

What does BYOB mean? It used to mean bring your own booze to my Saturday night BBQ, but now it means bring your own bag when shopping for booze. In Ontario, LCBO has phased out plastic bags and stopped offering them.

It reminds me of the time my daughter forgot her lunch bag at school so the next morning I grabbed a plastic bag out of the heap and threw her lunch in it and sent her off. I didn't realize until she came home that my young daughter had been toting around a liquor store bag all day. Great! My daughter's school rivals Hollywood for the speed at which wicked rumours spread and I am sure the other moms noticed.

I think it is fantastic that



LCBO is reducing plastic bags, by about 80,000,000 each year according to their press release. That translates into cleaner soil and waterways, as plastic does not actually biodegrade but rather breaks down into smaller toxic pieces that enter our environment through soil and waterways. It also translates into fewer marine mammal deaths as there will be fewer discarded bags for them to mistake for food. For more information on plastic bag statistics and what other countries are doing, check out <http://www.bringyourbag.com>. For

example, Ireland has reduced the number of plastic bags handed out at check outs by more than 90% since 2002. Why not Canada?

To continue a valuable tradition, the LCBO will be supplying paper bags. However, rethink hiding that bottle in a brown paper bag as they aren't much better for the environment than plastic bags. Best choice is to put your booze in a reusable bag.

If you do forget your bag, you can buy reusable LCBO bags. You can choose different types of bags depending on whether you are a beer drinker or like me, prefer the hard stuff. In my case, I think I'll bring my own. My five year old doesn't reach for plastic when she needs a bag, and I don't think I can stand the rumours.

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