

Ril Lake – The Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup – History and Background

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The Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup originated in 1994 through the Vancouver Aquarium. It started with a group of people cleaning a shoreline in Vancouver's Stanley Park and has grown to over 47,000 registrants nationwide. It is now Canada's largest contributor in the global effort in bringing awareness and community participation of litter and debris covering coastlines causing harm to the wildlife, ecosystems and human health. (Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup 2011.)

Ril Lake has been involved in this program since 2008 with great success. Despite the fact Ril Lake residents are diligent in keeping the lake clean, we still managed to find a significant amount of litter in and around the lake. The event is held the 3rd week of September and all are welcome to participate.

The following is data on the garbage and debris collected taken directly from the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup website at: <http://shorelinecleanup.ca/en> and I encourage all Ril Laker's to browse this website to learn more of the continued efforts of community members in their monitoring efforts.

Facts & Figures

Item Collection Highlights from 2010

Past Cleanups Total Results for 2010

Year	Registered Sites	Distance Cleaned (km)	Garbage bags	Weight (kg)*	Registrants
2010	1,219	2,235	11,989	98,071	47,027
2009	1,568	2,457	15,930	160,914	56,916
2008	1,531	2,152	13,202	135,467	63,491
2007	1,240	1,772	13,473	87,489	52,263
2006	965	1,640	8,867	84,735	40,781
2005	812	1,477	10,383	78,356	36,798
2004	658	1,147	9,319	64,988	30,676
2003	477	771	5,438	49,859	20,015

*Note weights are based on participants' estimates only

Recovered Litter Items: Breakdown by province and activity

Province	Shoreline and recreational activities		Ocean waterway activities		Smoking related activities		Dumping activities		Medical personal hygiene activities	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
British Columbia	126,228	45.8	13,511	4.9	126,139	45.8	7,355	2.7	2,422	0.9
Alberta	28,526	51.9	1,156	2.1	23,488	42.7	1,446	2.6	391	0.7
Saskatchewan	3,084	59.7	233	4.5	1,681	32.5	72	1.4	97	1.9
Manitoba	4,250	68.8	199	3.2	1,569	25.4	110	1.8	49	0.8
Ontario	151,738	61.8	6,428	2.6	82,099	33.5	3,011	1.2	2,119	0.9
Quebec	30,613	69.9	1,579	3.6	9,526	21.8	1,150	2.6	897	2.0
New Brunswick	6,259	55.6	1,306	11.6	3,024	26.9	534	4.7	137	1.2
Prince Edward Island	1,735	48.9	1,563	44.0	96	2.7	66	1.9	91	2.6
Nova Scotia	7,212	44.8	2,235	13.9	5,827	36.2	312	1.9	516	3.2
Newfoundland and Labrador	5,853	62.7	1,315	14.1	1,626	17.4	380	4.1	155	1.7
Nunavut	4,611	64.2	575	8.0	1,341	18.7	552	7.7	101	1.4
Northwest Territories	813	53.0	12	0.8	583	38.0	93	6.1	34	2.2
Yukon	437	73.4	16	2.7	100	16.8	12	2.0	30	5.0

Canada's Dirty Dozen List For 2010

2010 Rank	Item	Number of Items Collected
1	Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters	227,830
2	Food Wrappers/Containers	83,660
3	Bags (Plastic)	55,880
4	Caps, Lids	55,443
5	Cups, Plates, Forks, Knives, Spoons	28,755
6	Beverage Bottles (plastic) 2 liters or less	28,462
7	Beverage Cans	27,126
8	Bags (paper)	23,410
9	Straws, Stirrers	19,668
10	Beverage Bottles (glass)	18,217
11	Tobacco Packaging/Wrappers	13,340