

## **Clarington position won't affect incinerator process: Anderson**

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By: By Keith Gilligan

AJAX -- Clarington council saying the community wouldn't be a willing host to an incinerator won't affect the environmental assessment process Durham Region is currently in the midst of, says Roger Anderson.

In his annual address to Ajax council on Monday, the Durham Region chairman said the EA process is continuing and a decision on whether to build an energy-from-waste facility will be made sometime next year.

Wards 1 and 2 Regional Councillor Scott Crawford wondered about the impact of the Clarington council decision that the community would be an unwilling host.

"Do you see it as a problem? What impact will it have on the ongoing EA (environmental assessment) process," Coun. Crawford asked.

"I don't think there will be any problem with the EA process. The EA is ongoing," Mr. Anderson said. "We'll deal with it as York Region dealt with East Gwillimbury not being a willing host. We'll receive it for information."

On the issue of Durham Region Transit reducing the mid-day service on a south Ajax route, Coun. Crawford questioned how to return service to the previous level.

"Get council to support you," Mr. Anderson said, adding it would cost about \$50,000 to return the service to the previous level.

In all, four routes were reduced and Mr. Anderson stated if one was returned, there would be political pressure to have all of them reinstated.

"You have to be prepared to spend \$200,000 for all the routes to come back in," Mr. Anderson said.

Ward 3 local Councillor Joanne Dies said the reduction affects 2,050 homes and "during the day, they're cut off from the community."

When Coun. Dies asked how the route could be reinstated, Mr. Anderson said, "Money is all it takes."

Mayor Steve Parish raised the issue of Regional representation, noting Ajax has more people than Pickering, yet has one less Regional Councillor.

He noted Oshawa councillors represent between 18,000 and 19,000 constituents, while Ajax councillors have 33,000 each.

"There's a real disparity at Regional Council, especially as it affects Ajax," Mayor Parish said. "What are you prepared to do to rectify this gross under-representation?"

Mr. Anderson said, "It's not high on list of priorities," adding other communities are also seeking more representation.