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# ❖ Speaking Out ❖

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Issue 24 Oct. 2004

The Truth is Mighty and Will Prevail

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## Cipolla and Stevens Outraged

by: jim tolnai

It seems that Ralph Cipolla and Ron Stevens are upset with Speaking Out (so what else is new). It seems they have taken offense to one of our web pages on the Speaking Out site. The page is titled "Dioxin" and has a picture of conjoined twins whose condition was as a direct result of Dioxin poisoning of the mother. Ralph and Ron seem to be squeemish about this picture and I do not understand why. There are far worse we could have used but didn't. On the page I explain how NO Dioxin testing has been done at the Toxic/ Hazardous Molson MURF site. I also explain how it is more likely than not that Dioxin is present due to PCB contamination. The facts are there in black and white. Yet Ralph and Ron refuse to test for Dioxins, Furans or Mercury. Why????

Well it is the old adage, if you don't test it isn't there. You know the Ostrich syndrom of burying your head in the sand and no one will see you. This plan of Ron and Ralph is what is outrageous. There has been grossly inadequate testing done on this Toxic site. I bet your not aware that for the Molson Enviromental study only 27 test holes were drilled on 27 acres and virtually every hole had contaminants exceeding Enviromental Guidelines by up to 800%. Then they tell us no more testing is required because the site is safe???

Because of Speaking Out and other concerned citizens spreading the word about their follie it was decided that more tests would be done and 13 more holes were drilled in the area where the building is to go. Lo and behold two new and deadlier chemicals than previously reported were found. Of course Ralph and the local press (Packet) reported that this was good news and everything was just great. So imagine how shocked and I suppose outraged Ron and Ralph were when their lie of good news was exposed. The fact is that the #4 worst chemical on

earth "vynil chloride" was one of them. Now the MOE says that any concentrations higher than .5 ppb(point5 parts per billion) are Toxic/Hazardous to life. So you would think that with Ron and Ralphs spin of good news the levels would be .5 or below wouldn't you? Well it turns out that in reality they found concentrations of 3,650 parts. That is 7,299.5 times higher than is safe for you and your children to be exposed to. This is Ron and Ralphs good news. So that leads us to wonder what would constitute bad news to these guys.

It seems that according to Ron and Ralph everything is just hunkey dorey so full steam ahead. You see according to them their Experts have said that "it's OK the site is safe". Yet in documents we have from the experts there is warning after warning which they will use to wiggle out of any responsibility when the inevitable happens and people (especially children) are harmed. We kid you not. Site workers will have to wear Hazmat suites. Before any truck leaves the site it will have to be washed down and the water has to be captured as it is too toxic to be left for the toxic ground to soak up. Now this is the dirt which is conveniently labelled Non Hazardous that they want to dump on the shores and eventually into

Lake Simcoe. As for the water they are going to pour it down the sewer drain. You see it is too toxic/hazardous to go down the storm sewer but they claim that because it is going to go through the treatment plant it is OK. Well it is not OK. It is actually worse because not only is the treatment plant unable to remove these chemicals they actually add chlorine to it. Dah???? In Shaheen and Peakers Molson report they advise that water should be cleaned and filtered on site at a cost of one million dollars. And that was before they found vynil chloride. By the way I forgot to tell you what the second chemical found was. Well it was Trichlorethylene the 15th most toxic chemical on earth. You may remember this was the stuff which forced the closing of two wells in Couchiching Park. It took concerned citizens nine years before these guys were forced to shut the wells down while you and your kids were drinking it. By the way the Trichlorethylene is the second part of Ron and Ralphs good news chemical find.

So it makes us wonder why anyone would be outraged by a picture which shows what can happen if the site is not tested and cleaned properly before people use it. And why with mounting evidence Ron and Ralph along with a majority of council don't get it?



Speaking Out  
13 Creighton St.

Ph: 327-5717

Fax 327-5974

[jim@speakingout.biz](mailto:jim@speakingout.biz)

Jim Tolnai Editor/Publisher





## Did We Have a Choice??

by: doug peddle

Do the readers or anyone else for that matter believe we had a choice of what type and cost of facility Orillia was getting. Do members of council believe they had or indeed have a choice as to what facility will be built on the Molson Swamp???? Do the citizen members of the MURF committee really believe they had a choice as to what the project looks like??? Does the Packet and other media believe there was a choice? Even though Speaking Out furnished the Packet with copies of documents which show clearly that Orillia including council and the MURF committee had absolutely no say in cost or design.

How do I know these facts to be true? Why don't the councillors know about this? If they know why have they not questioned this in public??? Why did the MURF committee volunteers not know about this???? I hate to burst these and of my readers bubble but burst away I will.

Molson being a very clever seller looked at Orillia and decided it could do business on it's terms with the country yokles. So the first step would be to have a local well known individual start talking about the potential of the site for community use. Maybe someone like Ralph Cipolla who was not on council and could be viewed as impartial and an active good citizen. Now Ralph has admitted that he is responsible for bringing the parties together so the story seems to be verified by no other than someone who started the process. Without most councillors knowledge negotiations

were entered into to aquire the land for a buck??? Can't you just see our councillors smiling as they OK!! the best land deal ever made by any council in the History of Mariposa. With puffed up chests and spinning heads they rushed to pass a by-law based on nothing more than spin. No legal advice or even seeing the transfer agreement was presented. No record of debate is available which means non took place. Look at the money saved on land acquisition. Why citizens, friends and family will sing their praises for years to come. What clever councillors?? Without a thought the Rubber Stamp came down and on to bigger and better things. Right???

So now Stevens has the OK!! to sign a Transfer Agreement that few councillors have ever seen. Wouldn't it be interesting to know if Doug Downey who as a lawyer saw this agreement??? As our friend Allan Millard (retired lawyer) said the other night at the Citizens Coalition meeting "no lawyer would have advised the city to sign this agreement". So Doug did you vote for this agreement after seeing it or will you claim you never saw it???? But I ramble on and Speaking Out will revisit Doug Downey's role as a councillor and lawyer in this Scandal.

I will now reprint parts of the transfer agreement which you can download in it's entirety from [www.speakingout.biz](http://www.speakingout.biz) and see for yourself. So here goes.

7. Orillia agrees with Molson as follows.

(b) Plans and specifications for the construction of the Community Complex shall be subject to the **prior approval of Molson**, such approval not to be unreasonably withheld. **Lack of quality in respect of the design and materials shall be considered a reasonable basis for rejection of the proposed plan and specifications.** For greater certainty, the nature and quality of the construction of the Community Complex shall be comparable to **Woodstock Twin Pad Arena and Recreational Complex and Goulbourn Community Centre in Ottawa.**

Now you don't have to be a lawyer

like Downey to understand that Orillia's hands are tied as to how much we spend or what the complex will look like. The MURF committee was sprinkled with a few community members to make it look like the community was choosing for itself when all along city staff who were also on the committee were actually steering the whole process. Ian Brown was on this committee to make sure no road blocks would come up. It's pretty easy to steer an individual to a cadillac instead of a volkswagon when that person does not have to pay the bill.

Folks the die was cast on this deal long before anyone had an idea of what was going on. But there is some trouble on the horizon. Seems there is an upstart publication (affectionately refered to by Stevens as a rag) making some noises of dissent. Oh! why Oh! why can't we just get this deal done say the boys at city hall. Why can't Speaking Out just shut up and everything will be tickety boo for us! Why look, the Packet is on board. They can be relied on not to dig and report what we are doing. Why can't Speaking Out just leave us alone to do our deeds????

Seems the boys were worried way back so all of a sudden Ralph Cipolla decides to run for council. Why??? Could it have been to steer this issue to completion???? Seems he has taken the lead position even over Stevens on the MURF??? What about the ad Cipolla and Downey paid for asking for input from their ward. Here are two guys one a Liberal and the other a Conservative sharing voters????? Smoke and Mirrors??

But we didn't and won't go away. The more we dug the more dirt we collected, the harder the boys at city hall pushed until we now are at the point that much of the truth is out. The land is a Toxic Soup, the truth and documents have been pried from the grubby hands that held on tight for almost two years. The day of reconing is now upon us and the politicians and city managers will have to pay the price.

## We Get Letter

Letter to the Editor/ Mike Dodd  
Orillia Today, Packet and Times,  
Speaking Out

I recently read your article entitled 'Let the MURF experts do the talking' by Mike Dodd. I must say that I was appalled while I was reading it. You said that you feel as if you have become lost in an endless ocean of nothing more than pure noise. Maybe you should consider listening to the noise, and find out what is actually being said. Also, you should not be turned off because of the noise. You should be thankful that there are some people in this community that are willing to stand up, and fight for what *should* be done. This situation is not funny in any sense whatsoever. Having a multi-use recreation facility on contaminated land is not a laughing matter. There are possible chances of these toxins poisoning children in the future. Love Canal is a perfect example of experts saying that the land was okay to build on. How many people of all ages were affected by that decision? I'll continue on with your article. Colleen Cooney, Kelly Clune, or any members of council do not need a degree of any sort to know that building the MURF on the West Street site is wrong. I am 20 years old, and currently in my second year of University, with no degree and I know that building the MURF on this site is a terrible idea.

On the other hand, I don't understand why you brought your car purchase into this article. Yes it is a big decision, but this decision only affects you. Will the purchase of your car affect everyone in the entire city? I don't think so. It affects you and your family alone. The decision of this MURF site affects everyone in Orillia, and also those in neighbouring areas, including Oro Medonte, Ramara and Severn. You later say in your article "You can argue about the MURF until

the cows come home, but eventually you have to build it somewhere". We aren't arguing about the MURF, we are arguing about the site of the MURF. I know I would rather continue the arguing for a new site, than to have it built on West Street. There would be no problem if the city had decided to build the MURF on another site that isn't contaminated by numerous pollutants. There are other people with degrees that say that this site is not a good idea. If you were at the meeting on Friday October 22 at City Hall, you would have heard more information. However, the meeting was video taped and when a copy is made I will have one sent to you. You then ask if we should scrap the thousands of dollars that have been spent on the MURF site, with a reply of "Heck no". We should do what is right. Yes, money is an important factor but so are the environment and the health of everyone in this community.

I would like to know why you say that communities all around us are laughing or that Red Green or Stephen Leacock would find this humorous. It's not funny, but on the other hand to call the MURF a "Wellness Center" on a toxic site is pretty humorous. I think it's sad that our city council would even consider building a recreation center on such a polluted site. If anything, it should be showing our surrounding communities that we care, and want to do what is right.

And as for your opinion, and how you have few concerns about this site, you should make sure that you have seen all documents, and know all the information that is available, just like your car, before making a decision.

Thanks for taking the time to read this letter. I hope that it might have opened your eyes a little wider.  
Sincerely,

Taryn Tolnai  
13 Creighton Street

## Molson's Other Goodies

In addition to Molson having the say on what we build the city also signed it's right away for the following.

4. In consideration of the transfer a Molson or it's nominated affiliate shall enjoy preferred supplier status in the Brewing Industry for all events, activities and venues that are run or managed by Orillia. Molson Canada shall enjoy the maximum pouring rights allowed by law at events.
- b. The parties shall agree on a name for the Park Lands and such name shall prominently feature the word "MOLSON"
- c. Orillia shall notify Molson Canada, or shall cause it's administrators or agents to notify Molson of future bookings at Molson Park and apprise all of it's booking parties of Molson's preferred supplier status and it's interest in and willingness to sponsor events at the Park.
- d. Molson's has the right to buy the first 50 tickets and two suites for public events.
- e. All signage design and location both inside and outside shall include the Molson name.

Sure looks like we sold our soul to the company store doesn't it???????

## We Get More Letters

### My Reply

Shame on you Jim Tolnai.

I attended the MURF Agenda meeting last night (Oct. 22 2004) with the hopes of learning about the MURF issues, and I learned *much* more, thanks to Alan Millard, Dick Sleep, Kelly Clune and Colleen Cooney. From you I heard rhetoric and sensationalism which seemed to be designed to draw attention to you and how wonderful (you think) you are. This serious forum was no place for grandstanding.

Afterwards I went for a coffee with my neighbours and who should walk in but Ralph Cipolla, Francis Smith and a couple of other men. They sat in a different area than we did, but we stopped to chat with them on our way out. It was then that they showed us a page printed from your website - the photo showing the conjoined twins, asking, "*Which Orillia Child will have to suffer for Stevens and Cipolla's Faith In Experts*". I was shocked that even you would stoop so low as to use dirty tactics like this. I say 'even you' because I've watched your performance in this city over the years and have come to expect low blows and smear campaigns designed to draw attention to yourself and to denigrate anyone who opposes you.

I've always felt that you have some sort of hidden agenda - probably with the hope of hitting the high note of being elected to council on a cold day in hell.

I believe in fighting against the proposed MURF site, and so I side with the Citizens' Coalition, but I protest your tactics and feel that you greatly reduce the credibility of the Coalition. I'm sure our paths will cross in the not too distant future because we're 'on the same side', but we are polarized on how to approach things.

Sincerely

Ms. B. Jeanine Baker

I am pleased that you are opposed to sending children to a contaminated site with huge risks. Too bad that more people don't speak out. As for my tactics they are not tactics at all. Those babies were a direct cause of Dioxin. If you had bothered to read the information you would have learned that when PCB is burned or heated the result is Dioxin. As there were two transformer fires which resulted in the spread of PCB on the property it is more likely than not that Dioxin is present and Shaheen and Peaker know it which means that Cipolla and Stevens must know it as well. If not then they better look into it as soon as possible which should have been yesterday. Yet no Dioxin tests were or are being done. You can't find it if you don't test for it. Why don't you ask Shaheen and Peaker if the statement above is true. Do you know why they are not testing for Dioxins? Ask them.

Jeanine why don't you get in touch with victims of the Love Canal where politicians had faith in Experts??? Where the political agenda took front seat to public safety and common sense?? Ask them about their childrens birth defects. Ask them at what age and how their children suffered before dying. Then contact the politicians who blindly followed the advice of Experts and ask them why they made their decisions and did not check for themselves. I bet you will get the same rhetoric that is being fed to you right now. "Oh their experts". "the experts have assured us that the site is safe and it is their ticket on the line". If this site is built on and children become ill do you really think they will care (the children) whether Shaheen and Peakers ticket is on the line??? They are still sick.

Read Shaheen and Peakers reports. Nowhere in the document do they guarantee the safety of our citizens. In fact the reports are full of weasel words and paragraphs that will absolve them of liability in a court of law because they included these warnings that Cipolla and Stevens never bothered reading or ignored. If you had of listened at the meeting you would have heard the Hydrogeologist state that the testing in his

professional opinion was "Inadequate and met only the barest of standards". Why does Stevens and Cipolla allow testing that meets the lowest standard and not the highest which our children deserve???

Jeanine I quite frankly don't care if you are squeemish and don't want to see the result of bad decisions of politicians. What I care about is that no child in my community will be exposed to the risk no matter how small, and believe me the risk here is not small. So Ralph and Stevens can be upset all they want. Maybe they will do proper testing and release all the facts before ramming this site down our collective throats. What do you want to bet they won't?

Hey Jeanine seeing that you are friendly with Cipolla why don't you ask him why he stated to the press a couple of weeks ago that the new testing information was good news and all was well at the site. In fact once we uncovered the truth the new information was anything but good news. Two new chemicals were found. Vynil Chloride is the fourth worst chemical known to man. In Ontario any concentration over .5 (point five) parts per billion is unacceptable for human contact. So don't you think that when a report says that 3,600 parts per billion were found that this is not good news? That level is 7,200 times higher than allowed yet Ralph claims without telling us the concentration that they have good news. Can you blame me for thinking that if more deadly chemicals are found at huge concentrations and Ralph says this is good news that maybe these people don't care about the effects on our citizens and children??

So in closing please keep up the fight our children deserve it. Why not bring your tactics to the Coalition maybe you have a better way. I invite and encourage you to our meeting Tuesday, October 26, 7pm at 13 Creighton St. Atherly (my house). And if you want to chew me out then please do so. You see I actually care what you think and respect your opinion. That's what makes our Coalition so great. Independent, thinking people all with their own agenda working for the public good. As for your comment about being elected I don't even live in Orillia and at this point have no business interest there either but I am concerned.

Shame on Them: Jim Tolnai