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Citizens Coalition Public Meeting

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Last night Nov. 30 the Citizens Coalition of Orillia and Area held it's second public meeting regarding the Molson Swamp MURF. Very interesting evening with lots of new information coming to light. Eric Gillespi our lawyer made a trip from Toronto at his own expense to let the people of Orillia know how the lawsuit against the city is progressing. Seems the city has decided to appeal the injunction. You know the injunction that councillors and Mike Miller city solicitor made light of claiming the Coalition won nothing. Hey if the injunction was mute then why spend tens of thousands to appeal it?

For those of you who did not see the Monday night council meeting it seems according to Ralph Cipolla the city has spent \$100,000 in legal expense. Now excuse me but \$100,000 for less than a day and a half in court? What are these guys doing? Drunken sailors are more careful with their money than these people are with ours. It would have been \$80,000 cheaper to just do proper testing and prove to us that indeed the soil is not hazardous. Instead the Coalition will test these soils at our expense while the city squanders your hard earned dollars. If as expected the test shows the soil is hazardous these guys have painted themselves into a corner that will cost us an additional tens of millions.

You see council and their experts have done a terrible disservice to all of us. The mayor, Shaheen and Peaker, the MOE and even the Minister of the Environment claimed that soil taken to the dump would be piled in "separate windrows". For those who don't know what a windrow is which includes council their experts and landfill employees it is piles separated from each other. This way proper testing could have been done on each load as required and hazardous material could be isolated and dealt with safely. But no these people did not want to make it easy and safe to isolate these materials. What they chose to do was to mix all the loads together making it harder to find the hazardous portion and making all the soil hazardous. When the city is ordered to remove hazardous material, because of the mixing all soil will have to be trucked away. The cost for this will be astronomical. You see had they done the right thing we might of had to spend maybe a couple of million dollars for removing the hazardous material. Now because of their mixing it all together the cost could be \$40,000,000 to as much as \$120,000,000 by some estimates. So you see in their haste to try and dilute hazardous material they actually made a bad situation worse. Now the question is which expert recommended this?

At last nights meeting Allan Millard made new information available that is astounding. Using Shaheen and Peakers report given to council on Nov. 4 he showed how hazardous soil by magic was made non hazardous and all with the knowledge of the MOE. You see the last round of testing showed "catastrophic" results with vinyl chloride 82,000 times higher than MOE standards. It seems that samples from the hotspot were mixed with samples taken way back last June from other test holes (just like at the dump). Now we do not have information as to what amounts of this soil was mixed with the hazardous material but lo and

behold these tests showed that the mix was not hazardous by a leachate test. I suppose if you diluted your toilet water the results would show a lower concentration of sewage, but hey shit is shit no matter how much perfume you add to it.

At last night's meeting we had four councillors show up. Cipolla, Smith, Downey and Gardy. As I watched their reaction to the speakers and questions posed from the audience it was plain to see they were not happy campers. You see what I and most other people can not understand is why 9 people (council) are so adamant to harm not only Orillians but all water users in the area. You do not have to be a scientist or expert to know that if you consistently come up with test numbers tens of thousands of times higher than allowed you have a problem. These people can not claim ignorance as members of our Coalition have been warning them for a year to be careful and err on the side of caution. But no it's full steam ahead damn the torpedoes. Well the torpedo has now struck. They can abandon ship or try and save it. Which do you think they will choose and at what cost?

It is interesting to note that the Kobeal brothers of Walkerton fame have pled guilty and will be sentenced to jail time. Is it a stretch to think that diluting samples for the purpose of changing test results and knowingly sending hazardous material to an unlicensed landfill may be similar breaches of trust? Is it a stretch that all nine councillors decided to follow through with their plans regardless of the consequences? So who suggested that they could get away with this? Was it the lawyers, experts or senior staff?