

Clarington This Week

## Mayor visits FLA incinerator

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By Jennifer Stone

CLARINGTON -- A trip to a Florida incinerator left Clarington's mayor with the impression of a place where "odours were at a minimum and seagulls, few and far between." Mayor Jim Abernethy made the trip earlier this month, on his own dime, with Regional Chairman Roger Anderson and Pickering Regional Councillor Rick Johnson.

They visited a Tampa Bay-area energy-from-waste (EFW) facility. Florida passed a law banning landfill in 1987, and currently, there are about 18 EFW's in Florida, the mayor told council.

"Florida has a very poor diversionary program -- close to nil, which is very disappointing," said Mayor Abernethy.

"What they do there is, they burn anything and everything," he said later. "People in Canada have a different mindset when it comes to the environment."

The Tampa area facility was "very clean. Odours were at a minimum and seagulls, few and far between," he reported.

The joint Durham and York committee looking at thermal treatment of waste has short listed five possible sites, including four in Clarington, for an incinerator. A final decision on where it is to go is expected in September.

Mayor Abernethy said it's his hope to visit a number of such facilities, including the one in Florida.

"I would be interested in looking at as many as possible," he said.

The Florida trip was "100 per cent on my dime," said Mayor Abernethy. "I didn't spend a cent of taxpayers' money."