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Incinerator may be necessary stop-gap

by *Conrad Boyce*

Although Uxbridge's two representatives on Durham, Region Council believe strongly that increasing the three R's - reduction, reuse and recycling - should be the ultimate waste management strategy for the Region, something has to deal with our garbage in the interim, and the Energy-for-Waste (EFW) incinerator currently planned for Clarington may be the best alternative (*for a thorough discussion of it, see pages 10 and 11*).

"If it comes to a choice between burning the garbage or covering more farmland with landfills, I think you know where my vote lies," says Regional Councillor Howie Herrema, who owns a dairy farm north of Leaskdale. "But the incinerator can't get in the way of working towards Zero Waste."

The EFW facility is a proactive solution to our garbage problem in the mid-term," adds Mayor Bob Shepherd. "Landfills are no longer an option."

"The technology hasn't been chosen yet," says Mr. Herrema, "but I know that in Europe it's come a long way. So if I can be shown it's safe and makes economic sense, I think an EFW facility can work. But there are also so many things we can do at the same time that will reduce the amount of waste that has to go there. The two efforts have to go hand-in-hand."