

So, what's the waste answer, resident asks council

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By Jennifer Stone

CLARINGTON -- If you won't willingly host an incinerator, then what do you propose should happen to the waste left over after diversion, two area residents have asked Clarington councillors.

But that's not necessarily Clarington's decision to make, they were told.

In January, Clarington's local councillors outvoted the Municipality's regional councillors 4-3, to declare Clarington an unwilling host to the proposed incinerator.

So, James and Cathrine McKeever wrote to council asking what they proposed to do with the garbage.

"Because your council could not expect municipalities or residents outside Durham Region to take your garbage -- due to this unwilling host stance -- we can only assume you have chosen to lobby Durham Region council to either move on the expansion of our existing dumps or rescind their 1999 "no landfill" bylaw to enable siting of another one," said the letter signed by the couple.

"Your council's decision on this has not been brought to the attention of the public, therefore we ask that you forward to us a copy of the motion which contains your solution to the waste management issue in Durham region."

But no such motion exists. Not only that, but it wouldn't be Clarington's decision, since waste management is up to the Region, regional councillor Mary Novak reminded her.

The letter from the McKeever's draws attention to the confusion surrounding the process and the need for a public debate on the subject, said Linda Gasser, an Orono resident.

The correspondence "illustrates that even Clarington residents who claim to have long-term involvement in waste issues are having difficulty understanding Clarington council's role as a stakeholder in the ongoing environmental assessment study, the intent and effect -- if any -- of Clarington council motions and next steps," said Ms. Gasser.

The letter was referred to the Region.

There's a need for answers, said Ms. McKeever.

"We're told plan A's just not going to fly, so what's plan B," she asked.