January 16/08

An Open Letter to Mayor Abernethy

Upon reading your callous comments in the Jan. 9 edition of the *Orono Weekly Times,* my initial response was one of disgust.

That you would refer to those of your constituents who are not willing to adhere to the blind stupidity you preach about incineration as "…a radical group" is actually laughable.

As noted, my immediate response to your comment was one of insult, however. After digesting what you are parroting from your Regional bosses, I can state that I for one am proud to be part of a large and growing constituency of what you call "radicals".

If being concerned about the health and welfare of the people of Clarington is "radical", perhaps you should tell that to the 50 doctors in Durham who have signed a petition in opposition to the proposed incinerator, and the many hundreds of others who share those concerns.

Is it "radical" to be concerned about the potential devastation to the environment, to care about greenhouse gases; if so, call me radical.

Is it "radical" to be concerned about what this will do to our property taxes (up) and our property values (down); if so, there are a lot of radicals out here.

Is it "radical" to worry about what this will do to local produce, dairy products, etc.; if so, there a lot of radicals out here.

Is it "radical" to wonder what this will do to our ability to attract green industry to Clarington, to attract medical doctors to Clarington, to attract tourism to Clarington; if so, there are even more radicals out here.

You say, you are "…more interested in listening to government officials…"

I would suggest that you ask the puppet-master (Roger Anderson), to relax your strings a bit so you could learn to dance the tune you'll need to practice, in time for the next election, if you actually think you'll have a prayer.

Recall I told you once before, that when he who thinks he's leading looks around and finds no-one following, then you're merely out for a walk.

Thank you,

Jim "radical" Richards
(and proud of it!)
Orono, ON