

Metroland – Letters to the Editor

Real leadership needed on garbage issue

Fri Mar 07, 2008

To the editor:

The hypocrisy and arrogance of Roger Anderson is astonishing. For him to say that "saying no to incineration is taking the easy way out" and then saying no to landfill or zero waste in the next breath is more than a little ridiculous.

Everyone knows the whole world has a garbage problem and the only real long-term solution is zero waste. Burying it or burning it is a Band-aid solution pushing the problem onto future generations to clean up. Real leadership acknowledges this, makes commitments to reach zero waste and takes steps to make it a reality. There are many communities around the world doing exactly this right now.

Real leadership doesn't make concessions to short-term solutions because of an imposing deadline like Michigan finally getting smart enough to stop taking other people's garbage. Real leadership works hard at reducing garbage through changing packaging and product regulations, diverting all materials that are recyclable and setting up programs to reuse products.

Spending hundreds of millions of our money on a Band-aid solution is intolerable and flies in the face of the clean air act, reducing CO2 emissions, prevention of pollution (all commitments made by federal and provincial governments) and just plain common sense.

This is not a good investment and we should not be profiting by burning other people's garbage; it's just wrong. It took a lot of years for the people of Michigan to get through to their so-called leaders. How long will it take to get through to ours?

Duane Cook

Kendal