

Metroland – Letters to Editor

Bag ban's a waste of time

Mon Sep 17, 2007

To the editor:

I'm concerned with local elected government officials wasting time and public money.

Case in point: the dreaded retail plastic bag.

Sure the Region has decided to put off a ban on these things, but this decision is small comfort on the "waste" this proposal has created thus far.

The fallacy that banning these items will dramatically alter our environment is based on ignorance, misguided emotions and "junk science". Research, throughout the world, has proven these bags represent between .03 and 1 per cent of an average landfill.

These bags are also the most recycled (around the home) forms of packaging available. Reports on how our Regional Chairman is pleasantly surprised with retailers actively supporting this issue is also an eye roller.

This so-called "saving the environment" endeavour, resulting in consumers paying for their own "recycled" bags, is a financial windfall for these companies both in savings (not having to provide bags) and added substantial profits by way of the "recycled" bags sold.

It's also strange how these concerned companies never offer these savings/profits as donations to environmental research. So please, public officials, do a bit of research before jumping on a bandwagon to nowhere.

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