

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Ah, let's get this thing settled

Jul 24, 2009 04:30 AM

On Sunday, I drove an American visitor downtown, the first time I had been there since the garbage strike began. I was absolutely horrified and disgusted at the scene in the Yonge-Dundas area. Garbage bins were overflowing and papers and garbage littered the streets and sidewalks.

Thank you, Mr. Mayor, city councillors and CUPE members. It will take a long time to get over this one. And I hope the city will not make another mistake by paying exorbitant overtime wages to have the city cleaned up when it's finally over. Bring in private contractors to get the job done.

Robert Herscovitch, Toronto

The strike has forced Torontonians to dispose of their garbage in very uncivilized ways and this is messing up the environment. Some are mixing compostable and recyclable stuff with the garbage in black bags and throwing them in one of the designated parks. Others have the audacity to sneak out at night and add their garbage to their neighbours' bins. Others pack their garbage in small grocery bags and dump them on rural roads, in ravines and uninhabited areas.

Some throw their garbage bags in dumpsters of churches, industrial plants and other businesses. Others are visiting condos and apartment buildings and dumping their trash in the garbage chutes. Some even throw the stuff in wooded areas on the sides of the highways.

If the strike continues, we may find garbage bags hanging on the poles of the street lights.

How about a refund of a portion of our property tax to compensate for garage garbage storage rental, inconvenience and the obnoxious, pungent smell?

Nizar Walli, Scarborough

Instead of meeting at the Delta Hotel or the Sheraton, negotiators should meet at Christie Pits or Ted Reeve. When frustration sets in and feelings get hurt, they should be encouraged to slow down, relax and just breathe.

Russ Boswell, Toronto

If the goal of David Miller, Dalton McGuinty and CUPE's Mark Ferguson is to make Toronto, the once beautiful, into the world's biggest garbage dump, they will certainly achieve it. Maybe this is their way to get Toronto back into *Guinness World Records*.

Paddy Chung, Scarborough

The mayor doesn't need to legislate the strikers back to work. He just has to lock both sides in a room and not let them out until they have reached an agreement.

Joyce Stevens, Beamsville