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Opinion  
by Rob MacDonald

## Taxpayers burned by incinerator soiree

The more we find out about Roger's Burn Barrel in Courtice, the more I think the garbage that they'll haul there will smell like a breath of fresh air, compared to the dealings which garnered us this little jewel! According to the Toronto Star, who had to do an access to information query, the ground breaking ceremony for the incinerator cost \$75,000.00.

Ask any 25 taxpayers whether they'd rather have \$3,000.00 knocked off their property taxes this year, or fund Roger's little soiree, and I think we all know the answer! The event was supposed to be "the best of the best," where jumbo shrimp, sushi and mini sliders were served to 175 "invitees" for \$11,469.50. Luxury portapotties cost \$2,486.00, and miniature souvenir shovels cost \$5136.82!

While those opposed to this atrocity were held back in the sweltering heat by the police - presumably because the army was busy elsewhere - with their legs crossed and hunger pangs wracking their bodies, the invitees were in an air conditioned tent, listening to speeches, out of the sight of the everyday rabble of humanity!

Ground breaking ceremonies require a shovel for the dignitaries, a photo op, and back to work pal! The fact that some official, unelected by the taxpaying public, can choose to spend our money like a drunken sailor, just reinforces the fact that the "old boys network" is alive and well, and will continue to do as it darn well pleases!

They're building a garbage incinerator, not an edifice to Mother Teresa! Everything about this project has had bad optics from the get go. The fact that this site was picked from the five available did not come as a surprise to most. It's no coincidence that it's the furthest east of Toronto, from whence our prevailing winds emanate!

It's also no coincidence that there is a rail line adjacent to this site. What better way to haul ever expanding volumes as they enlarge the incinerator, since we already have it, and it will be better to have one large one than build another somewhere else! We also have to recall that we became a willing host because of a councillor's complete reversal of his position. It's also worth noting that one of the consultants utilized by the proponents got his degrees in a two-week course at Durham College. Let's also not forget, that this whole deal was shoved through by Roger, just before the new council was sworn in! A council that he knew very well had five of six members on record in opposition to it! He also strong-armed them by threatening them

with a \$46,000,000.00 law suit if they tried to stop it! This guy has more nerve than a toothache!

Hard to believe, but Roger wasn't available for an interview by The Star, despite repeated attempts! Is he not accountable to anyone? I have a hard time believing that he's gone to such great lengths to ramrod this project through for the public good. What pray tell, do you think his motive is?

One other little tidbit that they continue to gloss over is that the ash, which will be classified toxic, and will comprise 30% of the volume of the garbage, or 42,000 tons, will be hauled to New York state for burial, so how's that for a made in Durham solution to our garbage? It appears the only things made in Durham, will be toxic pollution, cast over the countryside, as nano-particles, and payola! The trouble is we're going to be paying it, not making it!