

What a bunch of garbage

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By Bill Fox

Aren't you fed up with all this garbage? As an asthmatic, I am sick and tired of the thought that some 'intelligent' people have decided a new incinerator should be placed in Durham Region. It borders on scandalous that young lungs may possibly suffer to ensure each of us saves money on garbage disposal costs!

In my "Zoomer" head, I am trying to put all this garbage into perspective. We have been made very aware of recycling efforts, but what happened to the rest of the equation? Let's start with a few points I never hear any more:

REDUCE: When the "No Frills" store concept began, the focus was on less packaging, NOT yellow distinctive packaging. What happened? For those of us old enough to remember, the idea was for example, for cookies, we would not need a package with individual rows, within another package, just one bag full of cookies. Even our local "Bulk Barn" stores, who have made a start, still fall far short of what we had once expected would lead to a new style of shopping. We still need to REDUCE packaging.

I hear comments from many readers of this paper, that they are pleased they do not get endless advertising supplements with their Oshawa Express. The local competitor's paper can have up to 10 or more supplements for their weekend editions. What happens to all this advertising? It just creates more garbage, which is hopefully ALL recycled. You think? Why not REDUCE the garbage at the source?

To my way of thinking, it is a credit that some stores no longer offer free plastic shopping bags. For months now, I have become accustomed to bringing in my recyclable shopping bag into grocery stores. I no longer even feel embarrassed, and actually joke about bringing in my A&P bag into our local Independent store. If every grocery store (or consumer) had to pay a tax of 50 cents for each plastic shopping bag that went out of the store, do you not think we would quickly get rid of this garbage?

RE-USE: If you do the shopping in your household, you know about plastic liquid detergent and bleach bottles. I think it is time we re-filled these containers right in the stores. I recently bought a very large substantial container of liquid laundry soap. I thought it quite a waste to dispose of this heavy plastic into the recycling box. When I buy Spring Water at the store, I bring in my blue bottle, and receive a \$10 credit for my new purchase of Spring Water. Many stores now feature refillable water containers that you simply refill in the store. Why stop with water? In purchasing any shampoo or any liquid that is used in the home, there should be the option of refilling our old containers, or re-purchasing new plastic ones.

A friend who lives in a rural area of Port Perry is sickened with the coffee cups that litter his roadways. Maybe it is time that stores and manufacturers take on more of their responsibility for our garbage. After all, it seems to me, that they create it and pass it on to us. While some coffee shops now have refillable cups, maybe there should be a five cent surcharge for paper cups. Instead of promotions like "roll up the rim", they could have "fill up the bin".

Experts tell us that food prices are going to increase dramatically very soon. Perhaps we can lessen the hardship to our budgets by demanding that food be sold with less packaging. Please send your suggestions and comments to BillFoxExpress@hotmail.com.