

## Incinerator decision hinges on traffic

East Gwillimbury  
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### Council waiting on results of impact study

*By: Joan Ransberry*

Trucks loaded with trash and rolling through Newmarket day and night aren't getting the green light from Mayor Tony Van Bynen.

Council won't give a proposed \$250-million waste incinerator in East Gwillimbury the nod, at least until results of a traffic impact study are known.

"I don't want to see garbage trucks clogging up already overloaded roads," Mr. Van Bynen said.

Results of a traffic study are expected in September.

Newmarket wants to know how garbage-laden trucks coming from all over York and Durham Region are going to impact the municipality.

If a proposed site on Bales Road in East Gwillimbury becomes home to a planned York/Durham energy-from-waste plant, neighbouring Newmarket will certainly be affected, Mayor Tony Van Bynen stressed.

Garbage trucks will come off Hwy. 400 and Hwy. 404 and travel along Newmarket's Davis Drive to reach Bales Road, the mayor said.

"Newmarket is the most impacted population," Mr. Van Bynen said. "It makes no sense to haul two-thirds of York Region's waste to the north. An incinerator should be located close to the source of the waste, not the farthest away."

The truck route and the three-mile proximity to urban Newmarket prompted council to take a cautious approach before laying out the welcome mat for an incineration facility.

"Even if the site is in a rural area, the trucks have to travel through the urban areas," Mr. Van Bynen said. "As it is, I cannot support this plan."

East Gwillimbury is one of four sites under consideration for the incinerator. The other three sites are in Clarington, in the northeast part of Durham Region. The chosen site will be identified in the fall.

Two weeks ago, York Region revised its agreement with Durham and has committed to only a 12-per-cent interest in the multi-million-dollar incinerator. This means, about 20,000 tonnes of York Region's waste will be burned each year. York creates about 200,000 tonnes of trash annually.

Mr. Van Bynen is not alone in his objections.

East Gwillimbury mayor Jamie Young is also fighting the proposal.

"This is a very serious issue and, we, in East Gwillimbury have very serious concerns about it, and we're not endorsing it," Mr. Young said earlier this month during a meeting to discuss health issues surrounding the burning process.

Newmarket has put York Region on formal notice it cannot support the waste project on Bales Road based on the information available.

As well, Newmarket is demanding a front row seat while the proposed site is analysed.

Newmarket also wants to know how the huge facility will impact air, land and the economy.

The public consultation period linked to the incineration project is drawing to a close: the public has until July 31 to review and comment on the issue. e.ca