

Wednesday, May 20, 2009
Orono Weekly Times

Stunning council flip-flop

To explain a stunning flip-flop Friday to rescind Clarington's stance as "Unwilling Host" to Durham's waste incinerator proposal, Ward 4 Councillor Gord Robinson said something like "um, I talked to a few farmers and they thought it was O.K." (I couldn't hear well, he was mumbling).

Clarington's Agricultural Advisory Committee had just recommended a few weeks ago that the incinerator project include environmental and health monitoring - advice t council completely ignored. Coun. Robinson has also been getting input for over two years from residents and experts alike saying incineration is bad for the community, bad for local food producers, and bad for the air, land and water well beyond Clarington's boundaries. Then he talks to a dozen people the day before a critical vote, and suddenly it's O.K.

In deciding to side with Mayor Abernethy and Regional Councillors Trim and Novak to accept breadcrumbs from the Region as compensation for 25 years or more of pollution, I hope Councillor Robinson has also considered a graceful exit strategy from a political career that just went up in smoke.

Sincerely,
Louis Bertrand
Bowmanville