

Orono Weekly Times – Letters to Editor
January 30, 2008

Well here's another fine mess

Dear Editor

So local council decided that we are an unwilling host of EFW. So I guess that was easy, we just aren't going to participate. Doing nothing is always easier than trying to direct decisions.

I do not think it was ever a question of "to be or not to be" an EFW. We have little better options in front of us. As the beleaguered Roger Anderson continues to point out, our garbage will not leave Durham in 2011.

Now I understand Adrian Foster moving a motion to be an unwilling host, as his Ward is where EFW might be built. I can only imagine the phone calls he has received over the last few months. I also understand Willy Woo supporting Adrian's motion as Willy's family are long time respected members of Darlington Township (now called Courtice) and living near by the proposed sight. I can partly understand Gord Robinson's position, the alternative benefit, if you want to call it a benefit, would be to expand the use of the Newtonville land fill site that the Durham Region presently has contracts with, until alternative arrangements can be made. My impression of Region is once the alternative temporary Newtonville site is opened, temporary may be up for interpretation. I do have questions of Gord Robinson, as only two days earlier he was explaining to Doctor Jefferson and myself the reason why being an "unwilling host" was a bad idea. Gord outlined to us that our town staff would become redundant and important information might not be shared with Clarington. Obviously, something or someone has changed Gord's mind

Why Ron Hooper supported the motion to take Clarington away from the table I would really like to know. Ron, being a good business man, understands the art of negotiation. You have to be at the table. Standing on the sidewalk looking in is meaningless, as every retailer knows.

By local council taking this action, our Regional

Councillors, Mary Novak, Charlie Trim and the Mayor have been put in a weakened position. Our regional representatives, I believe will have a difficult time being heard. However our Regional Councillors are well respected and that may carry the day.

When Linda Gasser supports landfill as a temporary solution until 100 percent recycling is achieved, I have to praise her ideals, but question her logic. Countries all around the world are working towards this end, 100 percent recycling, but no country has yet achieved this holy grail of a goal. It is important that we keep trying. In the meantime next best is our only option. All of Europe has banned landfills sites because of their negative impact on the environment, and are opting for the cleaner EFWs which has a lower negative impact. They did not say, No Impact, they said lower impact. Doctor Jefferson has pointed out a major concern of EFW's operandi. A very lethal emission from what we understand is going to be proposed: I personally would like to see all our people, councillors and staff at the table to scrutinize what in my humble opinion is going to happen when the construction of an EFW in Clarington begins. After all, countries like Sweden and others in the EU are the leaders in

fine air quality and recycling. EFW's are playing a major part towards their solution and their long term plans are to expand the use of EFW's.

This discussion reminds me of that old Rolling Stone's song, "You Can't Always Get What You Want", but quitting the process is no answer either.

Bill Tomlinson

Citizen of Clarington