

## **Regional chairman addresses Oshawa Chamber of Commerce**

### **Incineration, growth plan and the 407 on the menu at lunch**

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By Reka Szekely

DURHAM -- Incineration, the provincial growth plan and the Highway 407 extension were the big issues raised by Regional Chairman Roger Anderson at his annual speech to the Oshawa Chamber of Commerce.

"I think there's some issues we need to discuss and you as business leaders should know what they are," he told the group Wednesday afternoon.

The Province has promised that the 407 extension to Hwy. 35/115 would be complete by 2013. Mr. Anderson pointed out the environmental assessment, however, won't be complete until some time in 2008 or 2009. After that, more than 70 kilometres of road and 15 to 20 bridges have to be built. He added he hopes the project doesn't proceed at the same pace as the Oshawa court house.

He spent a large portion of his speech discussing the Province's growth plan. He takes issue with the employment targets for the Region. Currently, the ratio is 2.7 residents for every one job. Under the province's plan, the ratio would be three residents for every one job and he called that bad policy.

Mr. Anderson hopes students educated in Durham can find jobs here. He points to the land north of Durham College and UOIT as a source of future employment.

"Wouldn't it be nice if we could fill it up with large research and development companies, large manufacturing companies. Wouldn't it be nice if you could get educated, walk across the street and get a job"

He saved the issue of incineration for last, jokingly introducing it as "a little issue we're dealing with in the Region of Durham".

But he was completely serious after that and said he wanted to correct some of the misconceptions around the project, saying it won't cost \$250 million, as opponents claim, it will be closer to \$150 to \$160 million.

"The problem is we can't do a business case until we know the technology," he said, also pointing out that vendors can't be expected to submit proposals until a site is chosen.

Mr. Anderson also said that while it may cost more for the first 10 years to incinerate, there would be savings after that.

As well, he addressed critics who say the Region should focus on diversion.

"The concept of zero waste is a great concept and it's a great goal to get to ... but you and I know it's not going to happen today, it's not going to happen tomorrow and it's certainly not going to happen in five years."