

*Metroland Letter to Editor*

## **Let's take care with taxpayer's money**

Fri Apr 04, 2008

To the editor:

Re: Clarington gets \$200,000 more for incineration review, March 30.

Have our politicians gone mad?

The peer review expenditures included that a Toronto lawyer billed Durham Region 206.7 hours at a cost of \$100,766.60 estimated at \$487.50 per hour in their review of the Clarington incineration project.

I applaud Oshawa Councillor John Henry, who objected that the bill was excessive. The \$100,766.60 in legal costs for just over five 40-hour weeks is short of criminal.

Why not get the lawyer's bill properly assessed?

Was the time spent by the lawyer a waste, not helpful? You can negotiate a lower bill.

The Clarington mayor defends the high legal costs saying "with qualification comes cost" but there appears no satisfaction with no end in sight to the already \$380,000 spent for the review.

Don't we have qualified lawyers in Land Planning who work in our local area? Why a high-priced Bay Street lawyer in Toronto? Let's keep taxpayers' money in our community. It is wise for our politicians to just say "no" in the first place before retaining the lawyer.

People are being forced to compete and find ways to reduce spending and this should include our politicians and lawyers. Yes, I support the Clarington incineration, but let's not go burning up taxpayers dollars to get the job done.

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Oshawa