

May 29, 2005

## Cover-Up, Lies and more... Lies

Funny how if you persist the **Truth** just keeps coming out. The trouble with lying is that one leads to another and another making it impossible to keep track of them. It seems that mistakes made in 1989 by the MOE claiming that the front half of the MURF site was clean and could be developed was wrong. Now the Ministry should immediately make public all records that they based their findings on. You see according to Mary Lou Kirby who was the Chair of the Economic Development Commission a letter from the MOE stated that contamination was confined to the back half of the property and the front half was supposed to be fine for commercial and industrial use. So it is not surprising knowing this now why the MOE officials were so anxious to side with the city and allow development. Sure looks like the MOE and it's officials wanted their mistake in 1989 covered-up. Remember the lies from Chris Hyde that the **Catastrophic** levels found were just **Hot Spots**. Remember how Hyde also claimed that the soil sent to the dump was not **Hazardous** despite our protestation that the testing done was totally inadequate. Well we were proven right as the Ministry itself has stated the same thing (yet there is no order forth coming to remove the soil???) Minister Dombrowsky has and is being urged again to investigate this behavior and if found true to proceed with charges under subsection 184 (2) before the citizens of Orillia embarrass the ministry further by taking on this prosecution. Even now the ministry is on the side of covering up instead of cleaning. You see it will be very embarrassing if the whole truth comes out and the ministries incompetence and neglect of our safety is made public. So although you maybe surprised we are not.

Now to Mayor Pinocchio and Boss Hog. According to Boss Hog the extra \$408,000 to be spent on more monitoring (not clean-up) is not a problem. This guy who denied access to public information and lied to us about having a non disclosure contract with Molson now says in a flippant manner that \$408,000 is of no concern. We need a **FORENSIC** audit **NOW**. Then we have Mayor Pinocchio who says that he was not aware of the additional \$408,000 cost of monitoring. Now come on this was made public on Wednesday May 25 at the PLC meeting which was not attended by any councillors (seems they don't want to know anything). Lori Koughan received the proposal on May 24. Are we supposed to believe that Mayor Pinocchio was left out of the loop and first heard about it on May 26 from Collin Mckim????? Hey! Didn't the mayor just get a 40% raise only to know less??? Funny how this guy knows everything until the s..t hits the fan??? All of a sudden he knows nothing. Then he says "I'm always concerned about rising costs on any project". If that is the case then why did he not know about this new expense and how much does he and council **not** know about the further millions\$\$\$ that will need to be spent????? Just who is running this place????? Sure doesn't look like the mayor or council have much to do with running it????? Seems to me Boss Hog rules with an iron fist and who knows **what** else?????

One more caution to mayor and council. Your actions allowing the **severence** of

95 Barrie Rd. without safeguards is the next scandal in the making. Re-consider before it is too late. If the developer will truly clean up this property then safeguards should be no problem. Even if the city pays for part of the cost for a performance bond it will be money well spent by this council for a change. Also why is the MOE not involved in this since the proposed use of this property is housing and a change of use is taking place??? More cover-up???????

jim tolnai

**May 28, 2005**

## **Mike Dodd Makes Fool of Himself Again**

Mike Dodd of Orillia Today has managed to make an even bigger fool of himself than usual in yesterdays paper. You may recall some months ago Mike wrote a column on the MURF site without having any knowledge of facts. He accepted lies and promoted them unashamedly. Not a good behavior for a person trying to make a living writing for a newspaper and not very smart for a newspaper to allow untruths and distortions to be printed.

Well Mike has written another rant not only about the MURF which he knows absolutely nothing about but is also accusing Tim Lauer of being obliged to his environmental friends. Now if Mike would do a bit of research and thinking (I know it hurts Mike but try harder to light that bulb) he would know that Tim Lauer is anything but a friend to anyone connected with the environment. Oh! I know Tim talks a good game but watch how he votes on these issues. Tim is the sneakiest and most ingenuous person on council. I have been watching him for the past year or more. On controversial votes he will vote with what I call the lazymans Heil Hitler. You know when you bend your elbow instead of throwing your arm in the air. Enough to be counted as a vote but hoping the public did not see it. He will then claim when confronted he voted against it even if **no votes** are never called for by Mayor Pinocchio. This has happened on many votes through my observation period and I expect his behavior will never change. So Mike with friends like Tim Lauer we don't need any enemies. Take for example Tim's opposition to that whopping 40% raise. Knowing that the raise would be passed he and the mayor paid lip service about how it was wrong. Tim was approached by Kelly Clune and asked to call for a recorded vote. Instead of a recorded vote he asked to amend the bylaw so that a councillor could come before council and ask to be exempted from the pay raise. Just about the stupidest antic in the history of Orillia politics. When that was shot down (which he knew would happen) he takes the 40% increase claiming he has to. He tried and lost???? Hey! Tim if you are serious you do not have to accept the money. Like Preston Manning who claimed he would not move into Stornaway or Debra Gray who refused the MP pension plan Tim is trying to take the high road without paying the toll. You may remember Manning ended up moving into Stornaway and Debra Gray is enjoying her MP pension and Tim is enjoying his 40% raise. So much for the high road EH!!

The understatement of the year is Mike writing in yesterdays article "I'll grant him that the West Street location might not be the best place to build the new MURF, but it's a location that has to be cleaned up so we can make some constructive

use out of it". That statement is a 180 degree change from Mikes previous article which was soundly criticized. Again Mike is wrong. The West St. site is a great location if it were cleaned up. You see Mike still hasn't figured out that the Citizens Coalition is pro MURF but are against poisoning Orillia. He does not seem to understand that we as a group want to progress ahead and cleanup the past. Unlike Mike, mayor, council and city management who want to leave our industrial heritage in the ground to harm present and future generations we want it cleaned up and give that area of Orillia a new safe and healthy future. Building on this site without cleaning up is like taking a bath with a sleeping crocodile. As long as the croc is not disturbed and remains sleeping the bath goes well. But drop the soap or splash around and the beast will awake and now you can't get out of the slippery tub fast enough. That is exactly what has and is happening on the MURF site. The digging of 40,000 tons and then piling 250,000 tons back in the hole has woken up that nasty croc. The city now can not get out of the slippery tub and will have to pay the price. Thanks to your buddies like Ralph Cipolla we are facing an environmental and financial disaster and maybe never be able to afford a MURF of any kind.

As for your venom against Kelly Clune and Colleen Cooney I can only say that you are not fit to wipe their boots never mind being a critic. These two ladies have fought unpaid, unappreciated for their community. They are passionate about the health and welfare of not only people but the environment which we do not own but are given to safe guard for the next generation. Unlike your friends like Cipolla, Mayor Pinocchio and council Colleen and Kelly try to preserve the healthy environment and clean and cure the sick and polluted parts. Remember it was your friends who filled in the only healthy eco-system on the entire MURF site killing thousands of living amphibians, insects, plants etc. So Mike look into a mirror, you will see a small minded man not fit to shine these ladies shoes.

jim tolnai

**May 26.2005**

## **Public Liason Committee Meeting**

I attended the Public Liaison Committee meeting last night and was not surprised about it's non event. It was not surprising that legitimate questions went unanswered. Don Munro asked four questions and made comments without the chair interfering. When Bob Bowles went to ask a second question the chairman attempted to shut him down. Bob made it clear to the Chair that Don was allowed his time and expected no less. To this the Chair had no choice but to allow him to go on. Good for you Bob. Ian Brown regurgitated the same old bile and Cynthia Robins showed her lack of competence. Don Munro, Glen Conner and Peter Bowen spoke of their desire for the MURF on this site and about how much this facility it needed. Of course this committee was not supposed to be about the MURF but about what is on and under the land and whether it is safe to build on. No surprise when the Chair did not intervene to clarify the purpose of the committee to these people.

Glen Conner made the point several times that he owns five properties and is a big taxpayer in the city. Glen is under the impression that it is he who pays taxes

on properties other than his home. You see when you have rental property or a business property it is in fact your tenants or customers who pay the taxes. So we all pay taxes on our home from earnings Glen gets credit for his home and no more. Otherwise it is the people who do business with us that pay. Small point but people like Glen need to understand we all have one vote in a democracy and if he owned 90% of Orillia he would still only have the one. As for impressing anyone with his wealth it has not done so. All three men were adamant that the MURF must be built on this site. In fact Glen said he plans to be around 50 years from now and will still be working to have the MURF built there. So much for an open mind on whether the site is a safe one. Seems to me that building on this site has become more important than the need for this facility. Why??????

Cynthia Robins stood and presented charts and old information on a screen. One of these drawings showed the new monitoring wells along Queen St. Low and behold the two wells which have disappeared (see story May 18) were on her graphic. But in answer to the question from Colleen Cooney about the disappearing wells Cynthia said no wells have been removed. Yet the picture shows only one well where three were before as proven by Cynthia's graphic. Cynthia's credibility has been compromised once more and she only has herself to blame. How can we trust anything these people say when they so blatantly mislead????? You see there were wells drilled on either side of the one pictured above. They were monitoring wells with blue casing and locked.

Cynthia was quite clear there were no wells removed. Hey! maybe these well casing were re-painted with invisible paint and that is why we can't see them???? You know like in those Daffy Duck cartoons.

Here is Cynthias diagram:

In a question from the gallery as to whether the plume has left the property Cynthia said she could not answer that because test results were not back yet??? Wait a minute. Didn't the MOE say indeed there was off site results??? In fact one of their graphics actually shows the plume moving off the property. This is very much like calling the plume a hotspot back in November even though they knew it was indeed a plume. So in honour of Cynthia's performance last night and throughout her involvement on this project I would like to nominate her for the 2005 Pinocchio Award. Speaking Out will be awarding this sought after honour for the first time at the end of this year. Cynthia has her work cut out as other aspirants for the prize are working hard to capture the honour. One more bit of news regarding Shaheen and Peaker and Cynthia. It seems S&P has submitted a new proposal for required work to the tune of \$408,270. That's right read it and weep. Now this money is not going for cleanup but for more investigation. One item in this estimate is for attending the Public Liason Committee meetings at \$5,000 per pop. So folks last night cost you \$5,000 just for Cynthia and two other S&P people to hear nothing new.

Bob Leech Peer Reviewer was asked several questions which he failed to answer. Oh! he talked a lot but said nothing. Colleen had said that Risk

Assessment was not based on science but assumptions. Bob disagreed but failed to address Colleens statement. Much talk about precautions taken and how careful they are about keeping people safe. I have only this to ask of Bob and his crew. Have you ever heard of Three Mile Island???? The nuclear industry claims they too are cautious. Hey things happen so why take any risk unnecessarily?????

My conclusion from last nights meeting is, regardless of what is on this site the decision has been made to build there regardless. When Marylou Kirby asked Bob as to what level of contamination has to be on the site to stop from building on it he said what matters is not how bad it is but can it be covered up. Not word for word but that was the meaning I took from what he said. We are less than confident in these people as should everyone else. As we review the video tape of the meeting we will be passing on more gems so stay tuned. One more observation about the local media. No reporters showed up from either the Packet, Orillia Today or Jack FM. John Swartz attended from Rogers TV. I would like to thank John and Rogers TV for their effort to cover this story.

jim tolnai

**May 24, 2005**

## **Time to Act Minister Dombrowsky**

It is an offence under subsection 184(2) of the EPA for a person to give or submit false or misleading information in any statement, document or data to any provincial officer, the Minister, the Ministry, any employee or agent of the Ministry, or any person involved in carrying out a program of the Ministry in respect of any matter related to the EPA or a regulation under the EPA.

Subsection 184(2) is very specific. If you lie or mislead the Minister or Ministry you pay the consequences. Mayor Pinocchio, council, city management and Shaheen and Peaker lied and mislead Leona Dombrowsky Minister of the Environment. In a statement the minister made to the Ontario Legislator and people of Ontario on November 16 she mislead all of us as to how soil from the MURF site would be dealt with at the dump. From Hansard here is what the Minister said.

"Yes, there are very high levels of contaminants, not considered hazardous waste yet. If they were, they would be disposed of in a hazardous waste facility. However, the material that is removed from the site is being placed in **separate windrows** in the landfill facility. They are being tested every 30 metres for the levels of contaminants, and those levels of contaminants will be posted on the city of Orillia Web site so the public will have access to those results as soon as they are available from the testing labs, which is five days from the time the tests are taken"

The Minister was using information and pictures supplied by the mayor, council, city management and Shaheen and Peaker who all knew that was not the case. In fact as the Minister spoke in the legislature Kelly Clune and I were filming bulldozers spreading load after load as it was being dumped making meaningful testing near impossible. There were 3 or 4 piles of dirt to one side of cell 7 (from who knows where) which a picture was taken from and sent to the Minister. All

other loads were spread into thin layers to thwart proper testing. The same picture and assurances were made to Judge Stong by the cities solicitor Michael Miller. Present in the courtroom at the time was Cynthia Robins of Shaheen and Peaker watching Mr. Miller misleading the judge and not correcting this false information.

Minister Dombrowsky you have the evidence and it is time you used it to lay charges against the perpetrators of this crime against not only the people of Orillia but all Ontarions who use our lakes for lively hood or recreation as well as the courts. So will you now take responsibility for your duties and start proceedings against these people under subsection 184(2)???? Will you uphold the law or will you abrogate your responsibility as had your Barrie MOE office abrogated their's??? It is time to act Minister or concerned citizens will be forced to bring charges and prosecute this flagrant violation. It is also time for you to order the removal of the 40,000 tons of **Hazardous** soil from the shores of Lake Simcoe. Your own Ministry has deemed the testing of this soil was inadequate and therefore the soil must be assumed to be **Hazardous**. Here is what your officials have said in their PSF Review..

"Sample preservation and analytical protocols are specified in the March 9, 2004 "Protocol for Analytical Methods Used in Assessment of Properties under Environmental Protection Act"

"As volatile contaminants of concern (COC) are identified in the PSF, the consultant is **reminded** that special sample collection and preservation requirements apply. Risk assessment for these COC **cannot rely** on the results of samples which have been **composited**, as the process of combining samples allows the loss of volatile constituents prior to analysis".

Minister we complained to your people in the Barrie MOE office about this testing being fixed and were dismissed by Hyde, Mitchell and others. Either your officials in the Barrie office don't know what they are doing or they were covering up knowingly and allowed **Hazardous** soil to be dumped on the shores of Lake Simcoe. If they covered up knowingly then subsection 184 (2) applies to them as well. An investigation is required and if grounds found **Prosecution** of all employees of the Ministry of the Environment found to be misleading the Minister and Ministry must proceed.

So Minister will you take your responsibility to the people of Orillia and Ontario seriously, or do the citizens of Orillia and Ontario need to uphold the law for you???? We have statements, letters and yes video of your officials misleading and making false statements. They are at your disposal for prosecution under subsection 184 (2).

jim tolnoi

**May 24, 2005**

## **Garage Sale Successful**

**Our Garage Sale fundraiser was a great success. We would like to thank all who helped with donations and those who came and bought our treasures. What else is important is that we had over 400 people who showed up giving us an opportunity to relay information about the site and what has**

and is going on. We explained to all why we were raising funds and of course about what is going on with the site. 95% of the people were from the local area and everyone of them knew about the site and controversy. Of all the people including out of towners we spoke to only 3 people said they disagreed with our attempt to have the site cleaned up before building. Of the three one man once the details were explained thanked us for our efforts and told us to keep the change from his purchase. The two ladies we spoke with would not take up conversation and left with their original position. You may recall I invited councillors to attend our sale and speak to the grassroots. Non of them showed up. So here is the score 99.5% do not support council and their experts. They do not believe council and city management are truthful and want the site cleaned or abandoned all together. The two ladies represent 1/2% supporting council. So councillors if you are told people support your stance you should have come out and learned the truth yourselves. Our job is not yet done and your continued support is still needed. This ain't over till the fat lady sings or Mayor Pinocchio's nose stops growing so I urge everyone to keep up the pressure especially on the MOE. We already know there will be no building on the site in my lifetime (I hope to live for a bit longer yet) but our efforts now must be concentrated on cleaning it and holding the people who have created what may turn out to be a World Class Environmental Disaster (the plume has been pushed off site) personally responsible. So please no complacency the war continues.

May 20, 2005

## Calculation Error

Just want to draw your attention to a calculation I made in the article on 95 Barrie Rd. and the soil. I used square ft. instead of cubic ft. to calculate volume. I thank one of our readers for pointing this out. I have changed the numbers in the article. There is actually **19,418 cu yds. X 2,500lbs. = 24,272 tons making tippage fees \$2,627,430. That is still \$1,313,715 per acre. Sorry for the error.**

jim tolnoi

May 19, 2005

## Garage Sale Fast Approaching

Well here it is Thursday night and our Garage Sale is setup and waiting. Kelly Clune and Lillian Marsden have been working hard for the past two days sorting and pricing. We have a nice assortment of goods but could still use more. You see we have done a nice bit of sales as people stop and come in to purchase items even though the sale is really Saturday. Today we sold about \$300 worth of items. What was also a real pleasure was that as we explained about the Coalition every person was familiar with our cause. Every person supported our cause and were hungry for information. Mayor and council was not in these peoples good books. A number of people who made their purchase then went

home and brought back donations of sale items. Some gave an extra few dollars over our asking price and all thanked us for our efforts. If there ever was doubt about support for our fight to have the MURF site cleaned up it sure disappeared as these lovely people encouraged us to keep on fighting. Maybe councillors would be interested in joining us Saturday to feel the pulse and passion of people regarding this site and project. So councillors you are invited to drop by on Saturday and talk to people so you can find out their feelings and opinions about the site. Here is an opportunity to hear from the true grassroots and become enlightened. Hey maybe you could bring a few items to help us out as well. Folks how about sorting through some of your tarnished treasures and dropping them off at 13 Creighton St. Atherley, and then come on out Saturday and do a bit of buying to fill those empty spots in your house. We'll be serving Sausage on a bun, home baking, coffee and good conversation, but more importantly good and accurate information about our progress. So come on folks support us in our efforts to clean this site and make our community safe.

jim tolmai

**May 18, 2005**

## **Monitoring Wells Missing**

Over the past several weeks there has been quite a bit of drilling on the MURF site. The original monitoring wells were drilled a few weeks ago. These were wells about 50 meters apart with locks on them. About two weeks ago more wells were drilled by a different company which were only a few feet on either side of the original well. At the time I figured they found something in the original and drilled on either side at different depths to get more information. Well you could have knocked me over with a duck feather yesterday when I went to the site. You see two wells which had been drilled had disappeared. That's right not a trace of either one. One well still there but I have no idea which one of the three. Now what would be the reason to remove these monitoring wells close to the north fence???? What did they find in these two wells to make them disappear??? Doesn't make sense to drill monitoring wells only to remove them. Monitoring wells are done so testing can take place over the longterm. Is there even a record of these wells which only existed for about a week??? Why was a different company used to drill the additional two wells??? Does the MOE even know about these wells or what they found??? As I have said before, we need the MOE to take responsibility for this site. Mayor, council, city management and Shaheen and Peaker must be removed from all involvement. Quite simply unless they have a reasonable public explanation as to what happened to these wells the MOE should audit what they are doing and take over.

Last week there were two additional wells where only one stands today.

jim tolmai

**May 17, 2005**

## **Orillia Council Approves Industrial Waste Dump??**

Well folks Orillia council last night gave the go ahead to severing 95 Barrie Rd.

as requested by Devco. Without debate Mayor Pinocchio and the Puppets voted to allow the severance of the former industrial property. The only councillor who said anything was George Morano. He did not **Speak Out** about why he would not support the severance but did make it clear he would not be on side. Folks this is one of the most important issues that faced council and they failed to debate or **Speak Out**. Before the vote one councillor asked the mayor where the mountain of soil on the eastside came from. Mayor Pinocchio actually said (with straight face) he had no idea or know where it came from. His nose grows ever bigger.

This morning I took a trip down to Barrie Rd., took photos and did a rough measurement as to volume of soil. The pile is 108 steps long by 33 steps wide and estimated at 14 ft. high. Now I measured my step which is 39 inches so I have a relatively accurate dimension for the purpose of this article. Converted to feet the dimensions are 350ft.X107ft.x14ft=524,300cu.ft. now divide by 27=194,185 cu yds.X 2,500lbs. = 24,272

tons. This is the amount of contaminated soil dumped on the east end of the property which represents excavation of only 1/3rd of the property. Tipping fees saved if this soil is not disposed of safely is \$2,627,430 excluding trucking. Now I would appreciate mayor and council to tell us how it is possible for a developer to pay \$1,310,715 per acre cleanup costs to build 60 housing units of which 45 are supposed to be non profit in Orillia. Remember it was Mayor Pinocchio who sold the 12.5 acres behind Walmart for \$1,063,000 and gave away \$1,700,000 in development charges and thought it was a fair price. Who on council actually believes that this soil dumped will ever be moved or dealt with if there is no performance bond never mind the other 50,000 tons located on the severed land below the mountain??? Again taxpayers are being conned.

My concern is for the safety and health of the community. The housing being built will be occupied by families with kids. If not cleaned the pile of contaminated soil will be a magnet for children to play on. If not removed everytime it rains run off will end up on the property people are living on. It is a disgrace that this council shows absolutely no concern for the health of the most vulnerable. This whole deal stinks to high heaven. We asked that council make sure that the developer will clean the contamination from the site by issuing a performance bond. This council has decided not to have safeguards and is allowing severance.

As for the MOE where the hell are you? Why are you not being proactive????

The end result of this severance without safeguards is as plain as the nose on Mayor Pinocchio's face. This is an industrial property being converted to housing. You have the power to order testing and you have the power to safeguard the future occupants. But it seems you don't care. From the Premier to Minister Dombrowski to council to city management you are all cut from the same piece of cloth. Shame on you for allowing an industrial dump site for contaminated soil to be created in the middle of a residential development.

Dictionary says: Dump

n. A place where refuse is dumped: *a garbage dump; a nuclear waste dump; contaminated materials dump*. As soon as severance takes place this land by definition becomes a dumpsite as evidenced by the mountain of contaminated

soil.

Mountain pictured from Barrie Rd.

Drain system directly below mountain of contaminated soil at 95 Barrie Rd. leading to Bens' Ditch and Lake Simcoe

Where is the MOE and why are they allowing this runoff into our Lake or anywhere else for that matter??? Will there be charges????

Mayor Pinocchio's and councils cruel joke. Sign is located behind 95 Barrie Rd. at the end of Queen St. in site of the new Industrial Dump-site being created if no safeguards are in place.

Mayor Pinocchio and council and yes Shaheen and Peaker are breaking environmental law by allowing water to flow over filtration cloth. Where is the MOE??? If you or I had allowed this we would be charged and fined big time. I guess MOE inspectors have selective vision. Only see what they want. The water here has overflowed for months and I am tired of waiting for action. Ms Dombrowski do your job and protect us.

jim tolnai

**May 16, 2005**

Just want to add a little more thinking to the article below. Apparently Devco told council one of the reasons they needed to sever the property is to help with cashflow. Now if there is no money to clean the 1/3 of the property up then where would the **\$5,000,000** plus come from in 2006 to do the cleanup???? As 45 units of the sixty being built is non profit or close to because of government funding could there be enough profit in the remaining 15 units to finance the cleanup???? Maybe council should contact Allan Millard seeing that he is the president of the Foxfell non profit project and ask his opinion. Couldn't hurt could it. As for the cost of cleaning being **5 million dollars** here is some more info. The tippage fees for the 40,000 tons the city trucked to the dump came to \$5,063,000 not including trucking it. The Barrie road property is approximately the same size as the MURF footprint. So if the city was willing to allow these people to dispose of this contaminated soil at the dump tippage fees would be over **5 million dollars**. If it must be shipped to Sarnia you can safely double it to **\$10,000,000**. Food for thought isn't it????

jim tolnai

**May 14, 2005**

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Something just does not add up again. At last Mondays committee meeting council was approached by a company named Devco regarding the property at 95 Barrie Rd. (Fahramet) asking for permission to sever the property. Now the purchaser of record originally was not Devco so that in itself is a surprise. The fact that a severance is being sought is even a bigger surprise. The reason given

does not make much sense and as most people know from past experience with this council and city management if it doesn't make sense these guys will go along with it. As the robot on that old TV series Lost in Space used to say !Danger !Danger.

Speaking Out did a bit of investigation back last year on the purchase of this property from the city. You may recall that the property was sold for \$1 and a \$900,000 credit for development charges was given to the new owners. At that time we wrote that this deal did not seem to make economic sense for the purchaser. We said that because the soil is contaminated cleanup costs could run into the \$5,000,000 range. Even if we are wrong (which we are not) and it cost \$2,500,000 how could any developer retrieve costs never mind make a profit. You see with the cost of tearing down the building and disposal which would cost up to \$200,000 plus the cleanup costs the land would end up costing about \$1,000,000 more than if clean land were purchased in a best case scenario and \$3,500,000 in a worst case. We found the deal questionable economically and are suspicious.

If you drive by 95 Barrie Rd. contaminated soil has been moved from the west part of the site to the east side. We were questioning this move because in order to clean doesn't the contaminated soil need to be moved off site??? Then we hear that severance has been requested due to time constraints for government funding??? Doesn't make sense because how long does it take to truck the contaminated soil away to a safe site???? Not long but it would be expensive. Now in the story the developer says he intends to cleanup 1/3 of the site and build on it with cleanup on the 2/3 which would be severed happening in 2006. But wait a minute, doesn't cleanup mean moving the contamination away from the site??? Well not according to my reading of this story. You see the developer has not cleaned anything only moved it to the east side. Seems to me you can not say that any cleanup has happened as yet??? But if the severance is allowed and a new deed is issued then the stockpiled side of the property is now separate and cleanup can be claimed without ever spending one red cent cleaning up. Folks this is the same scenario that was used on the Molson property. Prior to 1993 the entire Molson property was under order. Molson asked for and received permission to sever the property and the Order 46 was put on the back half with the end result that the front half was deemed clean???? So here is a scenario to share with you and council. Suppose the severance is allowed and units are built with the contamination still on the severed property. Then the developer decides not to go on with the development of the other 2/3's??? Say the site is then abandoned by what ever company now owns this parcel??? Who will then be responsible for cleaning the site, especially since it now has 60 housing units next door??? Do you suppose that the city at this point would have to get involved and pay for the cleanup???? It is disturbing that council on Monday night gave preliminary approval to a plan that does not have any guarantees that contaminated soil will be removed. Watch out folks there are dark clouds on the horizon. You as taxpayers could end up paying millions in cleanup costs if this deal goes sour. Before any severance is contemplated guarantees in the form of performance bonds must be demanded by the city to

ensure cleanup will be done on time and done properly. This city can not afford anymore environmental cleanup costs. So we agree that housing is needed and this site makes sense being that it is close to downtown. But it must be cleaned as the MURF site must be cleaned. Remember this councils record is atrocious for making bad deals and this certainly could go bad for the city.

So councillors do some homework on this deal before another multi-million dollar mistake is made. Do the numbers and see if you could make a profit on developing this property cleaning it properly. Talk to local developers and ask them for their opinion then make it public. As for the MOE you better get proactive on this deal or you will be as much to blame as the city and held responsible if peoples health is put at risk unnecessarily. Remember if it looks like a duck, waddles like a duck and quacks like a duck then in Orillia it must be Daffy.

jim tolnai

**May 11, 2005**

## **Here's a Scoop**

Just received a comment letter from Dick Sleep with some new and very important information. According to Dick both councillor Morano and Smith have told him that Angelo Orsi has offered to build a Twin Pad arena and lease it back to the city. The location is to be behind Walmart on 12.6 acres sold to one of Orsi's companies by the city for just over \$1,000,000. Some of you may remember this is the deal that Speaking Out reported on over two years ago. If you wish to refresh your memory or to see why we took exception to this deal go to the Previous Issues page and click on Issue 10. There you will find what I wrote about this deal which included Development Charges in the cost. Now if the purchaser were to build, this gift would have been worth up to \$600,000 at the old rate of \$2.67 per sq. ft. At today's rate it is worth closer to \$1,700,000. Now the clause in the contract drawn up by the cities solicitor was not included but the mayor hand wrote it in and signed the deal ( I wonder if councillors knew he was going to give \$1,7 dollars away when they authorized the sale????). I believe this was a terrible deal for the city. I researched other similar properties in Simcoe County and found the selling price was way below market price. For example, in Midland there was about 5 acres across the road from the proposed Walmart. This 5 acres was on the market for just over a million dollars with Walmart not built yet. Our mayor sold 12.6 acres behind an existing Walmart for \$1,067,506.50 and gave away \$1,700,000 worth of development charges. I wrote last week how the Foxfell non profit housing group was told they must pay development charges otherwise it would be a direct grant and the city couldn't do that. Well what the hell is this deal???? It seems it was a gift instead of a grant which obviously must be allowed. I have scanned the paragraph from the agreement for you to see below.

Way back I wrote how this 12.6 acres would be ideal for the MURF and that instead of giving the property away at a bargain basement price the city should build on it. You see in addition to the 12.6 acres there is 52 acres of city owned land which has been set aside as a flood plain for that 100 year storm. This

property would be ideal for all the outdoor facilities. There is even a large pond which could be expanded and used. A track could be built around the pond for track and field. Perfect site and the cost for land would have been **ZERO**. Back when I was making all my noise mayor, council, city management and the Packet dismissed me as a malcontent. I will take great pleasure to see how much profit there will be for the owner of this property if the city decides to take the deal. Now I am all for this site and will support it as my mind has not changed that it is the most suitable location in the city. What will be interesting is to see how much less we could have had a MURF for. What goes around comes around doesn't it Mayor Pinocchio???? I still maintain we need a **FORENSIC AUDIT** of the cities books to clear the air once and for all. As for the cleanup costs on West St. you can thank Mayor Pinocchio and the Puppet council along with Boss Hog. The next council and MOE must hold these people personally responsible for their actions on this property. It is only a matter of time that all facts will become known. We will work hard and await patiently for that day.

jim tolnai

**May 08, 2005**

## Public Liason Committee

Seems the mayor and Boss Hog are recruiting people to sit on a Public Liaison Committee being formed. Two people who have been asked are Colleen Cooney (asked by the mayor) and Mary Lou Kirby (asked by Boss Hog). A letter from Mike Miller (city solicitor) to our lawyer asked if Allan Millard would agree to Dr. Derek Ford being asked as well. Others to be asked are unknown at this time but the mayor stated to Colleen that both factions would be represented. Now that statement bothered both Allan and I as well as Colleen and others. We don't believe that when it comes to the environment or the health and safety of our community there are two sides. All people including the mayor and Boss Hog must be on side. Seems these guys still don't get it?????

After conferring with Allan we have both agreed that as long as this is a genuine effort for public input and there is no attempt to hijack the committee for the other factions???? purposes it will be a useful exercise. The committee must be independent and report to the people. Mayor, council and Boss Hog must cooperate and make documents available without a fight. Let the truth prevail and accept the results. Both Allan and I as well as other Citizens Coalition members feel that Colleen, Mary Lou and Derek Ford are excellent choices. We would also like at this time to ask that two more excellent and knowledgeable people be included. Kelly Clune who has worked on behalf of Orillia and the environment would be a valuable member. Kelly has committed tens of thousands of hours over the past twenty years fighting for our city and environment. Her expertise and dedication could only enhance the others on this committee. The second person who should be asked is Doug Peddle. Again few people have the knowledge and determination to get at the facts regarding the MURF site. Doug would be an excellent choice who would make sure all relevant information and

reports are made available. With the addition of these two fine people this committee will rock. All of Orillia can be confident that the committee will be strong and independent of outside influence. There are no more dedicated and honourable people in Orillia. So Mr. Mayor and Boss Hog let's get this committee going A.S.A.P. Also while the mayor and Boss Hog are in a generous mood how about starting a **Forensic Audit** of the cities books???? It's long overdue.

jim tolnai

**May 6,2005**

## **MURF Site Activity**

This week has seen quite a bit of activity on the MURF site. Two drill rigs are busy drilling what looks like monitoring wells right on the fence line. If you take a drive by these are the blue casings with locks on them. They are all along West St. and Queen St. Yesterday we saw one of the drill rigs on top of the footprint . All this activity is a good sign that maybe now proper testing is taking place. We have yet to see test results and are anxiously waiting for these to be posted in a conspicuous location on the city web-site and not hidden. I suppose that will depend on how bad these numbers turn out to be.

It was with interest that we observed a renewed Geotechnical Survey taking place yesterday. You may remember this is the search for buried drums. Two weeks ago the city announced that they had found 50 plus barrels. We were led to believe that there were no others to be found. Yet yesterday a new survey was being done along the north end of the property. I suppose this is the same story as was piled on us about a year ago. You may remember Ian Brown claiming there was no need for more testing as the property was like a pin cushion. Well a lot has happened since then thanks to the persistence of the Coalition. It was new holes that showed unprecedented levels of contaminants over 23,000 times higher than allowed by MOE standards. Two weeks ago we said there were more buried barrels even though the mayor claimed otherwise. This new activity proves that indeed they had not tested the entire property. Now why do you suppose that they failed to test the entire property?? So we await with baited breath to see the new results. It's obvious these people won't do anything properly unless forced to. Again we ask for the MOE and the Liberal Government of Ontario to assume full responsibility for the worlds worst known site and protect our community. We also demand that a **Forensic Audit** be done in order to clear the air around city hall.

Here is an interesting little bit of news. On page B8 of yesterdays Packet there is a notice from the Township of Severn. Seems the township wants to upgrade the Coldwater water filtration system to reduce trichlorethylene concentrations in the municipal groundwater supply. Obviously the people of Coldwater are and have been exposed for who knows how long. It would be helpful if Severn told people the extent of contamination. If the Coldwater wells are contaminated what about the hundreds if not thousands of wells around Coldwater. Seems to me people should be checking their water to see if they are effected. Being in the water filtration business I am fully aware of what can and does happen to peoples lives daily. This is the reason I have purchased 1,000 RO systems and am giving them

away to anyone who wants one in Simcoe County while they last. You only pay \$195.00 for installation and purchase 3 filters for \$29.95. This unit will give you safe drinking and cooking water up to 100 gallons per day. Whether you are on a municipal system or well we can no longer take water for granted. I was just made aware of a family who for a number of years felt ill. Their doctors were puzzled until their well water was analyzed. Seems the water contained a herbicide used on corn fields that is colourless and odorless. We all make choices in life. Making sure your water supply is safe is a choice for life. This is a genuine offer. Similar models sell for up to \$1,000. Whether you take one of ours or some one else's or buy your drinking and cooking water it is appropriate for you to protect your family. Give me a call for more info 327-5717 or go to <http://www.watersopure.com> on the Sales and Promotions page.

jim tolnai

**May 5, 2005**

## **Interesting Phone Call**

Had an interesting phone call from Wayne Gardy yesterday. Seems Wayne was told about the piece I wrote last week about the chap who claimed he had contacted Wayne about the problems with the MURF site. I don't think Wayne had read the piece because he was claiming he had never worked at Otaco and wondered how this chap could accuse him of knowing anything. I then explained how that was not what I had written and how the chap himself worked for Otaco and had contacted Wayne about the problems with the site. Wayne then said "In that case I don't remember anyone contacting me". He then went on to say he did not know anyone who had worked at the site and had not spoken with anyone. I then insisted that the man was adamant about the fact that he had indeed passed on this information. At this Wayne said "Then he must have left a message but I never spoke to anyone". Hmmm! wonder what the truth is??? Who should we believe????

Wayne then asked me to contact him next time some one claims to have told him something so that he could dispute it??? He seemed to take exception to me not checking with him. But then Wayne may have forgotten about the number of occasions I had tried to get his comments only to be ignored. You see in the past I had left messages for Wayne to comment on items only to never receive a call back. The last straw was when I actually got Wayne on the phone and was told he was not going to talk to me implying I and the Coalition were the enemy. Anyway I agreed to seek his comment and will do so.

Of course having a councillor all to my self I started to cast my line to see if Wayne would yield some juice. Now according to Wayne the only reason the MOE is making them do all these tests is because they are aware that we (Coalition) are watching them. He then claimed that the MOE has told council that the site can be managed instead of cleaned up, implying that when all is said and done that is exactly what would happen. Now Wayne is noted for his thoughts to zip around like a light show so when I told him that the next MURF war would be over cleaning the site properly he said "whether we build or not the site has to be cleaned". Confusing to say the least how Wayne speaks but makes

no sense.

We then spoke of the lies coming from city hall about facts. I took exception with him about how they tried to bury the latest test reports on the city web-site. He took the position that making the reports hard to find was not an act of hiding them because "as long as they were there it was available". He didn't seem to think there was anything wrong with that behavior. He then proceeded to tell me that everyone knows how bad the area is for pollution. He talked about the Canadian Tire building and the old A&P. We know what is there he says. I suppose he has forgotten that the CTC and A&P building sit empty not being used. So does that fact mean he expects the MURF building will be the same??? We then spoke of the found barrels. Of course he claimed that the barrels only contained garbage or were empty I asked him if he was aware of Otaco actually selling empty barrels. He then went on telling me how indeed barrels were sold for docks and other uses. I then again asked him why empty barrels would then be buried. His reply " Well I didn't see the barrels so I can't comment". Exactly!!! This guy just parrots what he has been told without knowing any facts. I then asked him why someone years ago would bury a barrel of water??? He didn't know but speculated that whatever was originally in the barrel had leaked out and replaced with water. Bingo!! I then challenged him to tell me why diesel fuel would be buried and not used??? I suggested that we need to see the analysis of just what was in the barrels??? No comment.

So all in all very interesting. For the MOE and the Minister (Leona Dombrowsky) I believe we need you to comment on what Councillor Gardy is claiming. Have you decided that this site can be covered up and not cleaned? Are you only doing your job because we are watching you??? Was there a secret deal made between the MOE and the city at your closed door meeting to pull the wool over our eyes and not clean up our Love Canal???? We need these and other facts clarified. Has the Plume left the property and in which direction??? Have you or will you test properties off site for contamination??? Are people living nearby at risk??? Where are the test results of off site monitoring wells and why are these reports not posted??? Or are they posted but buried somewhere on the web-site???? Disgraceful?? We need answers and we need them now.

jim tolnai

**May 01, 2005**

## **Free Reverse Osmosis System**

As some will know I am in the water treatment business. My concern for keeping our water supply clean runs deep. I have been able to source a 5 stage Reverse Osmosis System which I am actually giving away. That's right there is no charge for the unit. What you pay for is \$195.00 for installation and \$29.95 for three filters. If you are buying and hauling water why?? You can make your own at about .01 cents per gallon. No trick or sales pitch. This is a genuine offer not to be missed. I have a limited number to give away and once gone they are gone. Compare to similar systems from Culligan @ \$1000.00 or Water Depot @ \$900. Home Depot has a 4 Stage RO 25 gal. per day for \$498.00 plus installation. My unit is a 100 gal. per day capacity. I will also donate \$10 for each unit to the

Citizens Coalition that is ordered in the month of May. Full Warranty  
Limited Quantities so hurry or you will miss out on this great deal.

**Water So Pure**

**<http://www.watersopure.com>**

**327-5717**

jim tolnai