
❖ Speaking Out ❖

Issue 22 August 2004

The Truth is Mighty and Will Prevail

Criminal Back Ground Checks

jim tolnai

It seems our mayor and the Police Services Board still feel that the Taxi licensing should remain a police responsibility. Cab drivers licenses are being denied to people because of an archaic section of the city bylaw which states that anyone who's behavior they don't approve of can be denied their constitutional right to work. This clause goes against everything the Canadian and Ontario Charter of Rights stands for. It's easy to trample on the rights of people at the bottom as these people do not have the where with all to fight back. We have said all along that licensing should depend on ability to do the job and nothing else. The mayor and police board thinks otherwise.

So in an attempt to understand their thinking I decided to look into other occupations that under their reasoning should have criminal background checks done on. Remember taxi drivers like the following occupations are private sector jobs and deal with people.

Door to Door Sales
Sales Clerks
Waitresses / Waiters
Mechanics / Plumbers
Bus Drivers / Limo Drivers
Life Guards
Contractors / Electricians
Cooks
Gas Bar Attendants
Fast Food Servers
Chimney Sweeps
and the list goes on.

In fact any occupation which deals with the public should have to be checked to protect us according to council to keep us from harm. But of course council only wants to protect us from cab drivers. Why? Why are they trying to make it so hard for cabbies and brokers to make a living?

Are the people of Orillia aware that according to the Police Board Casino

Rama is less than 5 kilometers from the city and therefore within their jurisdiction to regulate cab fares. Cabs must charge people the metered rate even though they drive 10 kilometers to the casino. But if you are a cab company say from Rama and get called from town you can pick up a fare and deliver them for a flat rate. That is unfair competition for our guys.

Apparently this is happening regularly. T&T Cabs from Rama are running 9 cars and fares are picked up regularly in Orillia. This company is the only one that Casino Rama will deal with. If you phoned the Casino from Orillia to find transportation they would send out T&T to pick you up. Doesn't seem fair to me. Then on top of that the Police Services Board has no jurisdiction and no Criminal background checks are done on these 9 drivers. So how come??? Is this a safety issue or a control issue??? So it seems local business instead of being helped to prosper has road blocks erected. Only in Orillia!!!!

In researching this story I decided to read the police act. Well guess what?? If you apply for a job as a police officer there is an automatic criminal background check done on you. If you are a civilian

employee you are checked, but nowhere in the act could I find where it is mandatory that members of the Police Services Board have background checks done nor do they have to be people of good character as cab drivers must be. Seems funny that anyone can be appointed without a check. In fact the mayor of any municipality is automatically appointed to the board. If a person who gets elected as mayor has a questionable background he still sits on the board. Does this make sense???? Shouldn't we know that only people of Good Character control our police. Under the police act a mayor who stole or embezzled money or been accused of sexual harassment would still be on the board and he would not have been checked??? Has this happened or is it happening right now in Ontario??? Is an embezzler or thief of better character than a taxi driver who has committed a crime, paid the price and has stayed out of trouble for years. Yet these people are not allowed to work because of their past. Doesn't make sense to me.

In the past two months I have had a half a dozen calls from people involved in the taxi industry. They are fed up being treated like second class citizens. All they want is to be allowed to make a living and look after their family. No one I interviewed in the business knows why they are treated with such disdain. There have been very few incidences involving cab drivers over the years worth mentioning. Certainly no more than any other profession. So why not treat them like any other occupation or profession and let the owners choose who works for them. I believe 1984 ended 20 years ago.

So come on council represent your constituents and stop this injustice.



Speaking Out
13 Creighton St.
Ph: 327-5717
Fax 327-5974
jim@speakingout.biz



No Response

by: doug peddle

Last month I wrote about how the mayor was upset about my article on his flawed judgment. He claimed that our facts were all wrong but refused to elaborate and claimed that we had no right to bring out facts from the past. In an effort to be fair I offered the mayor his chance to clear up any facts. I offered him page two with no strings attached. He was FREE to write his side if there was one. Well it seems my facts were correct and true. Not a word from mayor Stevens. Unless he sent his facts to someone else my challenge was ignored. Looks like the mayor has conceded that the story was accurate and decided to not Speak Out.

It seems a majority of council is determined to spend \$65,000,000 dollars of your money. According to Norm McLaughlin former councillor. As time goes on the truth seems to be seeping out of the cesspool that is council. Remember the good old days when they were going to build a Rec center for \$20,000,000. Remember the good old days when they would clean up the site to make it safe for \$3,000,000. Then it was to be \$5,000,000 then \$8,000,000 when in reality it was \$20,000,000 just to clean the site. So now McLaughlin is coming out with the true figures which does not include cleaning the site. The plan is to remove only the toxins that would be under the

building. 40,000 tons of toxic poison which they want to dump on the shores of Lake Simcoe. Then we will have an extra toxic site to deal with in the years to come??? They will leave the other 150,000 tons of toxic material for our children to play in. Oh! yes they claim that the toxins will be covered over with clay and blankets. But wait a minute. How can all this be achieved spending only \$3,000,000 including the trucking of the 40,000 tons. Sorry folks it can't be done. Over and over again we have proven these people are not telling the truth. Yet they continue to spout garbage. Wake up Orillia or you will be facing an 80 to 100 million dollar debt plus the operating costs and poisoning our children if the site is not cleaned properly.

Remember in the good old days when our municipal debt was only \$15,000,000. Do you remember what we went through to pay that debt off? Do you remember the celebration last year when the debt was retired? Now these people are prepared to put us into four times the debt plus create operating costs of between one and two million dollars. How do we expect roads to be repaired, parks to be looked after etc. with paying for such a huge debt. Has anybody looked at this huge cost on a per person basis? This will cost every man, woman and child \$2,166 each for the MURF plus an additional \$66 per year for operating costs. These are the facts. Can your family of four afford an additional debt of \$8,664? Well you will have to pay it whether you like it or not unless you Speak Out now and stop the Madness.

Guess what the city paid to the environmental consulting company for their rep to attend the MURF meeting at Swanmore Hall? She spoke for 20 minutes and answered a half dozen question and we paid for lunch. see pg. 4

Cipolla

by: jim tolnai

Ralph Cipolla should win an award for his statement of " I almost can guarantee that the price for the MURF won't go up. Wow! POW! BING! BANG! ZOWI! I sure feel better now. Such an Iron Glad guarantee is not to be trifled with. Why any car dealer who Almost will Guarantee his product will get my business. In fact all Orillia business would be wise to follow Ralph's lead and offer Iron Clad Almost Guarantees. True politician that Ralph is and in fact all councillors who Almost Guaranteed no tax increase, Almost guaranteed road repair, Almost Guaranteed better services during last years election have come good on all their promises. ALMOST????

In speaking with Ralph last winter I pressed him on the cleanup of the MURF site and he assured me that cleaned it would be. Almost??? When I pressed him on the toxic land surrounding the site even if cleaned he claimed council would force land owners to clean their land as well. When asked HOW? He stated that council had the power and indeed all surrounding land owners would be forced regardless of cost to clean up. He envisioned large scale development of Malls, Box stores and housing in this part of town. ALMOST???

So then on the New VR Ralph stated that he thought it was safe to dump 40,000 tons of toxic soil at the land fill. ALMOST???? He has stated that the experts assured him that leaving the 150,000 tons of toxic soil on site is safe. ALMOST???? Ralph assured me that the experts knew what they were doing. ALMOST??? You see the experts first claimed that there had to be a \$20,000,000 dollar cleanup to make the site safe. ALMOST?? Then they said \$8,000,000 cleanup would do. ALMOST? Now a \$3,000,000 cleanup is good enough. ALMOST???

Ralph also claimed that if any child's health would be affected he would not vote for the site. ALMOST???? Seems Ralph wants to go ahead and take the chance of our children being harmed. In the cities own News Letter it is claimed that contact does pose a threat. Who's child will make contact first?????

City Klickers Up and Running

Hey Orillia! There is a "NEW" internet resource available to you. WWW.CITYCLICKERSORILLIA.COM is now up and running. So what is City Klickers and why should you check it out? Well if you have something to sell the Classified ads are FREE. If you are a business looking for help you can place your Job Opportunity for FREE. Have an EVENT to Promote? List for FREE. Plus other FREE services like Weather, Sports, News, Financial, Movie Listings plus Fast access to Orillia's finest businesses. Links to business websites, contact information and printable maps to get you there fast plus discount coupons. City Klickers Orillia is a community Portal that is people friendly and useful. Non Profit and charities receive a FREE Gold listing. So come on Orillia go to www.cityklickersorillia.com and use the services it's FREE.

City Klickers was developed right here in Orillia by Jim Tolnai. We launched it eight weeks ago and now have 33 locations up and running. Barrie, Orangeville, North Bay, Ottawa etc. are licensed. Yes we license the sites to local entrepreneurs who operate it as a home based business. In the case of Ottawa a corporation took the license and will have 8 sales reps promoting the business. Of course it is not just an internet opportunity but a complete advertising business. City Klickers offers it's customers several avenues to promote their business through Internet to print.

Oddly enough the Orillia License is still available so if you are a budding entrepreneur check it out then go to www.cityklickers.com for licensing and business info. This business is ideally suited for a stay at home mom or dad who wants a career but family comes first or as an ad on to an existing business to increase profitability. Sales ability is a requirement as well as a computer, scanner and internet access. A home office is encouraged and earnings are exceptional.

Funny how we have travelled as far north as Timmins, as far southwest as Windsor and as far east as Ottawa to launch City Klickers but our own town has been ignored. Well not anymore. Give me a call 327-5717 if your interested.

Another New Business

Orillia you now have a NEW Auto Service center with a twist. M&M Auto is operated by a couple of ladies. That's right Maria and Mary operate the appropriately named M&M Auto Service on Kitchener St. With a full line of modern equipment and qualified licensed mechanics the ladies run a clean and professional shop. Plus they are a lot better looking than your average grease monkey. I just love to see opportunities opened for women in all fields of endeavor.

Why not support these ladies. They have some great deals and in speaking to a few of their customers the service is excellent. Here is an opportunity for Orillia to get behind a new and innovative business. What a great way to show your daughter that anything is possible so take them with you to M&M Auto so they can see what women are capable of. So give Mary or Maria a call and make an appointment 327-3142 or drop by during business hours to 32 Kitchener St. just to say hi.

Japanese Guest

As I write this the newest addition to our family (past two weeks) is packing up in anticipation of heading home back to Japan. Toru our 15 year old guest is from Japan and we have been hosting him for the last two weeks. A fine intelligent young man who has made our home special with his presence. This is the third time we have hosted a foreign student and all were wonderful young people. Julienne from France, Anna from Spain and now Toru. I highly recommend the experience. Not only do they learn, we learn as much as they do. If more of these exchanges took place there would be less war and animosity among people.

It does not matter what country these kids come from. They are all just kids. My daughter has a life long friend in Anna who like Taryn is in university. They keep in constant touch and she is like a sister for our daughter. So if you ever want to experience other cultures and make friends then try hosting it truly is great.

So have a safe trip Toru you will be part of our family like Anna and Julienne is for ever. jim tolnai

Goodbye to My Little Buddy

I was shocked to read that Jeremy Rayfield met a tragic end last week. This fine young man certainly did not deserve this and our hearts go out to his children and family. Jeremy and I go back a long way. When Jeremy was about four years old we were neighbors. We became friends and whenever our car was in the driveway Jeremy would be over in a flash. In fact once he learned our habits sometimes he would be sitting at our favorite spot with his cowlick hair and always a smile.

Once we moved we lost contact but 20 years later Jeremy became a neighbour living just a block away. I was pleased to see him again and to see him start his family. Of course when I spoke to him and asked if he remembered me he didn't. When I told him about our friendship he said something that touched me and proves that children are influenced by our actions. "I don't remember you but I feel comfortable and like you". That certainly made my day. So remember treat children with respect, don't talk over them because they are so influenced by us adults. When a child is mistreated it will come out someday just like when you treat them well. We sow the seed and reap what we sow.

Good-bye Jeremy your life although short did make my life and I'm sure others who knew you richer.

Annual Fundraiser

Fast approaching is the Tolnai family annual Hungarian Goulash Cook Out for Sleeping Children Around the World. This is our 7th. and have pegged our efforts this year to raise \$3,000. Our effort last year raised \$2,100 and helped 67 children in Africa. Our ambition is to help 100 children this year. The event is unique because we host it at our home and everything is homemade. Dinner is slow cooked goulash over an open fire with 40 loafs of home baked bread, salads, condiments, vegetarian pizza, and about 30 different deserts all home-made by the four of us. All proceeds go to the children as our family covers all cost. We can accommodate 100 and no more. Still a few spots available so if you want a day of fun and really good eats call me 327-5717. jim tolnai

Christian Dilema

So it seems Mayor Stevens has a problem of faith. His refusal of proclaiming gay pride week in Orillia seems to be based on his Christian beliefs. So he claims. After some arm twisting by council in a closed door meeting the mayor changed his mind and grudgingly, half hearted went against his personal belief. The mayor takes exception to people who do not conform to his standards. But our country, province and city are filled with people who do not conform to his standards. Muslims, Buddhists, Jews, etc. are all non Christians who do not conform to the mayors beliefs as a Christian. Should he have the right to ban these people from celebrating their beliefs? I don't think so. I also don't believe this is anything more than political posturing.

In reading the letters in the Packet from people like Adrian Kooger congratulating the mayor for his Christian stand I got to thinking about these people who seem to hate the gay lifestyle. To these people being gay is anti-Christian and their behavior should be banned or even worse made illegal with some sort of punishment. They close their mind and it seems their Christian hearts to a large minority of society.

In the same paper the story of Hugh McDonald the catholic priest who died before facing justice for molesting children spoke loud and clear. How come the mayor who has a Christian problem with consenting adults living their life does not Speakout about sexual abuse of children by McDonald. Why does Adrian Kooger not come out against these so called leaders

of Christians who sexually abuse children? How come the catholic church through their leaders covered up abuse for years and still fight compensation to the victims? I will never understand why people in power don't come out and condemn these people in the strongest terms????

Doesn't Christian values teach that when a couple get married that it is till death do us part? Does the ceremony not include the statement "Let no man put asunder"? Yet people who claim Christian values have married and remarried many times but have no problems defying that part of Christianity. Only with gays does their blood boil.

We forget that according to Christian teachings Jesus hung out with 12 men. These guys ate, slept and travelled together. Why they even bathed each other. That kind of behavior in the eyes of the mayor or Adrian Kooger should raise an eyebrow shouldn't it? I quite frankly don't see where Jesus ever took exception to gays. In fact he preached "love thy fellow man". Maybe Adrian can show us where Jesus says to love thy woman? Anyway who cares? Don't we have more important matters to deal with than what consenting adults in the privacy of their own home do or don't do. It's about time we leave these people alone once and for all. Mind your own business, live your own life and stop trying to make people conform to your beliefs. Gays and lesbians should be given an apology and their rights respected.

If the mayors intention was

truly one of conscience then a true Christian would not have gone against their belief. A true Christian would have resigned before going against his Christian belief. You know the stories of true Christians who went to the lions instead of compromising their belief. Now they must have really believed to give their life. So please let all people live in equality and leave them to live in peace and harmony. After all who are they hurting anyway?

jim tolnai

Answer From Pg. 2

Ms. Robins a supposed highly respected environmental expert working for Shaheen and Peaker charged the city over \$6,000 for her participating in the six hour long MURFathon last May. What did we get for our money??? Well in my view NOTHING. She gave a twenty minute presentation on the report she prepared for Molson's and answered a half dozen questions. Council including the Mayor were shocked to learn that they were being force fed the same old gruel and in fact some councillors like Francis Smith voiced their displeasure. End result was that Ms. Robins decided that a complete clean up which was in her report would not be needed. No evidence of new tests to make this decision. In fact no clean up was needed at all because a blanket would do the trick. Question?? If that is the case now then shouldn't Molsons get a refund for the report they paid for seeing it was flawed??? Hey Molsons' here is a chance to get a refund. Oh! I forgot these people along with council only "Almost Guarantee" their work. Over \$6,000 for roughly 40 minutes. That's \$150 per minute. Nice work if you can get. This rate would even embarrass a lawyer. Wouldn't it???????