

---

---

# ❖ Speaking Out ❖

---

Issue 16 February 2004

The Truth is Mighty and Will Prevail

---

## DOWNTOWN MERCHANTS IGNORED

By: Jim Tolnai

Orillia Downtown merchants are upset that their concerns over management of the D.O.M.B. have fallen on deaf ears. Janet Kneeshaw owner of Cait Bradley Clothing on Mississaga St. and twenty other merchants have signed a petition. "The Downtown Merchants believe that Ms. Pat Thor is not adequately representing the interests of the merchants and businesses in the downtown. "We request that a new Managing Director be appointed when Ms. Thor's contract expires and her position be filled by a person who can better represent the Downtown". Another petition was signed by five merchants who ask that Ms. Thor improve her customer service. Businesses who signed the petition represent a wide spectrum from clothing, restaurants, drugstore, to furniture. From one end of Mississaga St. to the other is represented.

Janet Kneeshaw has not been happy but thought that it was only her that had concerns until she decided to speak with other merchants. She was shocked that virtually every merchant she spoke to had the same concerns. As she went from merchant to merchant word got back to at least one board member (Gay Guthrie, Chairman) who wrote Janet "It has come to the Board's attention that you have been discussing the Managing Director's performance of her job with some of the other merchants in the downtown, and doing so in a manner, which is of concern to the Board". Ms. Guthrie then asks that "If you have any specific and documented concerns regarding Mrs. Thor, the Board asks that you direct them to us in writing, if you wish to have them considered". So Janet gets a petition going presents it to the Board and is completely ignored along with the twenty four other merchants.

Upon contacting a dozen concerned merchants not one of them had been contacted by the Board to address their concerns. Not in writing nor in person was

the Board interested that such a large number of merchants had concerns.

So what is going on? In contacting Gay Guthrie Board Chair she confirmed that the Board decided not to contact any of the petitioners. She also stated that in any organization there are always disgruntled members and the Board feels that they had dealt with this issue and it had been resolved. But according to the merchants contacted nothing has changed and indeed a number of them had not even heard that the Board had even received the petition. Gay stated that at the Annual meeting no one brought up the subject. She would make no further comment but would advise the Board to see if they wished to revisit the matter as they feel full confidence in Mrs. Thor's management ability and her professionalism.

So what are the complaints raised by the merchants?

"Little less talk and a lot more action. Seldom get answer on telephone. Suggestions never acted on. More D.O.M.B. to individual merchant contact needed. Too Much Spare Time. Garbage Cans A Big Issue



Speaking Out  
13 Creighton St.

Ph: 327-5717

Fax 327-5974

[www.speakingout.biz](http://www.speakingout.biz)

Jim Tolnai Editor/Publisher

No contact to discuss merchant issues. Hard to Contact. Not Helpful.

Doesn't listen to the merchants

Just feel Pauline and Pat could work a little harder and make better judgment calls on promos.

I do have some questions as to free time for both of these people?

No Communication personally.

When two people run one office why would the office ever be closed?"

There is no doubt that these merchants feel they are not getting their monies worth. You see the city actually taxes every member of the D.O.M.B. For 2003 the tax amounted to \$208,000.

Membership is compulsory if you are located within the D.O.M.B. area. You have no choice but to pay. If your representatives don't take your concerns seriously that is the same as Taxation without Representation. Surely Doug Downey Councils representative should take them seriously? Apparently not. According to Janet when she approached Doug he referred to the signers as just janitors and managers. Seems their concerns are not worthy. She also wrote to Ian Brown City Manager who told her there was nothing the city could do. Folks this Board sits at the pleasure of Council. If there is tax money being wasted isn't the city responsible? Another fine example of sticking your head in the sand and hope it will go away. Having met Janet Kneeshaw I am confident that this issue will not rest until an honest effort is made to resolve it. Janet is one feisty lady with conviction and doesn't mind Speaking Out. Go Janet Go!!!!

Note: Doug Little also had the boards confidence.

# Jack vs The Giant



by: Doug Peddle

Jack Taylor was a happy go lucky hard working truck driver until 7:45 pm Sept. 29, 2002. You see Jack was enjoying his Tim Hortons hot chocolate with whip cream never suspecting that his nightmare was about to begin. Suddenly Jack started to choke. He was fighting for air and possibly his life. Some object was lodged in his throat. As he thrashed luckily he began to vomit.. The sheer force of vomit dislodged the obstruction. Jack had swallowed a plastic nozzle that had found it's way into his hot chocolate. Once Jack regained his composure and examined the plastic part he phoned the West St./Fittons Rd. Tim Hortons and told them what had happened. As there was no management there who could deal with him he left his name and number expecting a call back. His house was a mess with hot chocolate, vomit and blood. He cleaned up and went to bed.

The next day there was no call from the store management nor owner, so Jack called but it seemed the person he spoke with couldn't care less. So Jack drove to the store and confronted the staff. They asked him to get a cleaning service to clean up and when the stains could not be removed Tim Hortons paid a carpet cleaning company to finish the job. The manager requested the return of the part but Jack refused.

Jack was having choking spells and decided to visit his doctor some 70 miles away. It was established that there was damage to his throat when the doctor sent him for a Scope. For the past 15 months Jack has had numerous choking spells. One memorable spell happened when he was walking downstairs. He choked so bad he fell down the remaining stairs and ended up breaking four toes. Another spell

was while partridge hunting. This time he passed out. Upon waking luckily his shotgun which he was carrying did not discharge. As his doctor learned of these spells he ordered Jack to not return to work. He was concerned that Jack could have one of these spells anytime and could cause a horrendous accident. Jack was warned by his doctor that if he went back to work against his order he would contact the Ministry and have Jack's license pulled.

So here is Jack not able to work, having choking spells and no income. Jack has had two surgeries and now his doctors want him to see a neurologist. So far nothing seems to be working and the future is looking grim. Amazing how one minute you are enjoying a drink of hot chocolate and the next facing financial ruin, surgery and depression. Hard to believe that ones life can be changed in an instant. Jack tried contacting the local franchisee but he passed it onto Head Office who would not deal with him. Once he retained a lawyer Head office passed it onto their Insurance company who have done nothing. Now Jack faces losing his home. He has sold off most of his possessions to try and keep afloat but now even those things are gone. In desperation Jack approached the Packet, Fifth Estate, CKVR etc. No one was interested in his story. Then on January 19, 2004 Speaking Out showed up in his mail box. Out of desperation he called us. Jack spoke to Jim Tolnai who was more than willing to lend a compassionate ear as well as advice. "Speak Out" said Jim. don't let them wear you down. Fight back. Then Jim shared his own experience battling an insurance company more than 20 years ago. About how Jim picketed the head office of Home Insurance located at the corner of Yonge and Eglinton in Toronto. Jack has become re-invigorated and feels alive and in fighting form. He is now picketing the Tim Hortons store daily. Jack refuses to be treated like crap any more.

Several attempts were made to contact Doug Hale franchise owner of the Tim Hortons at West and Fittons. Doug was unavailable and has not returned our calls for comment. Tim Hortons head office was contacted but Dianne Slopek from

corporate communications refused comment and referred me to their insurer although she could not provide us with the name or number of the insurance company. After some digging I contacted Patrick Howard of C.G.I. who is looking after Jack's claim on behalf of Tim Horton's but he too refused to comment or give an interview. Several more calls were made to Doug Hale to no avail.

So what happens now? Well seeing that store franchisee Doug Hale, Tim Horton's head office or the insurer don't seem to care, Jack is in the same position as before. His plight seems to be ignored most likely in the hope that Jack will go away. But Jack is determined to get justice. With pages and pages of medical reports proving his injury Jack will struggle on and keep up the picket. So if you see Jack at the corner of West and Fittons stop and say hello, give your horn a toot to show support or get him a coffee as he is barred from the premises. Remember Jack is not just fighting the GIANT for himself. This could happen to anyone.

Tim Horton's motto on their literature is:

Always be F.A.I.R.

But are they being FAIR to Jack and possibly many others who have been injured???



## Uniting the Right???

“Right united at local level”. That was the headline in the Packet & Times. For anyone who believes that, I have a very nice bridge for sale at the Narrows.

Back in Nov. 2003 members of the Alliance and PC party met and voted for delegates to the PC convention to vote for or against the merger. At this meeting some 90 members (some of these were Alliance members who joined to control the outcome) out of 500 plus showed up to vote. Roughly 30 members were against the merger so only one delegate against the merger got the green light to go. Now think about this. Out of 500 plus members only 90 (18%) show up of which 1/3 are against the merger and a number of the 2/3 were Alliance members who joined to control the outcome. Not a very good percentage of true PC's.

So here it is Jan. and the new local Conservative Party of Canada association holds their first meeting. The new party has 1,000?? members but only 60 show up to vote for 26 directors. Does anyone find these numbers disturbing? Does this actually represent democracy when only 6% of the party show up? Or is this some sort of a joke? Directors actually had a 50% chance of being voted in. What with 26 positions voted on by only 60 members.

If the right is united then where were the 30 members who showed up to vote against the merger in Dec.? Me thinks this does not add up. What has really happened is that the Alliance with the help of Peter McKay who is supported by the Mulroney bunch has been taken over by the Alliance. Real PC's who care about issues, the constitution, social justice, party platform and commitments made (broken agreement made to David Orchard by McKay) are nowhere to be seen or heard.

Peter Stock one of three local candidates for the nomination gave a speech on the virtues of FREE ENTERPRISE. You know free enterprise. Like Enron, World Com, the sale of the 407 (250% increase in tolls since sold by Mike Harris and Garfield Dunlop etc.). You know free enterprise like privately run jails where inmates are dying in record numbers. How about free enterprise medicine (pay or suffer). Then there was Cecil Patey the retired United Church

minister who condemned same-sex marriages in his speech. What business is it of the United Right (Homophobics) if two adults decide they want to be treated equally by society and stand up for their rights? Yes I must agree the Right is United. Never has the Alliance been more UNITED.

“We are now one party and it's no longer PC and CA” said Blaine Scott the former president of the Simcoe North Alliance. But wait a minute. Rick Dory a former Alliance backer is elected president. Bruce Stanton former PC president is first vice president and Blaine Scott is second vice president. Hey! Isn't that two Alliance to one PC? Also please note there are 7 executives so their claim that there is even representation has to be false. Can 7 people be divided by 2? I don't think so. But hey maybe these guys can change our numbering system and call odd numbers even. Problem solved???

So what do real PC's do now that their party has been taken over by the united right?? Why not form your own? Yea! You could do that. What about a party called Conservatives with a Conscience. Yes Conservatives that actually care about who leads their party, issues, party platform, a constitution and social justice and not just about winning power. Yes you can do it. You do not have to join the Liberals or NDP. You are good people. You care about society and it's ills. Shed the legacy of the Mulroney years once and for all. His supporters have finally left you to form their own party. You are finally FREE to do right. I'm sure David Orchard with his organization may be interested if enough contacted him. <http://www.davidorchard.com/>

So go for it. The future never looked so bright for the true PC's in Canada. Your yoke has been lifted. The Mulroney years are over. Good riddance.  
Jim Tolnai

## What Are Others Saying?

Here are some comments from other Canadians.

*Toronto Star*, Mon 01 December 2003

All out of principle here  
*It is becoming clear the proposed merger deal between the PCs and the Alliance honours nothing but power for its own sake*  
by Jessie Chauhan

*Winnipeg Free Press*, Sunday 16 November 2003

A Red Tory's Creed  
by Dale Swirsky

Do I want to see a far-right party in power? Eliminate the broken promises and the lack of real "winnability", and I would still not join the far right. I did not join the Alliance, and I will not join this new party. I will not work to replace the Liberals, who are damaging Canada, with a party that I fear will destroy it.

*Toronto Star*, Nov. 14, 2003

No future for PC party  
*Proposed right-wing alliance would violate the progressive and moderate traditions of its former leaders*  
by Flora MacDonald

MacKay was not my first choice at the June leadership convention - I supported Scott Brison on the first two ballots but after that I gave my vote to MacKay because I took him at his word. He said he would support the strongly endorsed decision of the party at its national convention in Edmonton in the summer of 2002 that there would

continued from pg. 3

be 301 Progressive Conservative candidates in the next federal election.

The party's future lies not in some right-wing alliance that would violate the progressive and moderate traditions of its former leaders, but with a renewed emphasis on the values that the great majority of Canadians feel represent their views.

*The Star-Phoenix*, Thursday 13 November 2003  
Effort to undermine true conservatives devious  
by Anthony Hall

With his attempt to tie his political ship simultaneously to those of both Harper and former PC leadership candidate David Orchard, Peter MacKay seems to have outdone even Brian Mulroney in extending the imagery of politics as the art of the deal, no matter how duplicitous or unprincipled.

Last week, the National Post asked Hugh Segal about the issue. Segal, a senior Brian Mulroney official during Mulroney's last years as prime minister was quoted as saying -- in words worthy of Mulroney himself: "A lot of things have been said at political conventions that didn't have much substance after the event. There is enough grey there for legitimate manoeuvrability." "Legitimate manoeuvrability," in the world of weasel words

*The Toronto Sun*, 21 October, 2003  
The price of a party  
*Alliance members are buying up Tory memberships left and right,*

*not only to counter the influence of anti-merger PC David Orchard, but to ensure their control of the merged party*  
by Greg Weston

If we are to believe the grand promoters of conservative mergermania, Canadians across the land are wildly plunking down their ten bucks and snapping up Tory party memberships like tickets for the final Stones concert.

"This thing is right out there catching fire -- the stampede is on," declared former Canadian Alliance MP Ray Speaker, one of the architects of the merger deal with the Tories. Any naysayers trying to get in the way of ratifying the planned political union of the decade, Speaker added, "are going to get stampeded in the rush to buy memberships." By no coincidence, much of the rush to join the Tory party is coming from Canadian Alliance members.

Why would anyone plunk down good money to join the Tory party on the eve of its funeral?  
Answer: To make sure it is dead...

Thousands of real PC's are saying these very same things. Millions of Canadians are listening. We can only hope that like the Mulroney Tories this party will be decimated and sent to the four winds. Maybe then honorable people can mount a credible alternative to the Liberals. God knows we need an effective opposition to keep everyone honest.

## The MURF

So the spin is on. It seems that our beloved Packet and Times has finally admitted that there is a serious environmental problem with the Molson property. Even though they had the information that Speaking Out provided to them, the editors tried to downplay it and supported the site. So to our surprise in their editorial the other day it is now admitted that there is a problem with pollution BUT as it has to be cleaned up anyway it is still the best place for the MURF.

But why do we the taxpayers have to pay for the cleanup? The industry that created the problem made hundreds of millions of dollars in profit over the years. Yes the industry created jobs but the jobs created the profit. Creating jobs even today is looked upon as a badge of honour for business. Truth is there would be no business if jobs aren't created. So don't get fooled by all these businesses that claim they are good corporate citizens because they create jobs. There is no business no matter how small that does not create work. That is how profit is earned. From work.

Oddly enough in the packet the same week there was an article about the rich industrial heritage Otaco had left the community. For sure once every ounce of profit was drained out of the industry we were left a richly polluted piece of property right in the heart of the city. Now the Packet, Council and some on the advisory committee want you and I to pay for the clean up because it has to be done. OK so what about all the other polluted sites around town. Don't they also have to be cleaned up? You know sites like across the road from the MURF site. If cleaning up is so important then let's do a study on all polluted sites and start with the worst. According to Andrew Fife there are properties with much worst problems.

This council was tricked into accepting this land. Most councillors had no idea of the problems that exist. Why? Because the information was not given to them. Had they known there would have been no deal. Problem is they now are having a hard time admitting they were had.