

Metroland – Letters to the Editor

There's enough air pollution here already

Fri Jan 25, 2008

To the editor:

Re: Burn barrels a pain in the lungs for residents, Jan. 20

When I moved from Toronto in 1994, to Whitby, then Courtice, now Bowmanville, I expected the air to be fresher.

It is one thing to have horses and cows because they were here first and add a rather pungent odour to the environment. I quit smoking years ago and my lungs have gotten worse with allergies and asthma. For years I worked in Markham where there are still country properties and noticed a burning smell in my office 24/7.

Other workers noticed it but it did not bother them. After quitting smoking, all such odours bother my throat and lungs, make me quite hoarse and in need of an asthma puffer. When I went home (Courtice) I noticed the same odour, worse in the summer when my windows were open. I came to the conclusion that it had to be farmers burning garbage. Other people were so used to it that it did not bother their lungs.

We should endorse Toronto's no-idling bylaw and not idle cars and trucks endlessly as I see people doing for no apparent reason. We can have the odd bonfire and marshmallow roast, but with so many houses built in close proximity to farms, the Municipality should not allow farms to burn garbage 24/7.

We have enough pollution with St. Marys Cement, GM, envelope, plastics and steel companies from Whitby to Bowmanville. Just imagine how bad our air will be when they build an EFW plant in Courtice (which is why I just moved from there) for which they will import garbage from the U.S. and Canada to keep it running 24/7 and a paying proposition.

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