

Orono Weekly Times

Letter to the Editor

August 27, 2008

Incinerators from hell (I.F.H.?)

Dear Editor: Roger Anderson, Chair-man, Durham Region, and Clarington's Mayor & Council are betraying the citizens that they were elected, and appointed to serve.

By pursuing the insane future pathway of "energy from waste" (EFW), they are creating for all of us in Clarington an environmental monster. The public should read the excellent letter to the editor (August 13th edition of The Orono Times), written by Florian Levesque, who used to work at Ontario's Ministry of the Environment. His letter clearly states the hazards of incineration of waste. If folks haven't read it, you should! It will strike fear into your hearts about EFW facilities.

To quote Levesque: "The Stockholm convention describes incinerators as a major source of emissions of persistent organic pollutants (POPs). Guess what POPs are made of? Dioxins and Furans (among others), which are two of the most heinous and toxic compounds ever created by man! Because these toxins are carcinogenic and accumulate in the food chain, and subsequently build up in our bodies, what makes them so evil is that man cannot ever get rid of them, and women pass them on to their babies, generation after generation.

Furthermore, POPs cannot be filtered out of incinerator smoke. And will travel on air currents to whichever way the wind is blowing. These POP's will then descend upon our cattle grazing fields, upon our orchards, our vegetable farms, and rivers and streams and fish. Milk from cattle and also cheese will be contaminated by carcinogens, and we shall be eating and drinking these poison-tainted foods as long as EFWs are emitting their smoke.

Under no circumstances should you expect any Ministry of Environment (MOE) studies to tell you the absolute truth about EFWs emissions. The MOEs job is propaganda, making bad news palatable to the public. Big business pushes EFW, and the Ministry does not offend big business interests.

Our local, regional politicians cloak themselves in so-called "respectable" MOE - EFW studies, which seem to absolve our politicians of any responsibility for the toxic ash and smoke that EFWs produce. What's worse, this absolves our politicians from searching any further to obtain further information on Zero Waste Strategies. This is where our politicians betray us!

It is easier for them to build "incinerators from hell" than it is for them to search further on information for Zero Waste Strategies.

How many more leukemias, cancers, malformations and diseases of newborns, etc., are our citizens willing to take? We need to speak out loudly and sanely against such endangerment of our future and our children's future!

You can do two things to help deter the insanity of EFWs. 1) Read the aforementioned letter in the Orono Times (August 13) and 2) Write to your local politician and/or Roger Anderson in strong language to condemn EFWs. If you don't like to write, cut this letter from the newspaper and sign it with your comments. It is time to no longer stand by idly while politicians make insane decisions about the safety and health of our lives. It's time that we take a stand as managers of this, our "little piece of earth". Thank you all.

Anne Anderson,
Orono