

## Local developer responds to councillor's memory questions

In response to Coun. Wayne Gardy's letter "Orsi suffering from selective memory: Gardy" (The Packet & Times, Sept. 15)

I selectively remember that servicing was built around 1994 and it was done by the city to service both Notre Dame Catholic School and the new Hunter Industrial building. There was money granted by the federal government for infrastructure funding and a payment by the school board helped facilitate the construction of the temporary pumping station. This pump station was to serve the school and the Hunter building only. We were told by the city at that time that our development would not be able to be serviced through this system and as such we could not develop any of our lands.

However, I selectively remember that when a Toronto developer came to this city and asked to use this temporary system for the new Wal-Mart, capacity was miraculously made available.

This temporary facility is still servicing the existing West Ridge community to this day.

It is probably operating at less than 50% capacity and could probably accommodate the new additions of Lakehead University and the West Orillia Sports Complex. However, the city is now building a new permanent sewage station to replace the existing one that is working with plenty of capacity. I am not sure if within those 15 years Coun. Gardy may have known about this, or he may have simply forgotten about this, when he approved a \$3.2-million budget toward replacing a facility before it is really needed.

If I am to be accused as the only self-serving benefactor through the development of the city's West Ridge Place master planned community, I would ask Coun. Gardy to respond to the following 10 questions before he makes accusations.

- 1) How many taxpayers live at West Ridge Place?
  - 2) How many construction jobs and economic spinoff were created because of West Ridge Place?
  - 3) How many permanent jobs were created out at West Ridge Place?
  - 4) How much tax is collected from West Ridge Place?
- 
- 5) If West Ridge Place was not developed, where would the city residents live, shop and work?
  - 6) What alternative sites were readily available to accommodate Lakehead University and the West Orillia Sports Complex at time of crisis?
  - 7) How would the city attract growth if there was nothing to offer?
  - 8) Why have an EDC or city industrial park?
  - 9) What potential would the city have to retain our youth?
  - 10) After answering the previous, explain why

your accusation is justified.

Angelo Orsi, Orillia