

NOTICE TO ALL ORILLIA RETAILERS

New Plastic Bag By-Law

Starting January 1, 2010, all retail business establishments in the City of Orillia including retail outlets, fast food restaurants, and convenience stores will be required to charge a minimum five-cent (\$0.05) fee for each plastic shopping bag they distribute. Both the number of plastic bags provided to a customer and the total amount charged needs to be indicated on the customer transaction receipt if one is issued. Bags excluded from this requirement include:

- Bags used to package bulk items such as fruit, vegetables, nuts, grains, candy, or small hardware items like nails and bolts;
- Bags used to contain or wrap frozen foods, meat or fish, flowers or potted plants (whether pre-packaged or not);
- Bags used to protect bakery goods;
- Bags provided by pharmacists to contain prescription drugs;
- Newspaper bags;
- Door hanger bags (holding advertisements, coupons, etc.);
- Laundry dry cleaning bags;
- Bags sold in packages containing multiple bags intended for such uses as garbage bags, pet waste bags, yard waste bags, or recycling bags.

It is noted that the retailer is to retain the revenue from this fee – it is not remitted to the City of Orillia. Retailers are encouraged and required to allow customers to use clean and sanitary reusable bags/containers of a reasonable size. The purpose of this by-law is to help the environment by encouraging consumers to use fewer plastic bags, use more reusable bags/containers, and reduce the number of plastic bags sent to landfill.

For a copy of the relevant sections of this by-law, please visit the City's website at: **www.city.orillia.on.ca**

If you have any questions, please call the Waste Management Advisory Committee at 329-2452 or Greg Preston (Superintendent, Waste Management) at 325-2444. Thank you