

## CITY HALL

Bag ban passes: ‘I know myself and my entire class were very happy’



Hampton High School Grade 10 student Victoria Pitre was one of five students from an environmental science class who attended Tuesday's Hampton Council meeting to show their support for a bylaw banning the single-use plastic grocery bags. The bylaw passed unanimously, earning applause from the students.

Photo: Submitted

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Justin Samanski-Langille | Kings County Record

The Town of Hampton council chambers were filled with the rare sound of applause Tuesday night as council unanimously approved a bylaw banning single-use plastic grocery bags as of June 30.

That applause came from Hampton High School teacher Laura Myers and five of her environmental sciences students who attended the meeting to see if their advocacy efforts had paid off.

"I know myself and my entire class were very happy, " said Grade 10 student Victoria Pitre. "We all take the environment seriously and having the plastic bags banned made us really happy. That's what we were hoping for."

The 15-year-old said council's passing of the bylaw showed her the community's decision-makers care about the environment and about the voices of its residents, regardless of age.

"We just thought if we showed our support by taking the time to be there, it would show how important it is to us."

The Town previously said the new bylaw is a result of the Fundy Regional Service Commission no longer recycling plastic bags and brings Hampton in line with other municipalities receiving waste services from the RSC who have approved a near identical bylaw. Quispamsis, Moncton and Dieppe approved similar bans in recent years.

Council was quick to note the students' presence in the chambers Tuesday night, and Coun. Todd Beach acknowledged the impact their presence had on the bylaw's success.

"It should be noted this bylaw did not come into play without a lot of support from the people in the community, notably the folks sitting here, and lots of other folks at the high school, " said Beach.

Myers said watching council pass the bylaw was a significant teaching moment for her students, showing how their individual decisions can have an impact on the decisions made on a large, municipal scale.

"I think they are understanding they have a role to play, and people want to hear them, " said Myers. "Decisions being made on the municipal level, the provincial level, the federal level, they can have an impact on that. Sometimes it is just a matter of writing a letter or attending a council meeting. Being there [Tuesday] night in person, I think was very impactful."