

**From:** Carolyn Lance [<mailto:clance@georgina.ca>]  
**Sent:** September-21-17 9:45 AM  
**To:** Raynor, Christopher  
**Subject:** Banning Plastic Grocery/Retail Bags in Georgina

Good morning Mr. Raynor.

Please be advised that Georgina Town Council at its September 13<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, considered the attached correspondence from Jill Smith, requesting the consideration of a ban regarding the use of plastic grocery bags in retail stores within Georgina.

Town Council passed the following motion:

**That correspondence from Jill Smith suggesting a ban of plastic grocery bags in retail stores within Georgina toward a step in saving our environment be received and referred to the Georgina Environmental Advisory Committee and to the Region of York for their consideration and comments.**

In addition, Council suggested that if a total ban of plastic bags was not agreed to, that serious consideration be given to the use of biodegradable plastic bags as opposed to the current **non**-biodegradable plastic bags.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and any comments you may forward.



**Carolyn Lance**

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Jill Smith

Keswick, ON

August 3, 2017

Margaret Quirk & Town of Georgina  
26557 Civic Centre Road,  
Keswick, ON L4P 3G1

Dear Ms. Quirk,

**RE:** To ban plastic grocery/retail bags from retail stores in Georgina.

I would like to thank you for inviting me to outline my idea in a letter for council to consider.

Why bother?

1. Marine debris is the rubbish of our everyday lives; it travels over land, down streams, rivers and storm drains to our lakes and our oceans. Plastic grocery bags make up a lot of that debris, and unfortunately, plastic breaks down into smaller particles that get ingested by water critters we eat. They have even found plastic particles in zooplankton (the bottom of the food chain).
2. There is a LOT garbage in our lake. Our dive club (Adventure Sports Newmarket) "Dives-Against-Debris" every spring in Jackson's Point to collect trash from the bottom of the lake. We barely scratch the surface.
3. Entanglement – many fish and turtles find themselves entangled in plastic bags (and other trash).
4. Communities around the world are starting to ban plastic grocery bags (California, Hawaii, Kenya, Italy, many African countries, and even China)!

Because working toward saving our environment has become the new, "sexy" trend, there are a lot of hip and fashionable solutions to plastic grocery bags, produce bags, etc. There is a great deal of plastic in our lives, I know, and it seems an overwhelming task, but I don't know how else to begin, than to just begin, even in small steps.

I have included possible alternatives to plastic grocery bags at the end of this letter, because I don't think any new change can be successful without offering other possible strategies to replace the status quo.

Is Georgina ready for this step?

Respectfully yours,



Jill Smith  
Georgina Resident, and scuba diver who has fallen in love with the marine critters, and our beautiful Earth.

## **References:**

The ugly journey of our trash: <https://www.projectaware.org/infographic>

Zooplankton discovered with plastic compounds in their tiny stomachs:  
<https://thinkprogress.org/zooplankton-are-eating-plastic-and-thats-bad-news-for-ocean-life-dbc31be8ae2b>

## **Alternatives to plastic bags:**

Made from old T-shirts for the crafty (no sewing required):

**Pros:** Re-using!

**Cons:** You have to spend some time to make it.

<https://www.mommypotamus.com/no-sew-t-shirt-tote-bag-tutorial/>

Paper bags (still charge per bag at retail level):

**Pros:** Paper biodegrades much quicker than plastic and is not as harmful to the environment when it does degrade into smaller particles. Also, because most paper bags come from tree farms, not natural-growth forests, there is a change in attitude about how harmful paper is.

**Cons:** There still is the cost and pollution caused by manufacturing paper bags to consider. What is the lesser of the two evils?

Boxes:

**Pros:** Re-using boxes discarded by the grocery store (Food Basics, etc)

**Cons:** Not all grocery stores are set-up to do this.

Re-Useable bags:

**Pros:** They are strong, and can be used over and over again.

**Cons:** You have to remember to bring them into the store with you.

Totes (boxy with handles):

**Pros:** Use over and over again (multiple use)

**Cons:** You have to remember to bring them into the store with you.