

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Linda's Story

"A group of old friends like to walk most mornings, and being so close to beautiful Lake Ontario, we often walk along its shore.

One day, while walking the beach, we were horrified to discover an obscene amount of garbage which had been thrown up onto the beach after a winter storm. The amount of small plastics mixed among the usual debris was simply shocking and heartbreaking. We later learned that a major source of the tiny plastic pollution in the lake can come from cigarette butt filters made of cellulose acetate, which is not biodegradable.

We knew right then that we absolutely had to do something.

Sometimes you just have to ask yourself, "if not me who?" and "if not now when?"

We're thrilled to report that with the encouragement of BurlingtonGreen and the help of the City of Burlington and Burlington Transit's neighbourhood community matching fund we have installed 10 cigarette butt recycling units, operating successfully throughout the city.

Look for them on John St. at the bus terminal, Joseph Brant hospital (emergency entrance), Appleby and New St, and Prospect and Guelph Line by the Burlington Centre.

In just 4 months we have recycled 15 pounds of cigarette butts which would otherwise have found their way into the lake!

Clearly this is just one small step in the battle to clean up our beaches and waterways, but the results are heartening.

What my friends at BurlingtonGreen have shown me is that environmental solutions do exist, and that when enough people start taking small steps to change behaviour it really can lead to something with a much bigger impact.

I encourage everyone to take their first steps toward helping our planet to heal and I'd like to thank everyone involved in getting this project off the ground...literally!

Remember to spread the word that it's not ok to throw cigarette butts away".

- Linda (far right in photo)



BurlingtonGreen

Together we make a difference