

Letter to Editor: Orono Times – June 2/07

Editor: PROUD OF OUR LOCAL COUNCILLORS

In regards to the story in last weeks paper about our council being split on demanding that Durham Region (the proponents of the proposed incinerator) pay the cost of peer review of all studies thus far by their consultants (and costs for studies overlooked by the Region) as they promised, how can this be?

How could our council be divided in asking for fairness and due diligence? That we have Mayor Abernethy and the two Regional Councillors (Trim and Novak) on one side, bowing to Chairman Anderson, and our four Local Councillors on the side of the taxpayers is rather interesting is it not? How can our elected representatives get all the facts before making what will undoubtedly be the most important decision that this council will face this term if we don't have our own planning staff conduct a full review on our behalf?

That these same four Local Councillors (Robinson, Foster, Hooper and Woo) voted to stop Anderson from addressing Council last week was a brave, and in my opinion, wise move. Anderson had made a statement at Regional Council the previous week that our councillors needed to hear a strong message from the Region. Well, seems the Region got a strong message from our Local Councillors, and I, for one, am proud of them; they deserve our collective support. The other two, plus the Mayor are being suckered and bullied by Chairman Anderson and friends, and deserve our scorn.

Once again, if we needed another good reason for direct election of the Regional Chair, this is it!

Why did our Mayor apologize to Anderson on behalf of the people of Clarington over this well-deserved political slap in the face. I don't think it was called for.

Something I read recently compelled me to think of our mayor, and I quote from a book I'm reading, by John C. Maxwell, "He who thinketh he leadeth and hath no one following him is only taking a walk."

Jim Richards,  
Orono