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# ❖ Speaking Out ❖

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Volume 1 Issue 14

The Truth is Mighty and Will Prevail

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## Election Analysis

The Nov. 11th. headline in the Packet proclaims “Stevens cruises to 2nd. term”. Yup! no doubt the Big Blue Machine pulled it off one more time. As I wrote in issue 13 the organization of Steven’s campaign was evident and formidable. It will be interesting to see how much money was spent to get this man elected. We already know he had a team of at least 45 people working hard to get him elected. We know the shuttles were working hard getting people to the polls who supported him. This compares to Ken McCann (with just a handful of workers) who did not accept contributions but used his own money, Maurice McMillan with a half dozen workers and of course Nick Montague who had three or four who helped. Yes the Big Blue Machine ran a huge and expensive campaign.

Yet despite this massive effort only 34% turned out to vote. Of this, 56% voted for Stevens which is really only 19% of eligible voters. So was Stevens really elected? For that matter with such an abysmal turn out was anyone really elected?

Thankyou to those who did take the time to vote. I hope that more people will take an interest in their governance in the future. Also a grateful thankyou to those who showed their faith in me by getting out to vote. Even though I was not elected I will continue to standup for all our benefit. To the new council I wish you the best and hope you will work in the interest of all and hope that you all work together in the common interest and not special interests.

Jim Tolnai

## Garfield Who???

Seems we have a new MPP in Simcoe North. Our old representative Garfield Dunlop was all for privatizing hydro assets as well as deregulation of hydro rates. Last year he told us to wait a year and prices would drop because of the deregulated market. He told us business would adjust and not to worry. He was adamant about the PC policy on hydro and he along with Ernie What’s his name and company knew what was best for us.

Then along comes this new MPP Garfield Who?? and says market price hydro will hurt the people and will be a disaster for small business. This guy does not seem to believe in deregulated pricing and has no faith that the private sector can be trusted to keep pricing competitive and of course affordable. Now who is this guy? What have they done with the real Garfield?

Garfield Who?? has also been appointed critic of the privately run Super Jail in Pentang. Now our old MPP Garfield Dunlop heaped ridicule on critics of this experiment. The New MPP is overjoyed to have been appointed to criticize. Will wonders ever cease???



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## HELP!!!

I have had dozens of calls encouraging me to keep publishing Speaking Out. Some people thought that because I did not get on council I might give up and fade into oblivion. I’m sure that the Mayor and councillors would be pleased at the thought of me hanging up my gloves but that just will not happen. I met Paul Spears at WalMart on the morning of election day and we discussed what would happen if we won and what would happen if we lost. Well as you know Paul won and I lost but I will share with you as I did with Paul my agenda. What I said and meant is “If I win I will glue my ass to councils saddle and ride them to do the right thing for three years”. “ If I lost I will glue my ass to councils saddle and ride them to do the right thing for three years”. If council works for all I will be out of work. Hope they will.

Now how can you help me? Well over the last 13 issues of Speaking Out I have printed and sent out via Canada Post 1,200 copies per issue. This is not enough to let people know what is going on and to get the TRUTH out. I will now be printing 5,000 copies every issue. I will be asking you to help me distribute these copies throughout the city. You can help by delivering copies to your street, put them out for people to pickup at your business, submit stories and letters of your own or giving me information that will help get the truth out about questionable practices. I want to make sure there is an alternative venue for people to get information other than the Packet and Orillia Today. I intend to keep you informed with Honest, Truthful and Accurate information about what is happening to your interests as citizens of the Sunshine City. So if you are interested in helping give me a call. I will be publishing Speaking Out monthly again starting with this issue. Together we can make a difference and keep everyone Focused.

# THE MURF REPORT

In the words of the famous comedy team Laurel and Hardy "This is another fine mess you got me into" can be said to Mayor Stevens and council. I have in my possession documents which prove without a doubt just how bad a deal the West St. property is for all of us. I can not understand how any responsible person whether city staff or politician would ever recommend or sign this deal.

Here are some facts unknown at least to me until now. Much has been said about contaminants on this property but no one had ever stated that there is contamination of PCB's, TPH, Antimony, Benzo(a)pyrene, Cadmium, Lead and Ethyl benzene. These are all highly Toxic substances. Troubling is the PCB's which everyone knows is the worst toxin ever produced by man. There is no safe way to get rid of this stuff but this council wants to move it to our dump on the shores of Lake Simcoe.

Fact 2: It was recommended and ignored by council that "prior to use of the subject lands a Site Specific Risk Assessment Approach is required". Estimated cost would be \$250,000 and was never done before signing this deal or even now (but council is spending \$250,000 on drawings without this Risk Assessment). Additionally there is an ORDER from the Ministry of Environment and Energy requiring ground water testing on a regular basis and a requirement of Notification of any potential purchaser to the environmental issues. All seemed to be ignored.

Fact 3: This council in completing this deal agreed that you and I shall be responsible for "the environmental circumstances of the Lands after the closing date and Orillia (you and I) will indemnify and hold harmless Molsons from and against any liabilities, actions, orders, cause of actions, debts and any other obligations whatsoever relating to the Land. This indemnity is referred to as "Orillia's Environmental Indemnity"(translation: You and I).

In the appraisal of this property the mayor and council were warned about the pitfalls of assuming contaminated property. The author of this document states "sophisticated purchasers have

adopted liability avoidance such as obtaining representations and warranties in writing from the vendor" but the advice fell on deaf ears.

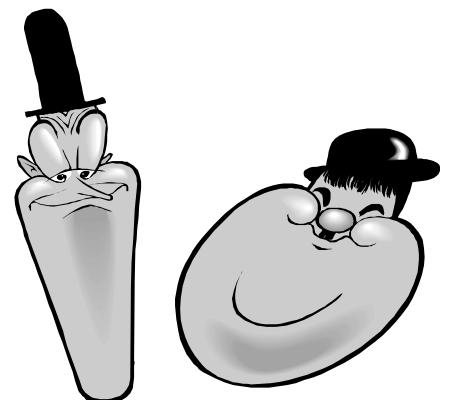
Information passed onto me from a source who had talked to the chairman of the Environmental Advisory Committee who stated that he knew about the PCB. The contamination happened when a transformer exploded some years ago which soaked the surrounding ground with the deadly chemical. If this contamination was known why did council go through with this deal? The chairman also stated that an unnamed company had been dumping barrels of toxic chemicals on the property and was actually caught and fined. If this was known at city hall why on earth did the Mayor and council proceed with this deal?

Folks if as reported these contaminants are indeed present our liability could be into the tens of millions of dollars. Surrounding property owners may have to be compensated as seepage contaminates their property. As stated in the Appraisal "Toxic contamination can lead to substantial liability to the public (you and I) to the extent that such liability runs with the land it is considered a direct loss in property value. The unanticipated release of toxic contaminants onto surrounding properties is an example of the risk."

In the same document interviews with recent purchasers of contaminated properties. "Among all parties interviewed we were unable to find anyone that would suggest a market exists for a site where there is known contamination which has leaked from the property boundaries". So has the contaminants leaked past the boundaries? We need to see the environmental study done on this land. City Hall refuses to release this document. Why? Everyone reading this must contact their councillor and demand full disclosure of the facts immediately. The rush to take possession of this cess pool and the rush to commit millions of dollars to build on it does not make sense. No one contacted with the Environmental Advisory Committee has a copy of any documents on this deal.

WMAC has no information and I will bet that most if not all councillors have never seen the documents in my possession (councillor Morano has stated he never saw the deal). Yet the deal was accepted. If council did have these documents and went ahead with this deal anyway it shows a lack of indifference to all of us.

So what do we do now? Well as in the case of the mis-managed sale of the 12 acres behind WalMart where this council gave away over \$600,000 of Development Fees we are stuck with this land. Molson's made sure that their interest has been protected and we are on the hook. How much could this cleanup cost us? It is anyone's guess. Love Canal cost hundreds of millions. In Kitchener there was a whole subdivision abandoned at a cost of tens of millions dollars. In Scarborough Ont. the old Canada Metal property cost into the tens of millions to cleanup. Can we afford to build on this property? Can we afford to disturb the land and cause toxins to migrate faster to other property? Can we afford not to cleanup the property? As I said at the beginning of this article "Another fine mess you've got us into Mayor and council". Don't you think it's time you councillors started getting these deals and reading them before voting???



Another fine Mess you got us into??

# Conservative Calling for Justice

Being a conservative I am ashamed at what the Harris and Eves government did to have destroyed our province of Ontario in the deregulation and privatization of our hydro.

In politics when the political parties get in trouble this is what they usually do:

The N. D. P.  
... Eat their young.  
The Liberals  
... Put them back in the closet.  
The Conservatives  
... Protect their own.

As a conservative I am sick and tired of protecting our own. When the conservative passed bill 35 the omnibus bill and wanted to Deregulate and Privatize are energy resources. I spoke out quietly against it but sat on my hands and did nothing about it, thinking the Harris and Eves government knew what there were doing and they said many times our electric power will be cheaper. I did not know this at the time but their was a fundamental right that we had, namely the government had to hold a referendum of the people if they were going to sell off any public utilities.

This law was put in place almost 70 years ago to protect our heritage from speculators and profiteers. One stroke of the pen by bill 35 and are rights were eliminated. I am now calling on the new Liberal government of

McGinty to do a full independent public televised judicial enquiry with the teeth to investigate and prosecute any criminal activity and let the chips fall were they may.

I did ask the O.P.P. to investigate the \$150,000 that Brascan inc. gave to the Eves campaign and they purchased four electric generation plants from the government and appears to be making good profit for themselves at our expense.

I spoke to Sergeant Gord Gregus of the O.P.P. anti rackets squad and he said he would speak to Paul Beesley his supervisor to see if they could investigate this allegation and get back to me. He phoned me back and told me that this issue could not be investigated because it was settled in a civil action in court. I called him back and left a message on his answering machine to please let me know the date and circumstances of this civil court case. When I did not get a response after a few days I left a second message on his machine. I will call on the attorney general of the newly elected Liberal party to investigate this allegation. I know they won't be protecting there own. In our area Garfield Dunlop was never given a cabinet post when the conservatives were in power. Until they lost power he always thought that privatization and deregulation of our electricity was going to be cheaper. I still think he is floating on the river of denial. This is not a partisan or political party

issue, this issue speaks to the heart of the people of Ontario, and whether or the Conservative party did was illegal. In spite of the fact that some conservative want to forget about the constitution, the people of Ontario cannot.

Lets investigate this not for ourselves but give our future back to are KIDS and our province.

**Doug Peddle**

## Too Honest

In my Help article I told you about meeting Paul Spears at WalMart. During our conversation we touched on the dismissal of Roger Tudhope. Paul stated that he worked well with Roger during his own term on council. His only problem was that Roger's office was filled with clutter. Paul then made a statement which blew my mind. "Roger's problem is that he is too honest". I'm still having a problem understanding how being "Too Honest" can be a problem?

Now I don't believe that Paul himself thinks that honesty is not an asset. I believe he spoke of others in power who Roger was impeding from having thier way. You see Roger worked on our behalf and did his job too well. So what message does this dismissal send to all city employees? The Mayor and council must explain what Roger Tudhope did that was so offensive that he was dismissed after eleven years of exemplary service. Who complained about him?

## Environmental Advisory Committee

On Nov. 20 I along with other concerned citizens attended the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting. Doug Peddle and I have been working on a number of questionable deals that the Mayor and council have entered into on our behalf. My investigation led to the sale of land behind WalMart which gave a sweetheart deal to the purchaser. His investigation has now led to the deal with the Molson gift???? to the city of land on West St. for the MURF. Now we are told that the POWER is upset that we have managed to acquire these documents which they wanted kept out of the public's view. We did go through proper procedure and acquired the documents legally. We have passed on this information to candidates of the recent election as well as the Packet and Orillia Today who have chosen to ignore the information and not do their own investigation to inform the public. Councillors were also offered the information. When Councillor Morano was contacted and told of the content of the documents (Molson deal) he became very upset and claimed he was not given this information before voting on it. He also was surprised about the PCB contamination and claimed "these guys told us everything was OK".

Norm Lethwaite the Chairman of the Environmental Advisory Committee was given the documents along with all members including Tim Lauer. Norm was most concerned about the extent of the toxins in the Appraisal document. The committee was never asked for advice nor told about the Nasty Toxins. We were all assured that there was only normal industrial pollution on the site and there was no concern. It now turns out that there is substantial PCB contamination along with Cadmium, Benzines, Lead etc. The Ministry of the Environment has a ZERO PCB tolerance and it will have to be handled by a specially licensed company with workers wearing protective space suits. PCB's must be trucked to a Snowvalley Rd. site outside of Barrie in special

secure trucks where it will be transferred and shipped to a site in Sarnia. From our investigations we have been told that the PCB contamination is very extensive over a wide area of property. Now we do not know the cost of removing this soil per truckload but we do know that there could be thousands of loads involved. This folks won't be cheap. Now that is just the PCB problem.

A number of years ago a local company purchased land at the back of our MURF site wanting to harvest the PEAT. This company was stopped from proceeding because the PEAT was too contaminated. Who at city Hall knew about this mess and kept quiet. Apparently there was an Environmental Study done by Shaheen & Peaker Limited for Molson's back in May 2002 and made available to the Council. According to Tim Lauer this report can not be made public. Tim then claimed that the city did another study of it's own before signing the deal but will not make it available either and then claimed they are doing yet another study right now. Are they trying to get a result they can sell to us? How much are they spending on these studies?

Tim did not seem particularly concerned when I stated "Why would we allow our kids on this site"? Folks we need to secure this area immediately. A fence would be the best solution. I have passed by and have seen people exploring the land. Both adults and children. With PCB's present why are we allowing people to be exposed. Is the POWER so callous that they don't care? One story I have heard actually involves Francis Smith. My source claims this actually happened and he has first hand knowledge. It seems years ago Officer Francis Smith was involved in a foot chase on the West St. Property at night. As he was pursuing the suspect he fell into a hole filled with Liquid Lead. Apparently it was used as a coolant and toxic. Officer Smith was apparently taken to the hospital and de-contaminated?? So if

the story is true (I believe the source as his reputation is impeccable) Councillor Smith should have some first hand knowledge of at least this one toxin. Would appreciate it if Councillor Smith would share his story with us.

Andrew Fyfe who is on the committee told us there are a number of sites as bad or possibly worse throughout the city. Are these properties secured? Will council now tell us where these sites are to protect the public? Every person living and working in Orillia needs to know where the hot spots are. This is a health issue. Maybe the Health Unit could order the city to release these reports as a public safety measure. Exposure to PCB's is very serious and even minute amounts can be harmful. Wouldn't it be tragic if the Mayor and council are with holding this information to save face on yet another deal that does not make any sense.

The end result of the Environmental Committee meeting a request was sent to council to allow the Committee to see these reports in camera if necessary so that they could do their job and advise them on environmental matters.

Doug spoke to a number of candidates about attending the meeting. People who showed up were Doug Peddle, Dennis Edmonds, Nick Montague, Allan Lazier and myself. We have made the effort to hold council responsible and need everyone to do the same. This matter has nothing to do with politics. It is a long three years to the next election. If council does not do the right thing we must hold them accountable. For anyone interested in this deal and Appraisal Report Doug and I would be most happy to let you examine it and explain it's implications. Jim Tolnai

Next issue OPC Shenanigans???