

Councillor Michael Tower statement opposing proposed abattoir during Sackville Town Council meeting of January 11, 2021.

I personally think the idea of having abattoirs in Sackville is a great idea, good for the local farmers, could be great for our economy and so if we create jobs, it's all a good thing. I'm just not in favour of the location.

Now, last month Councillor Evans talked about "Not in My Backyard" and I really don't think right off the bat that this is one of those "Not in My Backyards." They had the industrial park there and whatever we've put in, there's been absolutely no uproar over it so we never had the "Not in My Backyard."

But, when the province talks about abattoirs and the federal government talks about it, they're talking agriculture and they're talking about it being in rural zones and not in urban and now, we're taking an agricultural issue and putting it next to neighbours who, because of our regulations of only a hundred metres, run into the problem that well most of that hundred metres is taken up by the park. Where if we had taken OK, let's take it from the park boundary and go out a hundred metres from there and these people would have been notified and a great deal if not all of them would have been.

And when I started looking in some of the areas, Ontario, B.C., Alberta, they have their abattoirs, but they also have the regulations behind them that it's 500 metres away from another household, residential household. And, that's quite a difference, but the reasons behind it, there's been one study in B.C. was that because of the odour and flies. Now, the flies are attracted because of the odour so we know they go hand-in-hand.

When it comes to Ontario, Toronto has that issue where now they have a couple condominium people who are complaining because the slaughterhouse they have close by is creating a stink, three, five, six times a week. Now, theirs is a little different. When that slaughterhouse, abattoir was put in, those condominiums weren't there. So, they've moved in closer, so it's like "Suck it up. You guys wanted to build it there, so you can't affect it." We're taking something and putting it in their backyard. And, it's true, it may not be bad, but it could get bad, but there are reasons why other jurisdictions have used a larger distance when trying to determine where to put them and have the regulations behind it.

When you talk about Boudreau's [abattoir in Memramcook], yes they are close to other households related ones as well, but he's also, his operation is a fair amount off the road which increases that distance. And some people in Memramcook said that if it wasn't grandfathered in, they may not like having it next to them because they would have had a choice. At the time, it was not a matter and now it is there and if you take that property and move it back off the road more, that expands that distance and we're back to is a hundred metres enough to protect residents?

From everything I've read, as I say from Alberta, Ontario, B.C., Quebec, they all talk about that distance from other residents to keep it in an agricultural zone so therefore, those who have farmhouses are used to the farm aroma...So, therefore, it goes hand-in-hand.

Here, we haven't done that. We've told these people, "Yeah, other jurisdictions say this is one of the reasons they do it, but we are here ignoring it." And that's where I have an issue with it. I think it shows a lack of respect towards these people. Well, one you say it's "Not in My Backyard," but really, we're putting it in their backyard and it shouldn't be there. It's my question, I don't think it should be.

So, that's my two cents worth. Thank you.