

# THE SCUGOG STANDARD

SERVING SCUGOG, UXBRIDGE, BROCK, MANVERS AND SURROUNDING AREAS

July 16, 2009

## **"The fight is not over"**

*To the Editor:*

The fight is not over.

Durham Regional Council voted to move the incinerator project forward at the end of another 16-hour meeting - the second within eight days - despite all the concerns raised by 140 delegations regarding our health, environment, finances and the contractor's (Covanta) troubling environmental and labour record. Other economical and sustainable waste strategies were suggested.

All nine members representing Scugog, Brock, Uxbridge and Clarington voted yes. Why?

Obviously, they - and the other seven - listened only to their well-paid consultants and Covanta. I have yet to hear one convincing reason why they support incineration. Scientists, medical doctors, environmentalists, stewards of the earth and concerned ratepayers were ignored.

There is no proof that incinerators are safe. Only a handful of chemicals will be monitored. Landfill is still necessary and available in Ontario. Incineration and diversion do not work together. Copious amounts of waste will be created to keep this landfill in the sky running 24/7 for 25-plus years. Incineration is a 20th century solution for a 21st century problem.

This is the largest capital project in Durham Region history (a quarter of a billion dollars and growing).

A mandate is needed from the public. Meetings have not been held in seven of our eight municipalities. We were told each meeting costs \$40,000. Increased public involvement is needed on an issue of this magnitude to help maintain public trust and democracy.

This is not a 'done deal.' We will continue to fight it at the provincial level.

A resident from the U.S. recently sent us a letter saying "I thought you Canadians were smarter."

For more information visit [www.durhamenvironmentwatch.org](http://www.durhamenvironmentwatch.org).

*Paul and Tia Woodcroft, Prince Albert*