



Greg Piper, MP
Member for Lake Macquarie



Media Release

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KEEPING PLASTIC BAGS OUT OF TORONTO

In response to community concerns, Member for Lake Macquarie Greg Piper has set the ball rolling in a campaign to make Toronto a voluntary "plastic shopping bag free" town.

In response to suggestions by Carey Bay resident, Henry Wellsmore, Mr. Piper recently called a meeting with Henry and Toronto Tidy Towns Committee members.

The meeting decided to embark on a program called "Turning Toronto Green". Mr. Piper and the Tidy Towns Committee will be seeking the cooperation of Woolworths, Coles and the new Aldi store when it opens. There will also be a survey of other businesses to gauge support for phasing out disposable plastic shopping bags.

"This is a great first step," Mr Piper said. "With a little encouragement the community can help greatly reduce a major source of environmentally damaging litter."

"Toronto has had recent success in the Tidy Towns program and this campaign fits perfectly with that. Further, as a lakeside village there is an obvious link to the impacts on our lake environment from litter" he said.

"I thank Henry Wellsmore for suggesting this campaign and I'm confident that with the support of Kelly Hoare and others in Tidy Towns and the Chamber of Commerce, it can grow to include the whole Toronto community."

The "Turning Toronto Green" campaign will include public education and look at ways of encouraging public participation.