

## Waste report a no-go

### But councillor says he sees the tide changing

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By Erin Hatfield

DURHAM -- A request for a comprehensive study of alternate means of managing garbage is treading old ground, says Cliff Curtis, Durham's commissioner of works.

At the Dec. 12 meeting of Regional Council, not only could Oshawa Councillor Robert Lutczyk not get a motion that would have required Regional staff to do a broad report on different forms of waste management, but he also couldn't get the rules waived to even introduce the motion.

Coun. Lutczyk said his attempt to introduce the motion wasn't pre-planned.

"There seemed to be some support out there for looking at putting everything on the table for consideration," he said. "Right now the marching orders are for incineration, but I know a whole lot of people are out there and there are new people on council and there is a greater support of looking at other forms of waste management."

To introduce a motion requires that two thirds of council vote to waive the rules allowing the motion to be brought forward. But, council voted against waiving the rules.

That's just as well, Mr. Curtis said, because the Region has already done extensive studies into forms of waste management other than incineration.

"A major study done in late 90s looking at landfill versus incineration and anything else they could come up with," Mr. Curtis explained. "It came back clearly that landfill was not an option and certainly not a local landfill."

The study came up with a number of points that were incorporated into Durham and York Regions' long-term waste management strategy to effectively address managing waste.

"Those points included maximizing blue box collection, adding green bin and achieving at least a 50 per cent diversion by January 2007, which we did and in fact we are doing better than that."

The final point in the plan is to pursue incineration as the preferred method of dealing with Durham's waste.

Even though he didn't get two thirds this time around, Coun. Lutczyk said he can see the tide changing.

"I am sure that line will be crossed long before we go with incineration," he said.