

June 29, 2005

Canada Day Disgrace

City council decided to give themselves a Whooping 40% raise last month without public input or even batting an eye. Downey, Smith, Morano, Gardy, Spears, Cipolla and **UNELECTED** Garland voted for a 40% raise in their pay packet. Lauer and Stevens paid lip service to it not being right but accepted the fatter pay cheque anyway's. As there wasn't a **NO Vote** or **RECORDED VOTE** called these two can not claim they voted against the raise. Most people are lucky to get a 2% raise. Now the last time council got a raise was in 1999 to top up their compensation. At that time they also voted to give annual raises of around 2% based on city employees compensation. Out of the blue three councillors are asked to do a survey of other communities compensation of their councillors and came up with deserving a 40% increase even though they have been getting these annual raises. Now they would have you believe that since 1999 they had not received any increase but that is just not right. They ran for office based on the salary offered and not one of them campaigned on a platform of wanting more money half way into their mandate.

Citizens became outraged and a new group was formed called "**PIGS**" short for (**Promoting Integrity in Government Spending**). This group wants to draw people's attention to what is happening in local government and urge them to participate in Canadian Democracy at all levels of government but in particular local affairs. After having filled out the required paper work to be included in **Our Canada Day** parade a committee of self appointed censors has denied this groups participation. You see the **PIGS** float is a decorated trough with the 7 councillors names who voted themselves this outrageous raise carved into it all decorated and colourful. Their message is for people to get out and vote but more importantly choose who you put into power carefully as your decision can come back to haunt you and your wallet. The whole concept of **PIGS** is to have a bit of Humour while at the same time showing that in Canada we have **FREEDOM of SPEACH** and the right to protest our elected officials decisions and of course to remind elected officials that they serve us and not the other way around. I am sure that if a group wanted to praise a council decision they would

have been allowed to be in the parade.

So the 4 people on this **Anti Canada Day** committee decide that this float could be perceived as "hurtful" and "humourless". These people having been appointed by the very people that **PIGS** are drawing attention to are denying their basic Canadian Right of **FREEDOM of SPEECH**. Why just yesterday Prime Minister Martin stated that Canada is made up of minorities and minority rights must be respected. So whether this committee agrees or not with **PIGS** message they do not have the legal or moral right to censor. It is also important to note that correspondence sent to **PIGS** about them being denied entry into the parade was also copied to the **OPP**. I suppose it could be construed as a form of intimidation that if you defy us we will unleash the storm troopers against you unless these people copy all correspondence to the OPP??? There was no need to involve the police unless that was their intent.

So folks if you attend the parade watch out for the **TROUGH** as it will definitely be in the parade, before the parade or just after the parade and it definitely will be displayed down at the park. Local, National and International media have been advised of how the few who govern the many in Orillia want to stifle any descent no matter how much harm they do to us. The Spirit of Leacock lives on with this political satirical expression of Canadian **INDEPENDENCE**, **DEMOCRACY** and **FREEDOM OF SPEECH**.

If you wish to participate in the **PIGS** parade give Jeanine Baker (705) 326-1957 or Kelly Clune (705) 327-2100 a call for more current information. It will be a fun day for all so get out and support **PIGS** in their effort to educate and stimulate people to become active in their community and future. This is **OUR CANADA DAY PARADE** not just theirs.

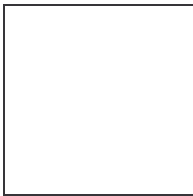
jim tolnai

June 28, 2005

Garland/Mayor/Downey Owes Apology

Last week in Committee Ian Brown gave a report about a letter from the MOE which supposedly exonerated the city in it's testing and handling of samples of soils that was used to magically make hazardous soil into non hazardous. Of course Boss Hog only made public the reply from the MOE and not his letter.

This mis-information prompted councillor Garland to demand an apology from Allan Millard. Now Allan was on his honeymoon last week so on his return and finding out about Garlands request did his homework and presented himself at council last night. During the public forum at the end of the meeting Allan approached the mic to make a statement and then ask councillor, Garland or the City manager to explain their accusation against him. Sort of like a day in court where all the dirty laundry gets aired. As I said he was approaching when Garland begins to ramble even before Allan is at the mic saying that he should not be allowed to speak as Mr. Millard was rude and downright mean the last time he spoke or possibly what he says should be censored. Anyone knowing Allan is aware he always conducts himself with class unlike Garland. Garlands' attack on Allan was unwarranted both last week and this week. But he always being a gentleman continued on and his first factual comment in reply to Garland hit home as the ill tempered mayor threatened to turn off his mic for stating the obvious. Garland's unwarranted remark about Allan electioneering was thrown back at him when Allan said "I am surprised that the **unelected** councillor would be concerned by elections". If you live in a glass house Carl don't throw stones. You see folks Garland **wasn't** elected to office but made backroom deals (which is the norm for these people) with councillors and was crowned by them, you know nod nod wink wink. If anyone has **No** legitimacy to speak it is an unelected council member who the people did not choose. Obviously Carl was afraid to run in an election and lobbied until his lips were sore from **kissing, butt I digress** . Then Downy comes to the aid of Ian Brown saying staff don't have to take abuse (which what Allan stated was **not**) when Allan pointed out that the "only conclusion he could come to about Brown's letter to the MOE was it mis-represented facts". If a city employee misleads, mis-represents (not for the first time I might add) and gets involved with political matters then that employee has crossed the line and criticism of that individual is legitimate. But what Allan said wasn't even criticism it was a fact so Downey mis-spoke and he knows it. This issue is far from over as a copy of Brown's letter to the MOE will be requested. What do you want to bet they will not want to release it even though it was the cause of the attack on Allan by elected and **unelected** councillors and should be a public document????? Mayor, Downey and Garland owe an apology not only to Allan but all Orillians for their shoddy ill tempered and childish behavior. Proof is in the video we have it now so do you.



If your computer does not auto download then Right click on Icon button and click **Save Target As** then download and enjoy the video clip.

jim tolnoi

June 27, 2005

Reply to Article

I sent the June 26 article to the members of the PLC. I received a letter from Mike Davenport and reproduce it below with my answer back. Mike is a business owner on West St. and he certainly has a vested interest. I hope he will become more proactive and I hope I have answered his question. Below I have reproduced his letter and then our answer below that.

Jim

What do you think Orillia should do to improve the West St. area, Something has to be done with this eyesore & then just maybe the old A&P & CTC store & other vacant property along west st. could be sold & developed which will enhance the city. I do not understand for the life of me what you expect us to do with this area, as we need to do something.

Also I take offense with certain name calling in your letter, if you cannot be civil stop sending me these long emails & just get to the point please, as I am a concerned business owner on west St. & as I said we must do something to move Orillia forward.

Mike Davenport

Davenport Subaru

Dear Mike

Thanks for your response. I/we too would like to see West St. developed. The difference between most people and mayor, council and city manager is that we want it developed with no future repercussions. Right from the getgo these people knew how bad this property was but ignored all the readily available information. They planned and schemed to push this project through with the thought that by the time adverse effects were seen someone else would have to look after it. What we as concerned people in the community did was expose their intentions of not investigating the site properly, not doing a historical study of the site, ignoring peoples questions, with holding public documents, name calling to dismiss our efforts and lying. We have here one of the worlds most toxic sites right in the heart of the city and these people with full knowledge of the consequences went ahead for their own purpose that one day will be known. If you believe that any of what these people tried to do was for Orillia's benefit then you are sadly mistaken. Ever wonder why they tried to mislead and coverup??? What would it have cost to be honest?? Here they are willing to spend \$790,000 on changing the look of a transformer for esthetics but refused to do a proper investigation of the property. As I have said their problems were always there only it has been now exposed.

In answer to your question as to what we need to do to improve this area is quite simple. Until all the testing and information was done nothing should have happened. Unfortunately we now have 40,000 tons

of hazardous soil at the dump and the toxic plume has been squeezed off the property. Their refusal to make public results from off site wells speaks very poorly of the results. Mike you may not realize this but the flow from this site is south, southeast. If as we suspect the plume is moving then your property is right in it's path. The contaminants could have been contained had they not piled 250,000 tons of fill right on top of the plume which they knew was there. The worst thing you can do to any contaminated site is disturb it until you know exact size and toxicity. Then you remediate (cleanup) and then build. These guys were building regardless of consequences. Development can not nor should it be driven for development sake. What we need to do is first make sure there will be no adverse effects. Mike the building would have already been started by now and the Risk Assessment is still months away. Don't you think that a prudent person would first do a risk assessment, then complete a plan of action to mitigate harm, then with plan in hand proceed to develop??? These people never had any intention of doing that. It is important for you to understand that the Citizens Coalition is no longer the driving force behind all this testing. It is driven by the Toxicity of the site, the MOE and the consultants. All we did was expose them for what they were doing. As for you Mike I strongly urge you to have your property checked for contaminants and do it regularly. Once the plume gets under your building you may have a worthless piece of property. By doing investigation now and proving you are not contaminated your case for compensation will be easier when the plume reaches you. Endicott New York has had 450 buildings effected by a plume generated from an IBM site even though IBM has been doing a cleanup since 1976. Scary stuff Mike I would advise you pay more attention to what is happening and get pro active.

Jim Tolnai

Citizens Coalition

PS: Severn Township has been supplying TCE laced water to the residents of Coldwater since 1996. Only now has it become public knowledge because they are being forced to update the water filtration system to bring it into compliance. There were never any public announcements warning people even to this day. Stevens was the mayor of Severn in 1996 to 2000. Was he concerned for peoples health? Doesn't seem so does it. Now we are supposed to believe any different about Orillia?? As yet surrounding well owners in Coldwater have not been notified either. All three coldwater wells are contaminated. Do you suppose no other wells have this stuff in them?? I don't think so. Only notification to date has been by the Citizens Coalition through Speaking Out. The Packet which you support with advertising has still not investigated nor done a story. I suppose it would embarrass too many people. Just sickens us with grief for all being harmed needlessly.

June 26, 2005

City & Experts Cancel PLC Meeting

Well! Well! Well???? The city and its experts have cancelled the July 6 Public Liaison Committee meeting???? Don Richardson the cities hired chairman of the committee has told the members that "**Based on discussions with Shaheen & Peaker and the City of Orillia, I am recommending that the PLC meeting scheduled for 6 July 2005 be postponed until later in July. Date still to be determined**". Why would the city and S&P along with Gartner Lee not proceed with this meeting??? Well look back at what we said about test results. We said that a lack of transparency in publishing test results was because these new results were even worse than the "**Catastrophic**" levels previously obtained. The city and their **experts** have said it only takes 5 days for test results to come back from the lab. So how come there are no test results and why would the PLC members not get them immediately. The only logical answer is that the results are so bad that it is taking these **experts** and **Boss Hog** longer to try and figure out a spin. They are scurrying around trying to fit a square peg into a round hole but it seems to no avail. These people still just don't get it and no amount of stonewalling is going to change the results.

Don Richardson further states "**It is important that PLC members receive meeting package materials - especially results of latest tests and S&Ps recommendations for any additional work - well in advance of the PLC meeting so that members have the time to review fully. I would like to provide this information to the PLC, and post to the City website about two weeks in advance of the meeting**". Seems our analysis that they are looking to plug that round hole but only have square pegs is right doesn't it??? Does this statement mean that as a result of the new numbers S&P is not releasing them because they are preparing new recommendations for additional work???? We already had a recommendation and accepted by council for additional work to the tune of \$408,000 due to the much earlier test results. But hey! Don why don't you release earlier test result which we have been asking for??? Test results like those from off-site monitoring wells or what was actually in those barrels?? Now don't tell us you don't have them back from the lab yet or we will nominate you for the Pinocchio Award along with Cynthia and Mayor Pinocchio. Don you have only been involved with this project a short time and your credibility has nearly run out already.

Just a short comment regarding all the activity on the Letters to the Editor page of the Packet. Do you suppose that these letters from the Rotary Clubs and John Ryckman extolling the virtues of the site this week was a coincidence??? I have critiqued the Rotary letter already but would like to comment on Mr. Ryckman's. The letter starts off "**I just want to say that everyone I talk to is in favour of the MURF site being built on West St.**" WoW!! now that is a pretty bold statement (some what like the Rotary letter saying the club "**Fully**" supports the site) isn't it??? Then he goes on to say how all Orillians will benefit but especially the South Ward. I honestly fail to see how the South Ward will benefit any more than the rest of Orillia as the MURF site is actually located in the West

Ward. John goes on to tell us that "**All sports people in Orillia will use this great new place, including soccer and baseball**". John, there are no soccer fields in the plans for this site. For some one with such strong opinions on this site and being a born Orillian you would at least have knowledge of what ward it is located in and a knowledge of what the facilities will contain. John credibility is in the details and so far you are losing it.

Then John goes on to say "**For those who are trying to stop this project, I'd like to remind them that the old Canadian Tire store used to be a factory, the old A&P store used to be a dump. And let's not forget that Kitchener Park was also once a dump, and has served recreational needs of our citizens for years without any health or environmental concerns**". WoW!! another powerful statement. So let's look at the Canadian Tire property. John ever wonder why the building has been left empty these many years??? Are you aware that after the store was closed hundreds of truckloads of dirt was removed from under the building and replaced with new clean fill. Yet even after these hundreds of thousands spent the building remains empty???? No For Sale sign No For Rent sign???? When this building was built there was very little knowledge of what went on underground. Building permits were issued without any concern. Now Canadian Tire is paying the price. Of course with today's knowledge Canadian Tire decided to build at the Mall instead of the West St. site. You may not know this John but there was a deal brewing back in the very early 90's to have Beaver Lumber and CTC build a power center on this very site. Both companies after getting test results decided not to go ahead. Why???? I suppose they wanted to be generous to the city and give us this prime piece of real estate to better the community and especially help the South Ward. As for the A&P site this building too sits empty. There are For Sale signs on it but no takers???? And of course you failed to mention that near empty plaza that sits right next to it looking like it has seen better days. Finally Kitcher Park. This wonderful piece of property right on the shores of Lake Simcoe. John seeing that it has been so hot why don't you go down there today and see how many people are using the beach???? Take a look at the water and any life form that it may contain. You know fish, crabs, frogs etc. Then talk to people living in the area. You see John we have done that. I have personally spoken with people who claim they have not felt right since they moved to the neighborhood. Some have indicated that they would be looking into getting their houses tested for air quality. You see John effects from these toxins don't make people just drop dead which is the evidence you are looking for. The effects creep up slowly ending in much suffering even death. So John please do some research and you will find that this site without cleanup is a disaster. One last comment. Our group and the majority of Orillians whom you have not spoken to are not trying to stop the project. We are wanting the site cleaned and then do whatever you want with it.

jim tolnoi

June 24, 2005

Blind Trust Part Duex

June 22nds article Blind Trust dealt with statements of faith made by the Rotary Club presidents in the city administration and their experts. Without obviously having most if any facts on how bad this site is contaminated these people (Frank Pizzitelli and Deborah Watson) just plain believe it without question. So it is incumbent upon me to make a case against **Blind Faith**.

Let's have a look at Gagetown NB. Back in the 50's and 60's chemicals were used by the Canadian and US military to defoliate up to 180,000 acres. All these toxins were deemed safe by **experts**. For years there has been evidence that people who were exposed to these toxins were suffering adverse health effects. No government whether Liberal or Conservative has ever taken one bit of responsibility for the harm caused. In fact they are attempting to absolve their responsibility by playing the waiting game so affected people will have a chance to die. They are with holding information, documents and forcing the victims to jump through the hoops. Sound familiar????

Yesterday at what was billed as an information meeting 200 victims or their family members showed up to hear lies like "**Agent Orange and other defoliants at the New Brunswick base in 1966 and 67 was small scale, carefully controlled and unlikely to cause harm to civilians living outside the base**". Just read these weasel words which attempt to depict this operation as "**small scale and carefully controlled**". How the hell do you control a spray from a helicopter??? How do you control the wind from spreading it far and wide???? Then these panel of experts stated "The officials also told a public meeting at CFB Gagetown, attended by at least 200 people, **that the health effects of exposure to the powerful defoliants remain unclear**". Can you believe it these people are claiming that the health effects are unclear. How can these people look in the mirror and live with themselves??? Just look at the effect spraying has had on the people of Vietnam. Birth defects, cancer, and long term contamination of land and water affecting generation after generation. What about the effect on US military personnel who handled and sprayed this stuff??? Yet they claim "**health effects are unclear**". Karen Ellis a deputy minister (a poor excuse for a human being) says "**We accept that these substances were not harmless . . . the real issue is how many people were affected and to what degree**" code for how much responsibility can we get out of. Well the only conclusion that can be reached from what the experts are saying is NON. If health effects are unclear, if spraying was small scale, if it was carefully controlled and if this behavior was unlikely to cause harm then why don't the victims just believe them???? Because they have died and are dying and **Blind Faith** is no longer an option. You see politicians and civil servants will never take responsibility for anything they do. There will always be an expert who will sell their soul and dispute clear evidence of harm and hold up dealing with victims fairly for years. These victims and all victims past and present all over Canada had **Blind Faith**. Why who would or could believe that when the need arose they would be abandoned in such a cruel

manner. **Government and experts never take responsibility.**

My point in all this rhetoric is very simple. Look at our own **Toxic** situation. To begin with we were told that the West St. site was OK and what a wonderful deal was had getting the land for a buck. Documents were hidden and had Doug Peddle and I not got a hold of the Appraisal on this land no one would have been the wiser until people started getting sick and dying. You see other than the actual environmental report which was hidden away by our friend Boss Hog the Appraisal was the only evidence of big time contamination. When we asked to see this environmental report we were told it was **confidential** at Molson's request??/ It was claimed there was a **confidentiality agreement** and the city would be sued if they released it??? For 22 months they repeated this lie over and over again only to have them admit there was no confidentiality agreement (at this point council should have terminated the city manager). Of course we pushed on and demanded further testing and results from tests already done. At the information meeting held at Swanmore Hall both Ian Brown and Cynthia Robins (**expert**) claimed that no more testing was required as the place was already like a pin cushion and all that had to be done was build the MURF. Well we took exception to that and embarrassed them into drilling a couple of token holes. Lo and behold results from these showed huge amounts of contaminants. At this point the experts were still saying everything was fine but were recommending (**insisting**) that more tests should be done to cover their own ass as they now knew that we knew what was there. More tests more "**Catastrophic**" results. The Citizens Coalition although responsible for bringing to light the contamination originally are in no way responsible for any testing going on today. You see once we uncovered the scheme between the experts and the city that if you don't test you can not be accused later of knowing the jig was up. Because of the public knowledge and our persistence to get out the info the **experts** in order to cover their own ass recommended (**insisted**) that more testing was required and the snowball keeps getting bigger. So as much as we appreciate people either crediting or accusing us of being responsible it is actually the **toxicity** of the site, the **MOE** and the **experts** who are responsible for all these extra costs and tests. We will however take credit for demanding that a complete clean up must be done. As for the buried barrels, at first the cities' and their **experts** position was that they did not **exist**. Because we kept insisting and new testing had proven us right as to how bad the site really is they were ordered by the MOE to do a study. Well! what do you know they found buried barrels. Now originally we were told 50 barrels were found. Two were full of something which to this day has not been reported??? They did say that the contents were "**thought**" to be diesel fuel??? but no lab results have ever been provided. One barrel was full of water??? and the rest were empty. Not surprising after all these years. But what is interesting is that now they are claiming there were only 30 barrels. Why the discrepancy folks???? Where did the other **20** barrels go???? Me thinks something stinks in Hazzard County and it isn't the cheese.

So my point is very simple. Unless you or your kids want to be arguing as to who is responsible for your kidney failure, leukemia or other cancer then do **NOT** have **Blind Faith**. It has been proven over and over again that the city

administration, council and even the MOE can not be trusted. They all have covered up and lied to us. So put their feet to the fire and demand that you and your families future be protected now. Gagetown people had **Blind Faith** and are now paying the price don't you make the same mistake.
jim tolnai

June 23, 2005

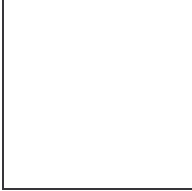
Contracts/ Agreements Worthless City Finally Replies With Nothing

Who would have ever thought that in a first world country like Canada and a first world province like Ontario that a third world small town small thinking administration resides at City (a joke) Hall. We have what I believe is the worst examples of uncivil servants of any municipality I have ever encountered. For the past four years city managers have covered up and lied their way to a Guinness World Record if such a category were ever allowed. From refusing access to public documents to out and out lies about secret confidentiality agreements to disappearing documents these servants of the few who are paid by the many have done and are doing an outstanding discredit to our community. I can't imagine any businessman seriously looking at moving their company to this town. From 1/2 million dollar Bob to Boss Hog to Mayor Pinocchio and the puppets we have a Hazzard County type of administration.

Just take the example of the group who owns the land at Tobbagon Hill. These guys co-operated with the city in providing a right of way so services could be taken over to Hunter Enterprises. They then entered a contract to pay for a sewer line to be taken across the highway and hooked up to a newly planned pumping station. Years later they get a bill for double the amount agreed on and are happy to pay it. But it turns out that without informing these people there is no pumping station anywhere near to the end of their pipe. You see the city decided that a contract it makes isn't worth the paper it is written on and hung these people out to dry. They decided to move the pumping station some 300 meters away and another developer saves a ton of money by him/her not having to lay this 300 meters of pipe. So even though there was an agreement and I believe it will be upheld as binding if it goes to court Hazzard County Administration have decided on taking their chances in court. Now if two days in court with the Citizens Coalition cost the city \$108,000 in legal fees what will this case cost us??? You do not have to be a rocket scientist or even a Coldwater Rd. lawyer to see that the Tobbagon Hill people have a great case and will most likely win. But hey! this is Orillia where no expense for legal costs is too high as long as it goes to the right lawyers. This is Orillia where city (joke) hall can say and do anything it wants and agreements can be disregarded.

So it was no surprise that I finally received a letter on the 17 of June acknowledging my correspondence which they received on March 22. Very simple request for "MURF Site Test Results and it took Boss Hog's office just 5

days shy of three months to acknowledge they received it. Now I don't mean answer my question or supply the requested Test Results which the City has pledged would be posted on their web-site as soon as they receive it (5 days after submitting samples). I mean a*#(+*#! ing acknowledgement that they received it. Any wonder we are frustrated by this inept, over paid, uncivil management. So much for transparency as the results are still a deep dark secret closely guarded by ??????. Boy the results must be really bad. I would venture to say that as the last known results were 455,000 ppb of trichlorethylene these new wells which go deeper have broken the 1/2 million mark. Now this is only speculation on my part but their refusal to come clean (sick joke) with test results can only mean one thing. They have something to hide. Seems every time they carry on in this manner it has meant tests came in with far worse results. There is no new test results on the city web-site and obviously these results are not going to be given to anyone freely so looks like court is the only answer. I can just see the lawyers salivating in eager anticipation of a big payday. I have scanned and provided their letter in a pdf file. Look at the dates.



I have been informed that members of the Public Liason Committee have also been asking for test results and to date they have been turned down as well. Does this make sense if everthing is on the up and up??????
jim tolnai

June 22, 2005

Blind Faith

Yesterdays Packet editorial page was an interesting read. The editorial screams "Clean air needs political support". In a letter to the editor and city council the headline reads "West Street site best location for MURF: Rotary Clubs". Quite a contradiction. On the one hand the editorial says that a study released by doctors last week raised the alarm that every heart and respiratory related death is influenced by bad air. So today we demand government action??? Yet no mention is made of the efforts back in 1970 of the 20,000,000 who protested world wide for air pollution control and other pollution controls. (On a beautiful, spring morning in April, 20,000 people gathered together in Washington D.C. to begin a campaign to save our earth. It was the 22nd of April in 1970 when Earth Day was born. There were several college campuses around the United States where Earth Day supporters met to hold their own campaigns. On April 22, 1970, over 20,000,000 people met to begin their fight to save the planet earth. Americans supported the Earth Day Campaign more than the Vietnam Protests.)
<http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/tlresources/units/Byrnes-celebrations/earthday.html>
These people knew 35 years ago that the world was heading for disaster but

governments and their **Blind Faith** supporters with their NOW! thinking did very little to stop the ever wider spread of air pollution. Oh! sure they mouthed words but when it came to actually forcing change they chickened out because of financial concerns and costs. Same with the medical community. Don't tell me the information about air quality effects on health weren't available then??? But if you don't look then you will not find will you (some what like buried barrels at the MURF site)??? Concern over profits for big business took the front seat and peoples health came in last.

So now the letter from Frank Pizzitelli and Deborah Watson presidents of the two local Rotary Clubs. It is with great suspicion that I read where both clubs "**fully**" supports the building of the MURF on West St. I find it hard to believe that there was a unanimous vote by all members for endorsing this site especially since nowhere in this letter does the words "clean up" appear. To me this implies that 100% of Rotarians endorse the building of the MURF on this toxic site **as is**??? This also implies that every Rotarian has endorsed knowingly or blindly the actions and coverups of mayor, council, city management and consultants of just how badly this site is really contaminated. Because this letter does not mention that the site is contaminated it means either that ? Rotarians are not aware of what is there or just don't care. According to this letter the site is more "**Important**" than the facility?? "We agree with the city fathers that this is the best site" says the letter? On what information did 100% of Rotarians base this statement on??? Were they told about the 455,000 ppb of the trichlorethylene contaminated plume that sits directly under the footprint of the MURF??? Were they told of the 41,000 ppb of vinyl chloride contaminated plume sitting directly below the footprint of the MURF (which is 82,000 times higher than the allowed .5ppb)? Were they told of the buried barrels that were found (which did not exist according to the experts and council until they were forced to look) and the ones still buried which they are being forced to look for now???

So I do not for a minute believe that there was a unanimous vote by all Rotarians to endorse this site. I do not believe that all Rotarians have **Blind Faith** in council, city management and consultants and personally know as fact that most Rotarians are uncomfortable with what is going on. So here is an offer to Rotarians. For you who have made your decision to support this site from only information supplied by the city or no facts at all but only **Blind Faith** then you owe it to yourselves to listen to the other side. The Citizens Coalition would be pleased if invited to present the other side. Yes there is another side which is based on science and common sense. Unlike the cities side which is relying more and more on **redevelopment** to justify building on this site our argument is based on cause and effects. So Frank and Deborah we hope to hear from your respective organizations so that you and your members can hear the other side (our offer is open to all organizations so please invite us). Only then can a rational decision be made to support this site without a thorough clean up. You see we have no problem with the location or with the building of a MURF. But we **Do** have a problem of building on one of the world's worst contaminated sites without cleaning it up. As the mayor said about future problems" that is for another council to deal with". We say No!!! let's deal with our own problems and

not have to have future Rotarians raising money to help victims of today's bad decisions and **Blind Faith**. Like decisions made 30 years ago about air pollution which now is at crisis levels why not make sure that the site is cleaned up and is safe??

jim tolnai

327-5717 We await your call

June 21, 2005

No News is Bad News???

I just checked the Orillia City web-site to see if anything new has been posted. What I was looking for was some information on test results from the new monitoring wells. Now I know the wells were tested about four weeks ago as I watched them collecting samples. All along we have been assured that lab results take only five days and that results would be made public on the web-site. But that has never occurred to date as bad results are withheld as long as possible. So S&P, mayor and council please post these results so that we too maybe able to know the results. After all we are stake holders. Forgive us for being suspect of your motives for not releasing this information as your actions of coverup in the past has made us very suspicious. There is also no mention on the web-site about the further geophysical studies done along the northside of the MURF property in an attempt to locate more barrels. Could we please have these results as well??? We have also consistently asked for test results from off site monitoring wells. To date these tests have not been made public. Why???

We have stated in the past how the decision to locate the MURF at this site was made long before anyone except the very few who had chosen it knew it was even in the running or available.. We also stated that the Site Selection Committee was steered and managed into their decision. Now we have one more piece of the puzzle. You see a big chunk of this land had a Provincially Significant Wetland designation. Back in 2000 the city applied to the province to change this designation to locally significant wetland. This now put the city in a position of being able to develop this site. You see under Provincially Significant they could not develop. It is important to note that Terry Edwards (city employee at the time) gave an affidavit swearing that certain criteria had changed or were wrong in the the original designation and the province based on this document allowed the change. Now that was in 2000 long before Molson was approached and long before the Site Selection Committee was formed according to statements by mayor and council. So it is not hard to believe that this property was being prepared in advance to house the MURF. As we investigate it will be interesting to see if all said in the Sworn Affidavit was true and correct. You see during the PLC meeting it also came to light that no significant ecological inventory or study was ever done on this property. Now we know that many species including fish had habitat there. If there was to be a sworn affidavit that criteria had changed you'd think there would have been a study to back it up. Maybe mayor and council could make a public statement to reassure us that everything was above board??? Maybe members of the Site Selection Committee could have another look at the process which was city manager

driven. As we have said the decision to use this site was made long before any committees or surveys were formed or done to justify the site which had already been selected possibly before 2000. As usual the public really had no say at all, we only thought we did.

jim tolnai

June 19, 2005

Garbage = Fuel

Yesterday I wrote about incineration's ugly head being raised again. Seems every few years this alternative to recycle, reuse and compost is trotted out. Why??? Well it is a very easy option. You see there is no sorting, no finding markets, no storing and the results which is toxic ash and air pollution can be more easily hidden from view. It is not necessarily less expensive but esthetically it looks better and of course there is money to be made by large corporations or well connected individuals.

So let us see what an incinerator would burn? First if all compostable materials are removed that represents about 25% of total weight according to my own garbage. Newspapers, flyers and other papers make up about 25% on average. Recyclable plastic packaging, cans and containers make up another 25% leaving us with about 25% of waste for incineration or disposal in a perfect world. But we know it is not a perfect world don't we??? In my garbage the 25% is made up of non recyclable packaging, floor sweepings, food not compostable etc. So in a perfect world a family who would have 2 bags per week can actually only contribute 1/2 bag to incineration or landfill. Unfortunately these non recyclable items when burned produce the most toxic emissions and ash which still has to be landfilled only now it must be dumped in a much more secure site as the ash is so hazardous.

Then there is the problem of quantity. You see in a perfect world we would not have enough garbage in Simcoe County to burn and make incineration viable. The only way they can make incineration work is either to import garbage from somewhere else or cut back on recycling. Now we know compostable garbage is not ideal fuel as you would have to use more energy to cook it first in order to burn as most of it's bulk is water. That leaves more plastics taken from the recycling stream which actually makes good fuel, as do tires and paper which are excellent to burn. Problem is that burning plastics and rubber gives off toxic and hazardous emissions that cause cancer and other respiratory problems. Just ask any fireman what is their number one health concern. Other fuels available would be building materials, carpets (very toxic) etc. So in order for an incinerator to be viable we need to go back to the days before recycling, reusing and composting. Now isn't that a leap forward.

I live in Ramara and the county is responsible for my garbage. Did you know that the county does not accept plastic bags and styrene's for recycling??? Can you believe it? One of the most easily recycled materials like plastic bags are not accepted. Styrene containers like cups, plates and packaging are not accepted. Yet at county council this past week councillors broke for lunch and had the nerve to use styrene plates and cups after having spent the morning discussing

how big a problem waste is. Kinda makes you wonder how much these people are really committed to solving our garbage "Crisis"???? They all seemed to agree that education of people about garbage is so important in solving our problem so might I suggest that if it is not reusable, recycleable or compostable educate yourselves and don't us it. Might I also suggest that county councillors actually take their own advice about education and make sure they lead by example. But hey! some (Packet) would say it is societies fault so stop making politicians accountable for their actions.

For your interest take a tour of an incineration plant.

<http://www.downtozero.ie/tour.htm>

Alternatives to Incineration <http://www.noincineration.com/alternatives.html>

jim tolnai

June 18, 2005

Incineration

Skullduggery, backroom deals and pulling the wool over our collective eyes is a foot. Remember back when there was an attempt to build an incinerator in this area? People mobilized and the politicians and the backroom boys backed down only to rise again now with a better plan. Is it a coincidence that a few months ago someone suggested that incineration is the way to go and Orillia should explore the idea. This person who's name eludes me proposed this idea and even spoke before city council. A few more letters to the editor about how positive this would be for our area and guess what?? County council has taken a tour of an existing incinerator on a fact finding trip???? Sit back now and let me tell you how regardless of how hard people fight these battles and think they have won the war rages on.

Local groups who fought against incineration thought that they had won the war because people in power had backed down. Nothing could be further from the truth. Incineration is and has been in these peoples plans and what is happening today proves it. The Power backed down only to give itself time to come up with the perfect plan where they would not have to lose their power and get the incinerator to boot. You see no municipal politician who wants to be re-elected or their backers would dare suggest an incinerator for their communities. That would be political suicide. So how can they have their way without taking the heat??? A simple and ingenuous plan was worked out. Of course an appropriate length of time had to pass before it could be implemented and that time has now come.

First we need to have a garbage crisis. This is done by filling up landfills and then picking a totally unsuitable site (41) as a new site for the county which by the way took responsibility for garbage away from municipalities a couple of years ago. Then encourage people to protest and stall this site with millions of dollars being poured into it. As the crisis grows have someone approach Orillia City council (Orillia is not part of Simcoe County) proposing incineration to get the ball rolling. Of course council turns a blind eye and says no way we fought this fight and don't want to be involved. They know their chances of holding onto power are nil if they supported the idea.

So how do politicians get around being blamed by their constituents and stay in power??? Why just have an un-elected government do the dirty work. You see no one votes for or against County Council (taxation without representation). There is absolutely no election. All members are automatically appointed if they are mayor and deputy mayor of a county municipality. So by the County assuming the responsibility for garbage local municipal politicians have distanced themselves from the issue. County council is free to bring in incineration because they do not need to be re-elected. It is important to remember that on the local level politicians can claim it is a county issue. County councillors are not elected so how can the electorate get rid of them???? Of course politicians in the host municipality of the incinerator will be indignant and fight against it's location but alas to no avail. You see County government is senior to municipal government. Isn't this ingenious??

But wait a minute do county municipalities have enough garbage to keep an incinerator in business??? Probably not. So Ramara's mayor Bill Duffy is quoted as saying that an incinerator could be feasible if Orillia and Barrie would use it's capacity. Now how much would you like to bet that both Orillia and Barrie have already agreed to contribute their garbage for such a good cause??? Oh! they have not done it in writing or publicly but I'm sure there have been backroom discussions and nod nod wink wink agreements. So in spite of our Mayor Pinocchio coming out and saying he has no stomach for incineration Orillia will be using it's capacity??? What is also interesting is that the Oro/Medonte deputy mayor has been quite vocal about how clean the emissions from the incinerator he viewed was. Why you couldn't see emissions coming out at all. The place looked like a factory, clean and neat. Of course on the day they toured people were dying from the air quality all over Ontario. But Hey! what you can't see can't hurt you can it???? So watch over the next while how we will be had by these people and indeed incineration which should be the last resort to our garbage problems will become the golden boy savior of garbage disposal. Our air is so bad now that it is killing tens of thousand every year, so what if an additional few thousands pass away from burning garbage they are only the weak and feeble anyway's aren't they??? Jedis we face the Dark Forces once more prepare for battle.

jim tolmai

June 17, 2005

Packet/Pollution/Power

Last night's Packet editorial was titled "Society too slow in responding to pollution threat". Can you believe these guys who wrote this??? Now that the shit has hit the fan this paper and their editors are blaming you and I for our air pollution. Where were the likes of Dawson or Bissett or for that matter all previous editors in by gone years when society protested 30, 20, 10 or even 1 year ago. Why was this newspaper not investigating, digging and reporting the truth of what was happening??? Why did this newspaper not give equal and fair treatment to the members of society who were protesting. Folks it is these editors who come up with catchy little monikers for people like "self appointed watchdog

or gadfly etc. in order to dismiss these peoples efforts and marginalize them (example: Doug Lewis' article from two weeks ago about protest groups. This is a reprint of an identicle letter Doug wrote many months ago to the editor in an attempt to dismiss these people as irresponsible. Now they have the nerve to blame society . You guys better look in the mirror if you want to see who is really responsible for where we are today.

News Organizations like the Packet abrogated their responsibility over the years (and still do) by refusing to hold people in power responsible for their actions. You see politicians may be scoundrels but without help from the media in covering this up and making light of it they could never get away with it. Take the last five years here in Orillia. Our very own Mayor Pinocchio gets elected using illegal campaign contributions. Does the Packet take the position that he should be accountable???? Do the editorials reflect how serious this matter is??? Of course not. With evidence to the contrary the Packet dismisses peoples outrage as sour grapes or grandstanding and life goes on. Then along comes Doug Downey and the Kiwanis sign incident. Does the Packet become outraged that a local councillor is able to muster a special council meeting in order to fix a ticket served upon himself and that his name appears on?? Did the Packet investigate or tell their readers how serious a breach of public trust Doug Downey committed??? Of course not. What they did do was to dismiss societies' (my) attempt to hold council and Doug Downey responsible for putting themselves above society. Want more????

What about the 12.5 acre land deal behind Walmart??? The mayor sells this piece of prime real estate far below what it is actually worth and pencils in clauses that give away over a million dollars in development charges (which are more than the selling price). Does the Packet report that standard offer forms the city had used for 25 years were replaced by a new one for this deal only???? Did they even ask Why??? Does the Packet dig and ask the right questions??? Does the Packet use documents supplied by myself and Doug Peddle to really do a story??? Of course not. The less said the better as far as this dynamic news organization and editors are concerned. Want more????

Seeing that the Packet now wants to blame society for our pollution problems what about our very own MURF site. We don't need to go back 30, 20, 10, or even one year to see who is at fault for the mess we are in. Just go back a few months and read how this dynamic organization has not reported facts, twisted facts and in fact created facts to cover up how bad the site really is. They have been and continue to be for development on one of the worst toxic sites in the world without cleaning it up. I suppose 5 or 10 years after the MURF was built this paper and their dynamic editors would write how "The Toxic Plume from the MURF has destroyed several hundreds of homes and business and continues to move at an ever faster rate. It is the citizens of Orillia's fault that their properties are ruined or at risk because society allowed them to build their premises right in the path of the plume. Further it is little Johnnie's and his parents fault for his Leukemia because they should have known better than to let him use the facility etc. etc.".Want more????

What about the story of how the people in Coldwater are being served water

laced with trichlorethylene since 1996 when our own Mayor Pinocchio was in charge in Severn Township.???What about warning all the private well owners around Coldwater of this fact. Doesn't take any brains to figure out that if Coldwaters' 3 wells are contaminated then so are other wells in the area. What will the Packet story read when the health effects of drinking contaminated water shows up in the population??? Will it be societies fault again???? Want more???

What about 95 Barrie Rd.? Where is the Packet's position on this new toxic waste site??? You see the Packet has done no editorial about council allowing the severance of this property after all the contaminated soil from the west part was moved to the east side??? Once severance takes place Orillia will indeed have a new dumpsite as the huge mound of contaminated soil came from a different property. Why has the Packet not taken an aggressive position on this Sham and demand that council safeguard that the developer will cleanup the dump and by when it must happen. I suppose it is society's fault and of course council, mayor, city management and the Packet and their editors are way above society aren't they???? Tomorrow "Incineration"

jim tolnai

June 15, 2005

Air Quality Crisis

Last night watching the news there was an item on about smog and it's effect on our collective health. It seems there are 17,800 deaths every year in Ontario directly related to air pollution. Experts??? are telling us now that we are considered to be at a crisis level for air quality. I wonder why it took people in power 30 years to realize that??? It's not like they weren't warned by people who they painted as trouble makers and malcontents is it???? Remember back 30 years ago when visionaries involved in environmental issues were branded hippies and fringe members of society??

Here is an interesting story that has a local flavour and shows how so called movers and shakers are stuck back in the sixties. Kelly Clune told me about an incident at the mall. Remember when a couple of months ago Garfield Dunlop was exchanging high efficiency light bulbs for the incandescent bulbs??? Well here is Garfield promoting conservation in opposition while when in power he couldn't care less. Back two years ago Garfield and his buddy Ernie Eves spent \$100,000,000 for renting the capacity of privately owned generators around the province in case the capacity was needed. At the time I wrote how this money was a total waste as a better idea would have been to give away \$100,000,000 worth of high efficiency bulbs and then the capacity would not be needed (**see issue 7 on Previous Issues page article Conservation**). I also said that an energy tax should be applied to the old incandescent bulbs and passed on as a rebate for the purchase of the high efficiency bulb. Had Garfield and Ernie done that two years ago we could have had a culture in Ontario today of conservation. But no it seems that unless you are out of power these people never do the right thing. Wonder why??? Well my opinion is that until these people figure out how to make money from using less they will always opt to make money at any cost. So just like the murderer on death row finds God too late it seems Garfield has

found environmentalism????? But here now is something even more interesting and shows my theory correct. You see Kelly met Doug Lewis at this little event. I suppose Doug was there to support the idea of conservation and his friend and fellow Conservative Garfield??? But wait could this be true??? Doesn't seem so. You see Doug approached Kelly and actually referred to her as an environmental terrorist. Can you believe it??? That is like Al Quaida calling the survivors of the World Trade Center terrorists for wanting to get out of the building???? Kelly who has devoted her adult life to stop environmental degradation is being called a terrorist by someone who when in power along with the likes of Mulrooney led us to the point of no return in our air quality??? Folks keep supporting these people and we will all be wearing Oxygen masks 24/7 before not too many years. Remember the 17,800 dying every year now and the larger numbers that will die in the future. You see they are now saying that exposure is cumulative and things will only get worse (**these same people are also claiming that exposure to pesticides and herbicides are not cumulative today**)???

I am sure you knew I could not let this lesson go without making a comparison now did you??? Compare this new revelation to our own beloved MURF site. Just like 30, 20 and 10 years ago people who actually care about tomorrow and not just today spoke out and warned about the impending doom. The Citizens Coalition has warned you and the people in power of what is to come from the Environmental Disaster in the making on West St. With good science and investigation we have come to the only right decision for this property. **Clean it up** plain and simple. If these people are allowed to proceed as they wish with no thought what so ever for the future generations then "I told you so" will not cut it. You see what good is I told you so when the harm will already be done??? So I strongly invite our local doctors to have a closer look at this site and see just how bad it really is. But more importantly use your influence to make sure that we are not going to leave more harm in our generation than our forefathers left to us. As with our air quality crisis biting us in the ass today building without cleaning up will bite the kids of today at the MURF site in the ass just a few short years from now. How can anyone with a conscience allow this to happen????? Take a deep breath and think about it?????

jim tolnai

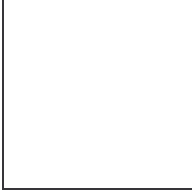
June 4, 2005

Vinyl Chloride Venting

As promised we are on the hunt for information about Risk Assessment and cleanup methods used around the world. In our search we found a project being carried on by the City of Burbank California. The site is 10 acres and contains Vinyl Chloride gas not unlike our own notorious MURF site. Unlike our mayor and council Burbank has taken the proper position that the vinyl chloride must be removed before the land can be developed. Our officials want to build on top of the plume and then try to extract the highly dangerous gas after the fact. Now at the PLC meeting Mr. Leech from Gartner Lee could not or would not specifically identify any projects anywhere in the world where such an undertaking had actually been done successfully. Seems Burbank already knows it would be a

huge gamble so they are remediating this 10 acre site properly to ensure safety. The link below will give you the information that is so important to have. You see it will take an estimated 8 1/2 years to cleanup the ten acres in question. But hey! where the health and welfare of the community is involved it's the only way to go except in Orillia. So please go to the link and have a read. What our experts?? and officials are wanting to do just does not make sense.

<http://www.ci.burbank.ca.us/ves/burdesc.htm>



jim tolnai

June 4, 2005

Does This make Sense????

A few months ago Tim Lauer brought up the fact that the substation transformers on the corner of Queen and West St. were ugly. He asked John Mattinson if there was a way of making the transformer area more attractive along with a question about routing wires underground. Mattinson at the time explained that costs were high and I thought maybe the subject was dropped. Well it seems these guys have been busy as beavers on this transformer change over and our information is that they are planning big changes.

There are plans afoot to replace the perfectly good working substation with new but more discrete and attractive transformers. Estimated cost of replacement is \$850,000. Our information is that except for \$60,000 which OPC will pay for the city (you) will pickup the remaining \$790,000 from your tax dollars all in the name of esthetics. Where are these guys getting all this money from??? Is it part of the cost of the MURF??? Should an expenditure of this magnitude off site be paid for by the MURF budget??? This whole project is mind boggling. Mayor and council seem to be on the road to bankrupting this city. They can not hire needed fire fighters or police officers but can spend \$790,000 on esthetics??? Unbelievable and disgraceful. I wonder which councillors will be in favour of this total waste??? Mondays council meeting should be very interesting.

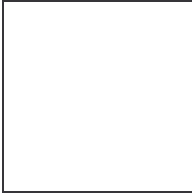
On another MURF matter. It seems that Ian Brown and Ralph Cipolla agree that even though \$408,000 additional dollars (this is only a down payment on future costs) need to be spent on additional testing at the MURF site putting the budget over by \$300,000 it is still not going over budget?? You see it seems OPC had a better year than expected and paid into city coffers \$300,000 additional dollars that then balances the MURF budget??? With that kind of accounting surely we need a **Forensic Audit** of city finances, don't we??? And the farmer took another load away. This whole MURF deal is looking more and more like a **Money Pit**. Seems that the location of the project is now more important than the project itself. Brown, mayor and Cipolla want this site at any cost. Why??? It seems the facility need has taken a backseat to the location???? Makes one wonder doesn't it.

jim tolnai

June 3, 2005

Risk Assessment Does It Work????

The proposed Risk Assessment method proposed by the city and it's experts?? has had many problems world wide. As we find these problems we will be posting them for your information. The following pdf file is one such criticism of this faulty method of covering up instead of cleaning up. Peter Montague is a highly regarded expert who presented his evidence and we share it with you. Officials lying and misleading the public is not unique to Orillia. In the document make sure you read pg. 7 para. 7. You will see where Mr. Montague demands an investigation of EPA personell for misleading and lying to the public not unlike our own MOE officials and we too have demanded an investigation of local MOE officials misleading statements.



June 2, 2005

Precautionary guidance for toxic site cleanups

Here is an interesting site to visit. The site deals with Risk Assessments and their safety. For the full story and other live links go to <http://www.rachel.org/library/getfile.cfm?ID=363>

June 1, 2005

Coldwater Residents Drink TCE Laced Water

A couple of weeks ago I noticed an interesting Severn Township Notice in the Packet. The notice stated that the Coldwater Water treatment plant was going to be upgraded to meet Ontario drinking water standards for Trichlorethylene. Our interest was tweaked and Severn Township was approached for information. We were pleasantly surprised to find the staff more than helpful and we were presented 30 pages of documents without having to go through FOI or to even pay for the copies.

Upon reading these documents it turns out that all three wells serving Coldwater are laced with TCE. Now remember TCE is one of the chemicals that is at "**Catastrophic**" levels at the MURF site. These wells were put into service back in 1996. Well number #1 has consistently shown the largest test numbers with well 2 a close second. Well 3 shows the lowest numbers. Now low levels are not as dangerous to health but any constant exposure certainly is and the only real safe level is ZERO.

Remember that way back in 1996 our very own **Mayor Pinocchio** (Ron Stevens) was the mayor of Severn Township. So it comes as no surprise that our mayor does not worry about TCE contamination in Orillia as obviously he held the same

belief in 1996. Just like in Orillia where the mayor worked overtime to keep facts of contamination from public knowledge Coldwater residents were kept in the dark by Stevens and subsequent mayors. I find it reprehensible that people have been allowed to ingest this chemical since 1996 at any levels without their knowledge. How many peoples health has been affected in the last 9 years? How many children's future health has been compromised thanks to people like **Ron Stevens** who as mayor of Severn had a moral obligation back in 1996 to protect it's citizens or at least warn them?? What about **Garfield Dunlop** whose ward was Coldwater?? Did he know about this contamination?? What about councillors like **Ron Stanton** who now wants to represent us Federally?? Did he know and said nothing?? Makes one wonder doesn't it???? What about the present mayor and councillors, are they aware of this contamination and have said nothing???

But it is not only Coldwater residents who have been and are effected. What about the hundreds and hundreds of wells all around Coldwater. Have these people been notified that they should have their wells checked or take precautions to protect their families??? I have not been able to find anyone who has been notified so far. You see being in the water treatment business the fix is relatively simple for town or well users. A simple whole house carbon filter system could have cleaned the water of this toxin. But that would have meant letting people know about the contamination and possibly getting them upset. So the answer for **Mayor Pinocchio** back then and now with the MURF site must have been the same. What the people don't know won't hurt me. Will **Mayor Pinocchio** plead ignorance of this contamination??? Any bets???

Where the hell is the **MOE** in all this. Surely they knew about the well contamination didn't they??? Is it not the **MOE's** mandate to protect public health?? How hard is it to make a public statement about the contamination and at least give people a chance to protect their families??? What about the **Public Health Unit**??? Were they kept out of the loop or were they just silent??? Meanwhile even though the Coldwater treatment plant will be upgraded private wells are still at risk unless people act and act quickly.

One more very important fact. Even though well #1 shows the highest concentrations of TCE contamination it is the highest use well pumping the lions share of water to residents of Coldwater. Now if that doesn't piss these people off then I don't know what will. Why would the cleanest well not be used for regular demand??? So if you have friends or family in or around Coldwater pass on this info and urge them to act. Even if their wells are clean now it does not mean that at some point they won't be contaminated. You see TCE can travel for miles and it may only be a matter of time. Dr. Ford is working on a project in New York State where TCE has traveled 8 miles so far from the source and contaminated a High School's water supply. So protect yourselves from exposure. Give me a call and I would be happy to expand on this article and let you know what it is you need to do. **Water So Pure 327-5717**

jim tolnoi

