

LOCAL COUNCILLOR, BUSINESS SUPPORT SINGLE-USE PLASTICS BAN

3 MILLION TONNES OF PLASTIC WASTE THROWN AWAY EVERY YEAR IN CANADA

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The federal government is planning to ban harmful single-use plastics — such as shopping bags, straws and cutlery — by 2021 as part of the efforts to reduce Canada's plastic waste.

Statistics from the government's website reveal that up to 15 billion plastic bags are used in the country every year and about 57 million plastic straws are used every day. They contribute to the 3 million tonnes of plastic waste that Canadians throw away per year.

Ward 1 Coun. Kristina Tesser

Derksen calls the plan a step in the right direction.

"We become so reliant on plastics, particularly single-use plastics, that I don't think it's sustainable," she said. "Canada should try and be a leader in reducing single-use plastics and encouraging sustainability."

Locally, she believes people in Milton are "smart enough and care enough" about the environment to make the behavioural shift, even though it may not always be easy in the beginning.

"(It) can end up in the long run being better for everyone," she said, noting there are many environmentally friendly alternatives to everyday items like plastic straws, cups, bags, water bottles and takeout containers.

Many businesses have also sprung up around the sustainability movement, she said.

Some restaurants such as the Green Eatery use biodegradable

takeout containers, while the recently opened Kind Matter store offers plastic-free gift items like reusable straws and metal lunch boxes.

Entrepreneur and artist Laura Newton told the Milton Champion that one of the reasons why she started Kind Matter was to make people more aware of the problem, as it is "bigger than most of us can even imagine."

"Also, there is a different way and a better way that we can all be sort of living day to day that isn't going to contribute to increasing the amount of garbage and plastic and whatnot in the landfill and in the ocean," she said.

For her part, all of the store's products come in compostable or recyclable packing, as that's what she expects from her suppliers. Newton also orders items in bulk instead of placing orders every week or two that should help reduce emissions from the shipping.



Bambang Sadewo/Torstar

Laura Newton is the owner of Kind Matter store in downtown Milton.


"There are many things that we can think of that really make a huge impact," said Newton.

As for what the town can do, Derksen said councillors and other community leaders should be on the front lines to encourage people and show them that there

is a greener way to go.

"I think in the long term, the cost of not reducing single-use plastics is going to be a lot more burdensome for us," she said, understanding that some exceptions have to be made when it comes to medical supplies.

MILTON DISTRICT HOSPITAL FOUNDATION'S
19TH ANNUAL
Classic Golf Tournament
Monday, September 23, 2019
RattleSnake Point Golf Club



11:30 am Registration & Lunch
1:00 pm Shotgun Start
5:30 pm Cocktail Reception
6:00pm Dinner & Auction

Includes: Green Fees, Cart, Lunch, On-Course Contests, Awards Dinner, Wine, Silent & Live Auctions

Pricing
\$1,250 Foursome w/ Hole Sponsor
\$1,000 Foursome
\$300 Hole Sponsor
\$250 Individual Golfer

Prize Sponsor
CIBC Wood Gundy
The HazenHays Investment Group
Media Sponsor
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WOODBINE MOHAWK PARK
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Dinner Sponsor: UNIFOR Local 414
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Bag Drop Sponsor: FGI
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Auction Sponsor: D. GRANDIS

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STEAM-ERA
AT A NEW LOCATION:
Hume's Auction Farm
9313 Fourth Line, Milton

Steam engines, antique tractors, Antique Vehicles, gas engines, tractor pulls, plowing demonstrations, threshing competitions, antique military equipment, craft vendors AND SO MUCH MORE!

FRIDAY NIGHT-CONCERTS @7pm
Sarah Smith and Tianna Woods in support of the Townsend-Smith Foundations

August 30 - September 2, 2019

