

To the editor:

Re “Ethanol plant may go to Brock”, October 23, 2008.

Ever since FarmTech’s announcement of their intent to impose an ethanol plant onto the Oshawa waterfront, I have been amused by the string of interesting phrases and descriptions employed by the company and their band of public relations personnel.

The latest is the claim by FarmTech president, Dan O’Connor, that he is “shocked” that Oshawa does not want his heavy industrial complex on the lakefront.

What is it that shocks him so?

Is it the fact that Oshawa takes a long-term, people-friendly view of its community?

Is it that the people here are not willing to sell their children’s heritage and quality of life for 30 pieces of silver, even during hard financial times?

Is he surprised to find that the stereotype of “the ‘Shwa” is not valid after all, that the people of this city are intelligent and sophisticated and don’t accept at face value every scheme pitched at them, no matter how much “significant money” is spent spinning the message?

Was he astonished to find that they agree with David Crombie’s conclusion that the proposed ethanol plant site should be maintained as a buffer zone between Second Marsh and any industrial development on the waterfront?

Two more questions. What if, before beginning his push for an ethanol plant, he had approached all the various waterfront stakeholders more directly? Could he not have saved himself the “shock” and his “significant money”?

Sincerely,
Brian W. Brasier
Executive Director
Friends of Second Marsh