

## Roncy Reduces: a community initiative


Our goal is to reduce single-use plastics and packaging in our neighbourhood by encouraging consumers and businesses to practice waste reduction together. We hope that you want to help, too.

The plastic we use and throw away every day is poisoning our planet. Plastic does not decompose: it only breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces. Plastic packaging is almost always new plastic made from fossil fuels, and we produce a lot more of it than we can recycle. In Canada, only 9% of all plastic gets recycled. 91% ends up in our landfills where it survives us all, or it gets shipped overseas with some of it ending in our oceans. It is a terrible thing to leave behind for future generations.

### How it works

Over 70 Roncesvalles shops and restaurants have our **Roncy Reduces/ BYO** sticker at the door to let you know that they accept your reusable container. This includes coffee cups, water bottles, net or cloth bags for produce, bread and bulk food, reusable containers for takeout food and deli items such as meat, fish and cheese, jars or bottles for soap, detergent and shampoo and of course a reusable shopping bag. Others display the sticker

because they sell those reusable containers, produce bags and cups.

And  participate by bringing your own containers, coffee cup and bags when you go shopping. Your choices count: the more plastic we avoid, the more packaging-free products will be offered, and the more will be reduced.

### Save money, help the environment and start 2020 with smaller garbage and recycling bins: participate in our Downsize-Your-Bin Contest...

When you reduce your single-use plastic, you have a lot less garbage and recycling every week. Why not trade in your big bins for smaller ones, and enter the Downsize-Your-Bin contest? You could win a **\$100 gift card** for a participating Roncesvalles business of your choice!

- 1) Register with us at [roncy.reduces@gmail.com](mailto:roncy.reduces@gmail.com).
- 2) Start reducing plastic and other waste.
- 3) Order (at least 1 size) smaller of both - **blue and grey - bins** from the City of Toronto online at [www.toronto.ca/home/311-toronto-at-your-service/bins/](http://www.toronto.ca/home/311-toronto-at-your-service/bins/) or call 311.
- 4) Email us a picture of you and your new bins, along with a screenshot of the bin order.

New extended deadline: Jan 10, 2020.

Five winners will be drawn from the submissions.

You can save nearly \$200 if you replace your large bin with a medium bin this year!

Make the change!

### Seven things you can do today

1. Carry reusable bags wherever you go. No shame in that!
2. On the go? Carry your own water bottle and reusable coffee cup. Say 'no thanks' to single-use coffee cups and bottled water.
3. Be picky when buying produce: choose unpackaged spinach, carrots, cucumbers, mushrooms, ginger etc. over clamshell containers, plastic bags and Styrofoam trays.
4. Bulk up! Rice is just as nice when you fill up your own container or reusable bag. (Or beans, chocolate chips, flour... the list goes on and on.)
5. Takeout? Of course! But bring your own container.
6. Hand or dish soap, shampoo or laundry detergent? Try refilling and restocking in your neighbourhood.
7. Look for products in returnable containers.

## Where you BYO on Roncesvalles:

### Fruit and veggie stores

Sorauren Farmers' Market, Maple Produce, Roncesvalles Fruit Village, Master Supermarket

### Bread and baked goods

Hot Oven, Mabel's, Chicago Bakery, Sobeys

**Bulk goods** (e.g., rice, beans, nuts, flour, coffee, tea, chocolate chips, nut butter & more) Evergreen Natural Foods, Kim Natural Foods, Tealish, Herbal Dispensary

**Fish, meat, cheese** De La Mer, Meat Department, Rowe Farms, Thin Blue Line

**Milk, yogurt, cream** (in returnable bottles) Evergreen, Kim Natural Foods, Sobeys

### Soaps, detergents, shampoo

Pollocks Home Hardware, Ecotique

### Restaurants, bars & takeout

The Goods, Pizza Defina, Café Polonez, Round the Horn, Gabby's, Maiz, Cider House, Tibet Bar & Grill, Sunrise Grill & Crepe, The Local, La Cubana, Tuk Tuk Canteen, The Dizzy, Aniq, Thai Chef, Cinco, Sushi on Roncy, Alimentari, Simple Kitchen, Lebanon Express, Barque, Stamp's Lane Eatery, a.m. bagels, Dönerland, Shadi Shawarma

### Coffee shops

Extra Butter\*, Reunion Island, Cherry Bomb, All That Jazz, Lit, Sunny Joe's, Fantail Café\*, Tim Hortons, Starbucks (\*offer new return & deposit coffee cup)

### Ice cream, chocolate, juice

Chocolateria, Ed's Real Scoop, Village Juicery

**Tools to shop zero-waste** (e.g., jars, produce bags, containers, beeswax wraps) Ecotique, Pollocks Home Hardware, Mercantile, Scout, Cookery

## An inspiring story

Roncy Reduces was started in January 2019 by a bunch of Roncesvalles neighbours who wanted to do something about our plastic problem instead of just reading about it. It's been a great success story, with over 70 businesses on Roncesvalles participating, news reports on CBC radio and television, Toronto Star, Blog TO, Toronto.com and others.

And Roncy Reduces has inspired other neighbourhood groups all over Toronto and beyond. You can now find Junction Reduces, Baby Point Reduces, Beaches Reduces, Danforth Reduces, Kingston Road Reduces, Bloor Reduces, Wychwood Reduces, Hillcrest Reduces, Regal Heights Reduces, Downtown Reduces, Bloor West Reduces and even Ottawa Reduces. And groups in Cabbagetown, St. Lawrence, Leslieville, Caledon, Davisville Village, Richmond Hill, Bluffs and others are forming.

**Do you have a question? Want to join our team? [roncy.reduces@gmail.com](mailto:roncy.reduces@gmail.com) or find Roncy Reduces on Facebook and Instagram.**

With support from:



## Hey Roncesvalles!

**Let's kick the single-use plastic habit!**



**Look for the BYO sticker at neighbourhood shops**

Bring your own containers, bags, cups, and jars to these businesses so that you can say "no thanks" to single-use plastics.

More than 70 businesses invite you to BYO containers and help Roncy to reduce waste.



Courtesy of Max Gustafson