimated that 80% of aquatic litter found in water originates on land¹.

The TD Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup brings communities together to achieve real measurable impacts on the environment both globally and locally. By participating in the TD Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup, people can change attitudes and behaviours towards littering and the items that end up either directly or indirectly in our oceans and waterways. Through individual action, nearly 2.9 million kilograms of shoreline litter has been removed from the Canadian ecosystem since 1997.

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¹ Faris, J. and Hart, K., *Seas of Debris: A Summary of the Third International Conference on Marine Debris*, N.C. Sea Grant College Program and NOAA, 1994.

TD Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup

2009 Historical Program Information

Registration Highlights (1997-2008)

	Total	2008 only
Registrants	265,252	63,491
Registered cleanup sites	6,426	1,531
Weight of litter removed (kg)	667,000	135,467
Distance of shorelines cleaned (km)	10,836	2,152

2008 Dirty Dozen List

Ranking	Item	Total Items Recovered
1	Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters	322,780
2	Food Wrappers/Containers	106,468
3	*Bags (Plastic)	84,552
4	Caps, Lids	64,638
5	Beverage Cans	41,573
6	Cups, Plates, Forks, Knives, Spoons	37,249
7	Beverage Bottles (plastic) 2 litres or less	36,554
8	Beverage Bottles (glass)	29,353
9	Straws, Stirrers	26,941
10	Bags (Paper)	24,887
11	Rope	17,286
12	Tobacco Packaging/Wrappers	16,358

** Number is an estimate based on a subsample of 192 sites.*

List of Select Unusual Items Found to Date

- Parking ticket machine
- Bag of stolen purses
- Hood of a 1942 Mercury Truck
- Statue of Ganesh
- Message in a bottle
- Hot dog cart
- "Royal Order of the Screechers" Certificate
- Half of a park bench
- A whole pizza
- Last will and testament
- Canoe made of duct tape
- 18 k gold ring
- Rickshaw
- Top of parking meter
- Celine Dion albums
- Living room set
- Underwear
- Reel to Reel tape player
- Stolen car
- Barbecues (14 in 2006)
- White Spot Uniform
- Late 1800's wagon cart
- Gun barrel
- Snow Ski
- Toilet seat nailed to lawn chair
- False teeth
- 10lbs bag of onions

For more information on the TD Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup or Vancouver Aquarium, please contact:

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