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# ❖ Speaking Out ❖

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Issue 20 June 2004

The Truth is Mighty and Will Prevail

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## One More Kick at the Can

by: Jim Tolnai

At the risk of boring our readers I must again visit the MURF. I know what more can be said. But it seems each day brings new revelations and concerns. On May 17 council voted to move ahead with the Toxic West St. site. Tim Lauer who the week before voted to move ahead grandstanded and wanted to wait 30 days in order to review the mistake council had made to build at this site. Councillor Smith had a pissy fit and ended up voting for the site which he is against all because Lauer now wanted to have a look at this deal and had voted to go ahead with it the week before. Are you with me so FAR???? Only in Mariposa you say. Add to this fine mess Angelo Orsi offered to donate 10 acres of clean land for the MURF which would bring the cost down by about \$25,000,000 but council turned down flat one week earlier yet this week they said it would be looked at if the cost on West St. is too high. Hello!!! The cost of \$50,000,000 is too high. But more important than the cost is the HEALTH of our children. Downey said that there had been 3 years to look at this deal and wanted to move ahead. Yet according to councillors they had never seen any of the documents which clearly show cleanup costs in excess of \$20 million until just recently. So if Downey had been looking at this deal for 3 years that must mean he was privy and had access to the documents and information that all the other councillors had never seen. If this is the case, how come he was allowed to see these documents while other councillors were not and claimed that cleanup would cost 3.7 million dollars? Was Downey not being honest with us???? Seems odd doesn't it? Makes you wonder if Stephen Leacock isn't rolling with laughter. Anyway let's get serious and bring forth the new development.

I bumped into Daisy Shakell at Joe's No Fills on Sat. May 15. As is my custom

when meeting people I spoke to her about the Toxic site and was telling her about how dangerous lead is to children when she went a bit gray. she proceeded to tell me her step grand daughter was diagnosed with having lead. My first question was "where does she live?" It seems this little girl lives right in the area of the MURF and the old Farhamet plant. I went right home and e-mailed this information to Tim Lauer, Ralph Cipolla, Paul Spears and Doug Downey. Here is what I wrote.

"Well folks here is some news to get your bile working. I ran into Daisy Shakell this afternoon at Joe's NoFrills. In speaking to her about the MURF site and the toxins I brought up the U of T web-site where toxicology information is available. As I was complaining about the effects of Lead on children she stopped me as she turned a bit gray. It seems her stepgrand daughter has been diagnosed with lead in her system. Apparently the doctors are wanting to remove her Spleen among other treatments. It seems this little girl just happens to live on Wyndot St. Coincidence? Is she the first or just the latest?"



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I was naive to think that these guys would actually care and do some checking. But that was not to be. Cipolla, Spears, Downey, Gardy, Smith and Stevens voted to continue while you know what Lauer did. Not one of these \*#\*#\*#\*# spoke about this HEALTH issue. Instead when Doug Peddle spoke to Cipolla his answer was "it's probably one in a million". When I spoke to Carl Garland he claimed no knowledge and asked how the little girl became contaminated. When advised she lived in the area of the MURF and it should be investigated whether that may be the cause he said "I thought kids got lead poisoning from exhaust fumes when gasoline had lead in it". It seems these people just don't give a shit about anything but building on West St.

Today May 25 I get a lengthy phone message from a chap who failed to identify himself but claiming he had worked at the site when it was a factory. He was wondering why no one had reported that the site contains Cyanide. According to him Cyanide was used for treating a product manufactured there. He claims that he was a witness to Cyanide being buried on the property. The environmental report does not show Cyanide having been found. Could it be that what this chap is saying is the truth and there is an area which has buried Cyanide under it? Do you think we maybe should investigate this claim? What would happen if the buried Cyanide was dug up by accident and spread on the wind throughout town? So if the gentleman who called me would contact me again or even better the authorities right away we just might save some lives. Further anyone reading this who has information Please contact the Ministry of Environment as we have passed this information on to them.



## Mayor's Judgement Flawed

by: doug peddle

It was with interest I read a letter to the editor June4 Packet. A chap by the name of Paul Locke wrote about his hopeless presentation to former Mayor Stevens and council of Severn Twshp. concerning the Caswell Creek Subdivision in Coldwater. He states "The developer and his engineer were there to defend their interests and to argue against my concerns. I was not received well by the Mayor (Stevens) and my concerns about water and flooding was considered a joke, especially when I mentioned that some of my neighbors had canoed through the area designated for development." He further states that he was dismissed as a typical NIMBY complainer. Well guess what? Last month the Coldwater River rose and flooded this area where only a canoe or boat could access. The road graded for the subdivision became a river. Most of the property was under water. Luckily no homes have been built on this land as yet or else it could have been a disaster to the people who purchased the homes thinking that Stevens and his council had actually allowed the subdivision because they knew it was safe.

Now this guy has made it to be mayor of Orillia and again he is insisting that he actually knows what he is doing. Like his attitude towards Paul Locke he now trains his sights on the likes of Allan Millard, Jim Tolnai, Kelly Klune and others as well as me. Trying to label us as NIMBYs or provocateurs. Not looking at the facts and seeming to believe the rubbish fed to him. Mr. Mayor you were wrong on the Coldwater subdivision. You showed your total disregard for the safety and well being of the people who might have

bought into this subdivision. You blindly took the so called experts opinion over the local people who knew and spoke the truth. You show the same contempt for all of us who have the interest of our neighbors at heart. Yes Mr. Mayor you were wrong in Coldwater and luckily no one was hurt. Now you are wrong about the safety of the MURF site. The site is Toxic and especially dangerous to children and no self serving expert deserves a hearing.

Remember the experts who claimed that thalidomide was safe and Spawned tragedy. Remember the experts who claimed cigarettes were no danger and some even claimed it was good for you to smoke. Remember the experts who told US soldiers that Agent Orange was safe and harmless, and remember the Pesticide and Herbicide industry who even now spout the crap about their products being safe all the while doctors offices are filling up with sick children with symptoms brought on by these poisons.

Now we have Jim Hawkins of Orillia with 30 years experience working in Hunter Enterprises Engineering Dept. telling us that the site is not OK! How come you Mr. Mayor won't even consider Mr. Hawkins opinion??? Jim Hawkins was one of the first people to warn former Mayor French and council about the wells containing the poison Tetrachloroethylene. His concerns were ignored by the council and mayor of the day. Then about three years ago the Province shutdown the contaminated wells as being dangerous. How many children and adults have become sick over the 9 years that Mayor and council did nothing.

Why would anybody in their right mind trust this guy and the Puppet councillors who blindly follow the so called self serving experts. Remember the experts said \$20 million plus clean up was needed. Then it was only certain areas needed clean up at \$8 million. Now it's OK to just put some dirt over the Toxins at \$3million. Same experts giving three different expert opinions???????

## Announcement/Criticism

If you go to our web-site [www.speakingout.biz](http://www.speakingout.biz) you will find a change for the better. Finally we are able to put copies of Speaking Out on the site as a complete document. We invested a few bucks and bought the Adobe program which transfers the document to an exact copy. So if you have Adobe Acrobat you can now download and print exactly the same as if we delivered it to you.

You are welcome to print and distribute as many copies as you like or send people to the site. One of our biggest problems is getting enough copies out to people. As we do not sell advertising a few of us who passionately care about what goes on spend our own monies and energies to inform you. Twenty months ago there were high hopes that by now the Packet and Orillia Today would have lived up to their mandate and inform the public. Hope was they would actually do some investigative reporting and actually report the facts found. We furnished these guys with document after document. We called them, wrote letters and pleaded with them to no avail. So we continue to bring out the facts in order that you the reader are informed.

You know the newspaper industry makes a big deal about Freedom of the Press and actually goes to court espousing this right. Unfortunately the local media seems to Suppress more than they Press. We have example after example of this behavior. Many people we talk to about the local media don't seem to have any faith in what they read in the Packet and Orillia Today. Our supporters and even detractors have the same opinion. Seems until the Mark Bissets, Dave Dawsons, Collin McKims, Frank Matys' etc. start reporting all the facts available Speaking Out will have to stay the course to fill the void. These guys are aware of City Halls attempt to censure our publication. Their attempt to nickel and dime us out of existence by demanding that we pay for Answers to Questions we pose and charging us to Look at Public Documents. Where is the local Media's outrage at this Brazen attempt to Stifle the Freedom of Our Press???? Are these people Journalists or Howdy Doodies????

# The Liar and Thiefs Olympics

by:jim tolnai

So it's official, the Liar and Thiefs Olympics will be held all across Canada on June 28. Competitors are vying for the Lining of Pockets With Gold and much is at stake. The main race has Paul Martin, Stephen Harper and Jack Layton in the starting gate. Only problem is that Martin's gate is a half mile up the track from where Stephen Harper starts and Jack Layton's gate is 3/4 of a mile back. There are a few other less important races where potential cabinet ministers are running and of course the totally irrelevant lap dog races. The runners winning the lap dog competitions will be sent to Seal Training school so that they will know when to flap their flippers on command. So here is my analysis of the totally irrelevant race that will cost us hundreds of millions of dollars.

Paul Martin:

What can I say about this guy. Very rich business man who charges his customers in US and Canadian dollars doing business in Canada but paying very little taxes to this country which has been so good to him. Here is a guy who claimed he did not know how much business his company did with the Canadian government and ended up furnishing us with a figure that was a small percentage of reality?? Here is a guy who was Finance Minister and claims that he did not know where the countries Finances were going because no one told him?? Here is a guy who owned Canada Steamship Lines all the time he was Finance Minister and the company benefited from contracts that the Finance Dept. approved yet now he sells the company to his sons because he does not want a conflict of interest?? Just a quick couple of questions: Where did Martin's sons get enough money to buy a multi billion dollar company? Dads still alive so they could not have inherited it could they? Did Martin sell his company for a profit and if so did he pay taxes on the profit?? If he did not sell it for a profit will Revenue Canada audit the sale and establish fair market value? Will Revenue Canada then pursue taxes unpaid if found that the sale was just a ploy to fool us? Will the son's of our Prime Minister who

now own this Canadian foreign registered company start paying taxes to the country their father is the leader of??

Here is a guy who as Finance Minister ran our health care system into the ground by cutting funding and now proclaims he will fix the mess. Isn't that somewhat like a rapist counseling the victim??? Here is a man with true Canadian Leadership qualities????

Stephen Harper:

The leader of the loyal opposition (The Conservative Party) which came to be as the result of Lies and Treachery now wants to win this race. As bad as the Liberals are we must not forget what these guys could and will do to us. Here is a bunch claiming purity but they are nothing more than recycled hacks of the Mulroney pack and the Intolerant, Racist Right Wing Rednecks of the Reform Party. Don't believe for a minute that these people have had a change of heart and now put their past behind them. Remember it was the Conservatives who saddled us with the GST. It was the Conservatives who brought in the metric system after they promised not to. How much do you think the metric system cost you in extra hidden expense? Billions of dollars flowed and keeps flowing to big business as a direct result of selling you less for more. It was the Mulroney bunch that created the huge government debt by running deficits unheard of before or since. It was the Mulroney Government that created hyper inflation which took us into such a deep recession and deflation that only now are we coming out of it. How many people lost their homes because the value dropped and the banks wanted more equity? How many businesses moved to Mexico and the States because of FREE TRADE. Yes the FREE TRADE agreement which our partner the USA does not honor. Ask any forestry worker or under employed 50 year old who barely gets by on \$8 or \$10 per hour. Now this is just the Conservative side of this Alliance. What about the Reform people Like Stephen Harper. Remember the Reformers who walked all over the Quebec flag. The people like Stockwell Day who being on

the religious right really does not accept any other belief. These are the people who want to force women back to the pre sixties when coat hangers were the norm. These are the people who Gay Bash and would like to make Gays and Lesbians into Criminals. These are the people who would have us become the 51st. state of the Union.

Yes Stephen Harper is now trying to distance himself from the ideologies but can he be trusted. If elected. Will he send our Canadian Forces to Iraq??? Will he cut taxes and start running a deficit again? Will he have us join the Union??? The leader of the party which came into being as a result of lies and treachery now wants you to trust it??? If you think that Mike Harris as Premier was right wing these people will make him look like a bleeding heart Socialist if they get to power.

Jack Layton:

The good old NDP. Lots of promises but no substance. Are the NDP any different from the other parties? Well if you look at how the NDPers act when in POWER there is no difference at all. Look at BC look at the Bob Rae government. Unfortunately guys like Layton are no different than the Chretiens, Mulroneys, Martins or Harpers. Good to elect some of them so that we get a minority government which would be the ideal situation. They won't form a government but they can be a burr under any governments Ass. Not a bad idea. The NDP will work hard to keep any government honest until they are given POWER. then they become just one of the boys.

The Green Party

I was going to vote for the Green party but unfortunately their choice of Mary Lou Kirby stopped me dead. The Greens are the right horse but the local Jockey has no desire to ride. Big mistake.

## Half Truths

Can Conservatives be Trusted???

How can anyone trust Stephen Harper and the NEW re-packaged Reform Party now known as The Conservatives? If you visit their web-site you will find the following statement which is meant to mislead you at best. They know the statement is made to mislead so one can safely assume the intent is to lie.

“Members of both parties overwhelmingly endorsed this vision. On December 5, 2003, 95.9% of Canadian Alliance members voted to form a new party. A majority of 90.4% of PC Party members supported the merger on December 6. The Conservative Party of Canada was officially formed on December 8, 2003.” Here is what happened locally and in most ridings across Canada.

“Back in Nov. 2003 members of the local PC party met and voted for delegates to the PC convention who would then vote for or against the merger. At this meeting some 90 members 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.” Leads me to believe only 12% of the PC members voted for a merger.

Now you know the TRUTH. Can Stephen Harper and the NEW Re-Packaged Reform Party be trusted???

I don't think so. Even in victory these guys feel a need to lie to us. If they lie about the little things can they be telling the truth about the Whoppers.

Jim Tolnai

Lie to me once and I believe you it's your fault. Lie to me twice and I believe you it's my fault. Remember this when you vote.

## Cyanide

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Cyanide is a very poisonous chemical. Exposure to high levels of cyanide harms the brain and heart, and may cause coma and death. Exposure to lower levels may result in breathing difficulties, heart pains, vomiting, blood changes, headaches, and enlargement of the thyroid gland.

In my front page story I spoke about a claim that Cyanide was buried on the MURF site a number of years ago. Even though the chap who left the message did not identify himself I spoke to Norm Lethwaite a member and former chairman of the EAC. Norm confirmed that indeed there had been Electroplating done on the site and that he was aware that Cyanide had been buried there. Now isn't it funny that if Norm is aware of this fact why was Cyanide not in the Environmental Study done by Molson's? Why has our Mayor not come forward or even better why has he not made it a priority to find this stuff and carefully dispose of it? Why does the Mayor and the councillors who voted to move ahead with this Toxic site keep this dark secret all to themselves and insist on sending our children to play there? You see if the story is true and the former EAC chairman has confirmed it then Council, Mayor and city management must know about it as well. Yet there has been no effort to find or clean it up. There has been a tremendous effort in making sure the MURF gets built there though.

I believe we need to get our medical community involved. What about it Doctors. Is all we have written about a danger or not. Your association has finally come out to warn us of Pesticide and Herbicide use. Are you prepared to treat child victims of the MURF site before you make comment? Speak Out now before there is a tragedy.

Children are the most susceptible to toxins and poisons. It is our duty as parents, grand parents, aunts, uncles and human beings to protect them. If we fail now to protect them we will all suffer.

Jim Tolnai

## Relevant

According to Laura Lee Speaking Out is not a Legitimate nor Accredited media. It seems Laura takes exception to the articles we write and has been appointed Orillias Censor Czar. Without a written policy from council regarding media she has been charged with the duty of trying to Stifle our little rag as the Mayor refers to it. It seems that the Canadian Constitution does not allow government of any kind to stifle FREE SPEECH. In fact the constitution protects our rights to FREE SPEECH as long as it is the truth. It is high time that people like Laura Lee and her superiors realize that we will not go away. If you want positive articles written then do positive deeds. Work for the people you are supposed to serve (all citizens of Orillia) instead of a few politicians and mandarins at city hall. Just because councillors were voted into office does not mean they can do anything they please without criticism. If you don't like being held accountable then either act in our interest or resign.

We know that Speaking Out is relevant and accredited. We know because of the many phone calls and letters we receive of support. We know because of the support from people who actually help to distribute Speaking Out. People like Mary who is retired but goes door to door delivering 500 copies every month. Is Laura saying that Mary is irrelevant? Or what about the downtown merchants who had their petition ignored until Speaking Out gave them a voice. Are they irrelevant? What about the taxi drivers we stood up for, are they irrelevant? What about seniors at the Old Muskoka Rd. nursing home who we stood up for, are they irrelevant. What about the over 8,000 hits on our web-site in Jan. and 5,000 downloads. No none of these causes or people are irrelevant except to the few like Laura and the gang.

We get letters:

Mr. Jim Tolnai

I would like to receive "Speaking Out" including the May 2004 issue if available. Enclosed is a contribution of stamps.

Thankyou

M. Deacon

Is this person irrelevant too?