



Critics plan to crash trash party

11 August 2011 05:48

It's the hottest ticket in town — if you can get one.

Durham Region residents are burning mad that they've been shut out of next week's ground-breaking ceremony for a controversial garbage incinerator. And they're threatening to crash the invitation-only event, on a vast, empty lot just east of Oshawa.

"We're going there anyway," vows Doug Anderson, president of the opposition group DurhamCLEAR.

Scores of politicians, officials and businesspeople have been invited to watch the first shovel hit the ground Wednesday morning on the 12-hectare site in Clarington, where the \$272-million facility will be built.

The 11:30 a.m. ceremony will be followed by a reception in tents set up for the celebration.

"It's a slap in the face," says Barry Dutton, a self-described "regular guy" who believes taxpayers have a right to witness the "single largest capital expense in our region's history."

"Civil disobedience could be the only thing left to do," he says.

Regional chair and co-host Roger Anderson insists no one will be allowed into the three-hour event without a pass, but he doesn't explain how they'll be kept off the unfenced property.

Outraged over the snub to taxpayers, "who are technically owners," Clarington Coun. Corinna Trill is urging everyone to join her onsite for the "joyous occasion."

"If this is such a great thing, why is the public being excluded?" she asks.