

Orono Weekly Times – Letter to the Editor

November 30, 2011

Respectful council - not

To The Editor:

Clarington Council's handling of the Heather Olynyk email fiasco is extremely disturbing. I felt that the last election gave way to a kinder, more transparent and respectful council... I was sadly mistaken.

A simple query from a constituent should not have resulted in contacting the police, or name-calling by a rookie councillor. Yet it did. More disturbing was Mayor Foster's initial reaction and subsequent refusal to apologize for it. In a council meeting at which resident activist Jim Richards asked for an apology to Ms. Olynyk, the responses were: defensive by the mayor; rude by Councillor Partner (who responded with an audible snort); and typical by Councillor Novak - who seems to believe that our Council members are celebrities and targets for stalkers.

Let us go back to July, 2010. Then Councillor Adrian Foster stood before council to request an apology to incinerator opponent Richards after he was banned from being a delegation at meetings. While introducing a motion, Councillor Foster said, and I quote: "To apologize is not that difficult..."

The only thing that has changed is that Mr. Richards' target was Roger Anderson, and Ms. Olynyk's was our mayor. I understand that he has been under a lot of stress due to his voting record at Regional Council since the election, however, Mayor Foster missed an opportunity to demonstrate to our residents that Clarington has more going than being stuck with an overpriced polluter disguised as something we need. And for those that say there is no alternative: You haven't been paying attention, nor have you done your due diligence - as most of the opponents have.

The bottom line is that "To apologize is not that difficult."

Steve Conway

Courtice