

Incineration poses many problems

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To the editor:

Many residents of our region may not realize incinerators must burn 24/7 and, therefore, require an ongoing supply of garbage in order to operate. This is why we will need to take York Region's garbage as well as our own in order to operate this facility.

I have recently read those who are against incineration referred to as NIMBY's. I have been to several council meetings and none of the delegates have stated we do not want to take care of our garbage. They have all stated that incineration is wrong, period, no matter where the incinerator is located.

The terms dioxins, furons, nanoparticles and cancer are not being tossed around. They have been brought up as legitimate concerns upon careful examination of the research on incineration.

Many of those against incineration advocate a zero waste strategy. Some naysayers say that is not possible. It is interesting Dr. Paul Connett, who is considered a world-leading expert in the study of waste management, does think zero waste is attainable within 20 years.

Durham Region now diverts about 60 per cent of its garbage through recycling and composting. I do not think anyone would have predicted this 20 years ago.

Markham is moving towards zero waste under the leadership of Councillor Eren Shapero. Toronto recently unveiled an aggressive recycling plan.

Taxpayers need to know an incinerator will cost \$250 million for the construction alone. We will be paying off the incinerator 20 years from now while many other communities will be close to, or perhaps attain, zero waste.

I fear we will become the "Little Michigan" looking for garbage to justify the enormous cost, both health-wise and financially, of this incinerator.

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