

Aug. 31, 2005

For The Children

Each year the Tolnai family hosts our Hungarian Goulash Cookout the last Sunday in August. We had as usual a great turnout with about 85 people coming out to enjoy Annes wonderful baking, home baked bread and of course the delicious goulash cooked in my great pot outside. Again this year we had old friends show up who have been to each and everyone of our efforts. People came from as far away as Kirkland Lake and as close as next door. We had a great time and all our friends were very generous in our effort to raise money for Sleeping Children Around the World <http://www.scaw.org/> . Our special guest again this year was David Dryden who's father Murray started it all. David gave a wonderful talk on his experience in Tanzania distributing 5,000 bed kits just a few weeks ago. We thank all who attended and gave so generously. Last year our effort produced \$3,600 and we believe once all pledges are in we may even exceed that amount this year. Our family urges you to go and have a look at the SCAW website and see what a wonderful difference a mere \$30 donation can make in the life of these children who have nothing. Please be generous. Enjoy the pictures and maybe next year you may want to join us. Thanks for the help throughout the day you are all truly friends not only of our family but those wonderful children whose lives will be made just a little bit better.

The Tolnai Family & Friends

jim tolnai

Aug. 30,2005

MOE Not Interested??????

You may recall our expose of filling in the wetland along James St. about three weeks ago. Well a week ago Kelly Clune and another lady dropped into the site on James St. to look around. They came upon three piles of what looked like horse dodo. When they stepped out of the vehicle the smell was overpowering and they left. After a call from them I went down myself and took a sample. It does look like dodo but the smell does not match the look. I took a sample in a plastic bag and brought it home. The closed bag was sitting on the floor beside my desk and the odor was overcoming and I moved it outside. It has a sour chemically smell somewhat like I smelled at the MURF site last fall when the city dug sample pits for contractors bidding on the soil removal contract. One of the ladies actually became ill and she seems to think it was brought on by what she inhaled.

After discussing with Allan Millard our find it was decided that he would approach the MOE to ask them to test the substance. Well it seems the ministry

is not interested in having a look at this noxious substance which has been dumped in a large quantity on the edge of what little wetland that is left. A week ago Allan decided to go down to the site and see what he could find. He too found some piles and took samples as well. Although I have not seen his sample nor smelled them he tells me his sample are noxious but the appearance is different than what I collected. I have decided to pay a visit to the MOE office in Barrie with sample in hand and demand that they do their job once again. It seems these people will not willingly do their job without confrontation.

The Citizens Coalition is not a government department nor are we responsible to enforce environmental issues. We do not have unlimited public funds nor do we get paid. That is the paid job of MOE employees. Why they are not concerned we do not know. These are the same people who claimed that only clean fill was being dumped at the James St. site. When challenged they wrote us stating that most fill was clean admitting there was contaminated fill and had ordered the property owner and the City of Orillia to remove the bad stuff they had claimed earlier did not exist. We had hoped that maybe they would start taking their job seriously but then when we have gone to the trouble of collecting this stuff they are not interested. Site and smell unseen they have dismissed our concern. So tomorrow down to Barrie I go. I will also mail a sample to their boss the Environment Minister who just might have it tested. It is noxious but is it dangerous??? We don't know. Remember back last Oct. Cynthia Robins from S&P said that machine operators would be smelling the air for any signs of contaminated soil. I made light of it but now that our sample is available I have no doubt a machine operator could smell material that maybe dangerous. So MOE the least you could do is show just a little interest and appreciate our efforts to help you do your job.

Here is our Quote of the Week: In the Aug. 19 Packet it is written "Brown (Ian) said samples taken by Entech at the site have already shown that PHC levels are too high, exceeding provincial guidelines. We anticipate that samples taken by another lab will continue to exceed the guidelines. But it just means we'll have **credible** samples to support the risk assessment". Can you believe such an outrageous statement by the city manage. What nerve to be so flippant about the **NOT CREDIBLE** testing. If anything proves our point this statement does. What this city needs is a **CREDIBLE** City Manager and a **CREDIBLE** Mayor and council. Only then will Orillia City Hall regain any **CREDIBILITY**. We do not trust any testing that these people have been involved in. We need the Ontario government to take over this whole site to protect us until a **CREDITABLE** Mayor and Council can be elected. Unfortunately that is still more than a year away. The province has the power so use it. Who knows what other testing is **NOT CREDIBLE**???? We need a **FORENSIC Audit**.
jim tolnai

Aug. 30, 2005

The following is a letter sent to the MOE and the Minister of the Environment. We wish to share it with all as it shows just how pathetic this whole MURF file has been handled by Mayor and senior city management. With all the dishonesty

surrounding this matter even the public involvement portion is being manipulated. When that failed because of people like Dr. Ford, Collen Cooney, Bob Bowles and Mary Lou Kirby they (Mayor, council and city management) decided to shut it down.

August 28, 2005

**Mr. Craig Kinch
Director, Environmental Protection Act
Standards Development Branch
Ecological Standards Section
40 St. Clair Avenue West, 7th Floor
Toronto, ON M4V 1M2**

Dear Mr. Kinch:

**Re: PSF 813-04 -File IDS8750-67YK3&, SDB [PSF] 813-04
City of Orillia, Multi-Use Recreational Facility [MURF]**

In order to satisfy requirements of PSF 813-04 the City of Orillia set up a public communication plan. Public input is purportedly invited to offer comments on the Draft Risk Assessment prepared by Shaheen & Peaker (S&P), consulting engineers on a proposed MURF project at West Street S., Orillia. A Public Liaison Committee (PLC) was formed comprising 11 public volunteers, 10 resource persons (including City Manager Ian Brown and Project Special Manager Lori Koughan), S&P and their peer reviewers Gartner Lee and Cantox Limited. There were to be four meetings, possibly five.

Two meetings have been held, May 25 and August 4th, chaired by Don Richardson of Gartner Lee under contract to the city for \$20,000 for 4 meetings. By the second meeting, it was made quite clear the meetings were not being taken seriously by city administration or Gartner Lee, which is the reason for this letter.

The first meeting on May 25, 2005 was hurriedly put together with notification to PLC members on Friday, the 20th just prior to a long weekend. The draft Risk Assessment binder of over 200 pages was made available at the last minute, giving no time for proper assessment. Only 4 copies of the Risk Assessment were available to 11 PLC members. During the meeting more large maps and technical information was distributed by Ms. Koughan, allowing no time for study to ask pertinent questions. The Chair asked that "discussions continue" while these large items were handed to each member, causing some discussion to be missed by certain members.

The acoustics in the meeting room were extremely poor. No microphones were available so that Observers and PLC members could hear the speakers. One gentleman left the meeting for this reason.

It is our understanding Minutes of the PLC Meetings should clearly record our questions, comments and replies given to accompany the Draft RA for the Ministry of the Environment (MOE). The minutes of the first meeting were totally inadequate, inaccurate and included comments purported to be made by the city manager and Gartner Lee, which were never spoken. The following is an indication of the lack of concern and lack of transparency on the part of those in charge of these meetings:

It is inappropriate to have a city employee (Mr. Merkley) taking the minutes, especially when his superior (the city manager) is present and seated nearby. An independent recorder of minutes would ensure freedom from bias and eliminate the possibility of statements being included that do not reflect the accuracy of what was said and by whom.

Complaints were made to the Chairman who approached the city to ask that an independent recorder be hired for the second meeting, but the city refused - an indication of the city's unwillingness to take the PLC meetings seriously. The manner in which the approval of the minutes was to take place was quite inappropriate.

PLC members were given only a matter of days from date of receipt of the minutes to request amendments electronically to the first draft Minutes.

This unfairly did not recognize that it was the summer holiday period by the time the minutes were received.

The time limit also did not recognize that some PLC members were employed during the daytime, that these are "drafted volunteers", not paid employees. PLC members were expected to "sign off" on the minutes by e-mail. A non-response would indicate acceptance of the minutes as prepared. No allowance was made for a PLC member being on vacation, or away on business.

Proper meeting procedures require that minutes be presented at the following meeting for comments and approval. The Chairman set the rules to suit his desire for expediency not accuracy.

PLC members were placed in the position of not knowing what other members may have requested as changes to the minutes if they were expected to sign off as required by the Chairman.

There was no opportunity to dispute other member's comments or request for amendments - a totally inappropriate way to approve minutes.

A transcript of the proceedings obtained from a videotape made by an observer was offered as a guide to the minute-taker to prepare more accurate minutes.

It was recognized that a transcript does not constitute minutes. The second draft Minutes included some actual PLC comments from the transcript.

However, the same comments included in the first draft that were not made by the city manager or Gartner Lee had once again been included - a good indication of sloppiness or lack of concern as to the accuracy.

The Chair indicated the problem of the minutes would be addressed at the next meeting. Over three months have passed, and the May 25th minutes are still not available. A PLC member was asked to work on them with the city employee. Under the circumstances, this is an unreasonable demand on the PLC member's time.

If the minutes are of no value to the MOE, then why are PLC meetings even necessary and wasting time of the PLC volunteers?

When the agenda was received on Gartner Lee letterhead for the second meeting on

August 4th, it was obvious the agenda did not follow the Terms of Reference and lacked the professionalism of the first agenda prepared by Gartner Lee. A concerned

citizen was told that the city had prepared the agenda, but that Mr. Richardson had some

input, that he was off on two weeks holiday until August 2nd. This raised concerns among

PLC members that they were being manipulated or taken for granted for these reasons:

Requests for an amended agenda prior to August 4th went unheeded.

The agenda was rewritten at the meeting, taking up valuable time.

The 10 minutes previously allotted to Gartner Lee for their peer review of S&P's technical memoranda were left off the agenda. No one at Gartner Lee or S&P brought this to the attention of the Chairman, although this was an important reason

Gartner Lee was in attendance.

At least three PLC members had requested the Chairman allow agenda time for important issues they wished included. These requests were ignored.

PLC member Dr. Derek Ford, a senior hydrogeologist had a very important presentation to make as to the danger of placing the MURF building where the city planned on the property and was offering an alternative for the consideration of the city.

Many complaints were made, asking an explanation as to why 10 items were being assigned only 15 minutes in total for discussion - only 1.5 minutes per item.

The problematic inaccurate draft minutes of May 25th were being given only 1.5 minutes discussion time. Shaheen & Peaker and Gartner Lee, on the other hand, were allotted much greater time for their presentations.

As the meeting was to be held at the same location, microphones were requested. Only one was provided for the large group, making it awkward and time consuming

for the Chair and members. The city was careless in not attending properly to this courtesy the public.

The meeting was disjointed because of the confusion over one microphone. This which even resulted in some comments not being heard at all.

Midway through the meeting, the Chair announced "WE have decided there will only be three meetings", indicating no more input on the Draft Risk Assessment was required. There was no prior consultation with PLC members prior to or during the meeting. Some members feel their input on the Risk Assessment is not complete. No reply has been received from the Chair as to who the "We" are who made this decision.

In spite of the fact the city had earlier set the meeting date as August 4th with the agreement of Gartner Lee, no representative of the City of Orillia was in attendance, other than the minute taker. Both the City Manager and Special Projects Manager were conveniently on vacation. Mr. Ian Mitchell, District Engineer, Owen Sound MOE office did attend, but left quickly after the meeting. Recently it became obvious why the city did not ensure someone in authority was present to represent the city as a Resource Person(s). The lack of transparency is more apparent now than ever due to the following:

On August 2nd, two days prior to the PLC meeting, Ian Mitchell faxed his letter addressed to Lori Koughan, Special Projects Manager. It was an unfavourable preliminary comment on S&P's four Technical Memoranda reports. Although the August 4th meeting was for the purpose of presenting the four Technical Memoranda reports to the PLC for comment, Ian Mitchell made no effort to bring his letter of August 2nd to the attention of the PLC members. Neither the City Manager Ian Brown, nor Special Projects Manager Lori Koughan from the city attended the August 4th meeting as Resource Persons. No representative of the city was appointed to take their place at that meeting in case PLC members had a question that the city might be asked. The August 4th meeting date had been set by the city at least a week prior, yet both city representatives went on vacation at the same time. This begs the question "Did they not want to attend in case the contents of the August 2nd letter became public knowledge?" Mr. Mitchell's letter was followed by an August 8th letter, and the Provincial Officer's Report and Order on August 9th against the city and Shaheen & Peaker. On August 16th a time extension was allowed for the city to prepare a Plan as required under the August 9th Order.

This matter is brought to your attention because the lack of interest and concern for the

Public Liaison Committee as shown by the city representatives is totally unacceptable and insulting to the intelligence of volunteers from the public. There is no "public consultation" taking place now, and there is concern it is all a waste of time, only a means to allow the city and Shaheen & Peaker to place a checkmark on the box of the PSF that asks if public consultation took place. An apology is most certainly due from the City of Orillia and Gartner Lee, to say the least.

Respectfully submitted

**Letter was signed by:
Colleen Cooney, member of Public Liaison Committee
Allan Millard, Lillian M. Marsden, Donald J. Marsden, Jim Tolnai and Kelly Clune
- Observers at PLC meetings**

Aug. 29, 2005

Times Running Out?? Wake-up People!!

The Packets front page today has two stories that everyone should read. The first is "MOE orders lab to stop tests". The second is "Tory urges citizens to unite in bid to clean up Lake Simcoe". Both stories are important and in some ways connected.

City council and their experts have been using an unqualified lab to do testing on the MURF site. These tests were not up to MOE standards??? Of course Mayor Pinocchio doesn't seem to see this as a big deal. But of course it is a huge deal. The Citizens Coalition has been saying that tests done on contaminated soil was not done correctly as far back as last Nov. Mayor and the puppets assured everyone that their experts were the cat's meow and that the Coalition just didn't understand. Well Mr. Mayor again we are being proven just how well we do understand and how well **you do not** understand. Your lab, your experts, screwed up again. Mr. Mayor and council when will you finally get it???? You have screwed up this project big time. You have been caught. It is time to move on and build the MURF on a clean and safe site. Trying to make a silk purse out of a sow's ear is a waste of time and money. The West St. site can not be built on until it is cleaned. Conservatively it will take 8 to 15 years to clean it up. If the facility is as important as you people have said then where it goes is immaterial. But of course that does not seem to be true. You people have made the development of the site more important than the facility haven't you???? Why?????? So all you PLC members, figure skaters, hockey leagues, swimmers etc. get on the phone and tell these guys you are not willing to wait 8 or more

years. After all as Ralph Cipolla said the future health of our community depends on this facility???? We need to start building elsewhere and stop studying this site and start cleaning it up. But of course we need to hire a new team of reputable experts who will work for the cities benefit and not just a handful of city politicians and senior city management.

So it is now time to give some positive suggestions. Build the twin pads on the Oval site. It is still downtown and the site should be clean?? Then take Angelo's offer if it is still available and build a single ice arena with the swimming facilities. You were going to build a third ice surface out there anyways according to Ralph. If you are still hung up on outdoor facilities which quite frankly I disagree with then put them on the 52 acres where the pond is behind Walmart. This area is ideal for these facilities as nothing can be built there anyway and it is city owned. All this and it can be done for probably under your \$48,000,000 budget. So folks if peoples needs are the prime movers for developing these facilities then let's get them built. End of story.

Note: To the Packet Editor and columnist Teviah Moro in regards to your last paragraph where you said "The discovery of a spot of vinyl chloride contamination". I agree from the space lab it does look like just a spot. But from ground level it is a large area. Calling it a spot is not fair as it misrepresents the reality and may diminish it's importance in peoples mind. Otherwise good article, keep it up.

Then there is the John Tory story. John Tory leader of the Conservatives who held power while Lake Simcoe decayed has now found an environmental issue to hang onto and ride. It seems he has all of a sudden discovered that poor old Lake Simcoe is in trouble. Where was he last year when we protested and tried to stop 40,000 tonnes of hazardous soil from being dumped on the shores of Lake Simcoe?? Where was Tory when 77 tons of Barium was dumped on the shores of Lake Simcoe??? Where was he when the Minister of the Environment was lied to about how these toxins would be dealt with??? Where was he when Allan Millard and the Citizens Coalition fought Mayor and council in court to stop the harm being done to Lake Simcoe??? Where was he when the Coalition and friends of the Coalition reached into their own pockets to pay the legal fees???? Where was Tory when the Coalition had their garage sale to raise more money??? What did Tory buy or donate to the cause??? Where was Tory just a few weeks ago when we discovered the destruction of wetland on James St. that filters Toxic and Hazardous leaching from the MURF site and other locations??? Where is he now in lobbying the MOE and FDO to reverse this crime against the environment???? He is nowhere. All there are from this guy are cheap words and theatrics. Some of your Conservative friends and supporters in Orillia are guilty of these massive assaults on the Lake but will you **Speak Out** against them??? Of course not? So Mr. Tory get another Story because this one smells worst than Lake Simcoe on a hot day. (Through e-mail Mr. Tory has been advised on matters relating to Orillia. If he tries to say "I didn't know" his nose will grow.)

jim tolnoi

Aug. 26,2005

Here's The Bad News

A few days ago I wrote how we were expecting Bad News from the City in regards to the MURF. Here is what I wrote and why I expected a release of Bad News for the city.

"Last week we had three letters in the Packet in support of the MURF site, or trashing our efforts to clean it up. Over the past two years whenever there were new but worse test results to be released, the Packet carried the same type of letters just before results were released. Sort of like trying to cushion the bad news with what seems like support, and of course trashing the Coalition which was being proven right by their own information being released. So, unscientific as this may be, our collective memory is strong and we don't think their behavior is a coincidence".

So it was no surprise to see the city issue a press release which was actually ordered by the MOE. The press release was to let the public know that the lab used to do testing had their pee pee wacked by the MOE. Although the city in their press release is trying to make light and claim there should be no reason to worry that scenario is anything but true. Just like the city was ordered to smarten up by the Ministry Order now their lab of choice has had a Ministry Order placed against them. Remember this is an Order under law for Misbehavior and is very serious for both parties. Here is the link to the cities press release.

<http://www.city.orillia.on.ca/common/Documents/Murf/Press%20Release%20Aug%2026%202005.pdf>

I will be looking forward to how the Packet reports on this serious flaw in testing procedures by the lab of choice. Ever wonder why this lab was chosen to do the work???? We have said all along we need a reputable firm other than Shaheen & Peaker to handle this site. S&P worked for Molsons the vendor and the city should never have used them in the first place. Now S&P's judgment in the choice of labs is in question along with how they have handled this site. As far as I am concerned regardless of which testing is being questioned we can not trust any results from this lab. How can anything the mayor, council or city management say be trusted???? Noses have grown at city hall over this press release and is typical of how these people operate. Trying to dismiss the seriousness is nothing more than the past lies from these people. So don't be swayed. Check out what they say and ask questions and demand answers. The truth just keeps coming out as we have said over and over again. Those who live by lies live in a very shaky house of cards. Their house is tumbling down all around them. Quite frankly has there ever been a worse mismanaged project in the history of Orillia??? If anyone knows of a worse example of mismanagement by past councils please let us know. Long live the MURF on a safe and clean site.

jim tolnai

Aug. 24, 2005

Wetland Action??

Yesterday we received a letter from the MOE office in Barrie regarding the fill

being dumped into the James St. wetland. You may remember we had the MOE inspect the site and the inspector said that only clean fill was being dumped. I took exception to his statement and suggested he was blind. I then published photos (see Aug.08 article) as proof. I am pleased to let you know that the MOE now has changed their mind about what they actually saw. Here is what they wrote. "On August 8, 2005, the Ministry received a call about the in-filling of a wetland on James St. in Orillia. An Environmental Officer attended at the site that day and found that most of the material being deposited at the site was clean fill. The officer did, however, note some asphalt and other waste material and instructed the contractor and the **City of Orillia** to have this material as well as any other material not classified as clean removed from the site". We are very happy that this material will be removed but are concerned as to when and where it will be moved to. There should never have been any fill allowed to be dumped and destroy this jewel within city boundaries. We understand that Councillor Cipolla has stated that no one at the city authorized the filling in of the wetland. Property owner claims he had authorization to fill in. Who is telling the truth????

This dumping of hazardous materials on a water course and wetland led us to do a bit more investigation. You see we were and are appalled at the city for dumping 40,000 tons of hazardous material at the dump last fall. They claim it is not hazardous which has now been proven to be wrong. You see the city did only four (4) tests on this 40,000 tons. To make this pitiful effort even worse is that they did composite tests. Composite tests are the mixing of soils from different samples from anywhere on the property and mixing them together. The result is dilution and the evaporation of VOC's. This type of testing has been disavowed by the MOE and the city was told they must use proper testing methods. So we became concerned that if council dumped the MURF soil in such a cavalier way what else was being dumped. We were not surprised to find that other toxins are being dumped in contravention of the landfill license. Here are some examples that are very disturbing.

June 24, 2004 (Receipt 239)

Location: 281 Coldwater Rd.

Contaminant: Barium

Property owner: 1450841 Ontario Inc.

Total contaminant: 77.68 tonnes

Barium is a poison. Here is a link so that you can see what this material is and can do to people. <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts24.html>

We are not talking about a few pounds here. There was 77.68 tonnes.

In reading the list it has occurred that the largest generator of contaminated soil in the landfill is no other than the city. Here are a couple of examples.

Sept. 03, 2004

Location: 20 James St. W.

Contaminant: gasoline (hydro carbon)

Property owner: City of Orillia

Generator of contaminated material: City of Orillia

Total contaminant: 97.10 tonnes

Oct. 22, 2004

Location: 20 James St. W.

Contaminant: Asphalt road base/clay pipe

Property owner: City of Orillia

Generator of contaminated material: Unknown??????

Total contaminant: 41.04 tonnes

May 18, 2004

Location: Albert & Victoria St. intersection Colborne St. W.

Contaminant: Sewage & fuel

Property owner: City of Orillia

Generator of contaminated material: Unknown??????

Total contaminant: 1711.28 tonnes (fuel) 416.03 (sewage)

These are just a few examples and occurred in 2004. Can you just imagine how much and what material has been dumped since 1967 right on the shores of Lake Simcoe????? Scary thought. How much longer can this kind of behavior go on???????

jim tolnai

Aug. 23, 2005

Suspicious Fires Part Deux

Here is what I wrote on Aug. 14 concerning the first fire at GL&V.

"Could it be that while drilling VC gas found a pathway into the building?? Remember it only takes 42C to ignite VC gas and we know there is lots of it under the MURF site. We also know that there is a south east flow of groundwater from the site. This building is directly southeast. Let's hope that we will be given the story quickly and honestly. If the plume migration did cause this fire then all property owners must be warned and immediate steps must be taken to protect people and property. At this point we just don't know".

There has now been a second fire destroying another building on the same property. The first fire started at around 3 am with an apparent burglary but this one was at 8 am on a work day! *Was there* actually a burglary, and *how and why* did the fire start? Arson makes no sense if burglars were out to steal something, especially large steel castings and wooden patterns for producing castings. The thieves would have needed a truck and possibly a tow motor to load the items. The Coalition and Dr. Ford warned of what Vinyl Chloride gas can do once it is under a building. We *must* warn property owners and start testing the buildings around the MURF site to be sure they are safe.

It appears as though the sewer and street reconstruction of West St. has been halted. If you take a drive down there, and you will see that all construction has been wrapped up and ends about 100' north of Cochrane St. in the middle of an empty field. The best information we have been able to get so far is that the original contract was to go down to Barrie Rd. We have been making inquiries but so far have not received any help (not surprising). Council and City

management are really quiet about this, which raises one's suspicions. The other indication that things are going badly is just by observation and not scientific, but is true. Last week we had three letters in the Packet in support of the MURF site, or trashing our efforts to clean it up. Over the past two years whenever there were new but worse test results to be released, the Packet carried the same type of letters just before results were released. Sort of like trying to cushion the bad news with what seems like support, and of course trashing the Coalition which was being proven right by their own information being released. So, unscientific as this may be, our collective memory is strong and we don't think their behaviour is a coincidence. Again, I urge the mayor, Council and City management to come clean before anyone gets hurt. Either deny the theory, or come clean. I also urge the MOE to come clean. Did they order the construction shut down? Was there contamination found as the sewers were dug up? If there was contaminated soil, to where was it? Has the MOE been involved with the investigation of these fires? These are not state secrets, nor should they be. In order for people to protect themselves and their property, authorities need to be honest. Mr. Mayor, it is time for you to prove that no harm will happen. *It is time you reported the test results from the new wells.* It only takes five days for results to be analyzed by a lab. It takes a non expert five minutes to understand those results. You are it seems, four days late in sharing this information. Why? Please prove us wrong as we would be happier about it than you would, if that is the case.

jim tolnai

Aug. 22, 2005

More Denials

Yesterday I wrote about people living with the Denial Syndrome. Because of this trait in a fairly large percentage of the population astute politicians are allowed to get away with some pretty bad stuff. With people like Jack and Murray who **Deny** what is going on around them mayor and council are tempted to feel they can get away with almost anything. Sad but a true fact.

I want to tell you about how ridiculous this **Denial** trait can become. As you know I have been ranting about the three Coldwater municipal wells being contaminated with trichlorethylene since they opened in 1996. No one was the wiser except officials until just recently. I have made an effort to notify as many as possible who are on their own well supply. I contacted the MOE's Chris Hyde who passed on the info to some one that has never bothered to contact me. I sent the information to Garfield Dunlop who sent me a letter he had written to Chris Hyde on the matter but there seems to be no urgency. You see once in the aquifer this stuff can travel for miles contaminating any wells that get in the way.

Our business Water So Pure sells , installs and services water treatment equipment. We are very concerned for the health of everyone and because of this concern we are very upset that people are not being notified by the

authorities to take caution and have their water checked for this chemical. My effort has been to notify customers and former customers to take precaution. One such customer is a couple who live just outside of Coldwater on Hwy. 12. I contacted the lady and she took me seriously. Her husband took a sample of water to the Analytical lab and guess what???? They had trichlorethylene in the water. But when I spoke to the husband he was not very happy with me. You see on the day he took the sample and possibly all days the level was lower than the MOE standard. Now that level can change in a heartbeat and you would never be the wiser but it did not matter. He concentrated **not** on the fact that his well was contaminated but that he wasted his money to find out that he was contaminated but below the MOE standard. By the way these standards change all the time. At one time the standard safe level was 50 ppb then 20ppb then 5ppb and the latest will be 1ppb. So if the previous standards were wrong then how can we trust anything but ZERO???? Anyway this is what society has to contend with. People **Deny, Deny and Deny**. By the way the lady being cautious was pleased to have a carbon filter put into her existing UV unit to protect her family. They already have the equipment only the cartridge filter is different and it cost them no more than the sediment cartridge did. Smart lady.

jim tolnai

Aug. 21, 2005

More Letters to the Packet Editor

Yesterday I wrote about Murray Townes' letter to the Packet. I was going to ignore his comments because from time to time people come out with what I call the **Denial Syndrome** (but was urged by a friend to comment). This is where a person just can not understand a somewhat complex matter and his or her brain just simply denies that it did or ever could happen. Murray is one of the few who write letters **Denying simple** fact.

In Fridays Packet there were two letters of a similar ilk. I wasn't going to comment on either one until Murray's letter was printed. So if I go after Murray's **Denial** I suppose it's only fair to go after Jack W. Scott's and Wayne Gardy's **Denial** as well. It seems that the Packet must save these **Denial** letters up and release them as installments, maybe to show off how many intelligent Orillians there are. Jack W. Scott is no stranger to the Packet Editorial page along with Wayne Gardy councils intellectual.

Jack writes "There is one element of the MURF site problem that I have not been able to fathom. If the chemicals present at the MURF site are so dangerous to the health of tomorrow's children then why were they not more dangerous to the people of yesterday?" Well Jack if you had of bothered to do any sort of research first into the original chemical trichlorethylene and it's breakdown sisters you would have part of your answer. You see Jack Tri breaks down to Die and then to VC. VC is a particularly nasty product which former Otaco workers most likely never worked with. Vc gets into the water as gas and then comes back to do it's harm. The other two chemicals are dangerous as well but Vc is particularly nasty. Once in the water all these chemicals can flow and do harm in a wide area ever increasing in size unless the source is shut off. If you would take the time to

do just a bit of research the evidence will show you just how harmful these chemicals have been to millions of people in North America and hundreds of millions world wide. As for local people all you have to do is a bit of research. Take a few days and start looking for and talking to former employees of Otaco and Bartaco. What you will find is exactly what I found. Everyone of them has a story about literally dozens of people they worked with who have had medical problems related to the three sister chemicals. It's true Jack that until you investigate you will never be able to fathom what actually has happened to these people. Also remember not every employee was affected only those who were exposed working with the chemicals. It takes in many cases years for symptoms to manifest at which point it is too late to do anything about it. So people like yourself who do no research of any kind are free to **Deny** that anything has actually happened. You know Jack the easiest way to get through life is to **Deny, Deny, Deny**. That way you don't have to deal with reality. You don't have to prove anything and you certainly don't have to care as your **Denial** absolves your ignorance of fact and responsibility. Why just look at mayor, council and city management. Every time they came up with worse test results they just **Deny** being experts, being informed or just claim that worst results are actually "good news". One can only feel sorry for your life of "**Denial**" Jack, you have missed a great opportunity to live.

What can I say about Wayne??? Is it really worth my while to write anything about this guy????? There is nothing I can say which people who watch his performance on council and read his letters don't already know??????? I will just **Deny** his existence and maybe he just won't be???????

One more thing. In my Aug. 18 article I quoted a document which was on a Site Assement by Earth Tech. I mistakenly reported that this was done on the MURF site. It was actually done for the city on 95 Barrie Rd. So my mistake and I do apologize for my error. Our intention is to take responsibility for errors and make sure you are informed about them.

jim tolnai

Aug. 20, 2005

Packet Letter to Editor Way Off Base

In today's Packet Murray Townes writes that he has followed the MURF controversy. He then goes on to write that this controversy is being fueled by a few people and not supported by the majority. So let's help Murray straighten out his misconception and his lack of knowledge of just what is really happening.

In the beginning a number of citizens asked the city some simple questions about the MURF deal. Staff and politicians brushed these requests aside and a more aggressive approach was taken to get public information we were entitled to. To this city management lied and backed by council who used lies to try and get rid of us. We did not go away and formed the Citizens Coalition. We sought out the help of engineers and scientists who agreed with us that the city was not using the right approach to this site. So Murray to answer your question about higher education and greater training the answer is yes our experts are every bit as good as the cities engineers and some of them are actually professionals who

taught some of these people their trade. I suppose the question to ask is can the student be smarter or more qualified than the teacher????? The MOE engineers are in the same boat. Our experts are every bit as qualified and again some are far superior. You see Murray contrary to what you may think, fact is we receive expert advice and use science to prove our point. Your next point that we contradict the MOE engineers is all wrong. In the beginning we brought evidence to the MOE that the city hired consultants withheld from the MOE. Once we convinced the MOE that this was indeed the case we no longer are the driving force. The MOE engineers have decided upon looking at the evidence that the city and their consultants were not doing a proper job. First they were not happy about the pre site risk assessment as handed in by the city. Many deficiencies were noted and the city was told in no uncertain terms to fix it. Months roll by and testing that the MOE required was done but again not properly. The MOE finally decided that the city was trying to pull a fast one and came down with the big stick. They placed an order which has the force of law and is not a request which the city can ignore. So you see Murray it is the MOE that is driving this site and costs associated with it. All we did was to inform the MOE just like you might phone the police to report a drunk driver on your street out of control. Once the police determine your call is not a hoax they respond.

The MOE Order only requires the city to do what they should have done on their own if they were concerned for public safety. Money that the city has to spend is money well spent to ensure you and all Orillians are kept from harms way. If I were you I would do some more checking as whatever you claim you followed in this case is definitely not based on current facts. Why don't you go to the cities web-site and look at the Provincial Order. It is very clear that the city had to be ordered to do the right testing and reporting.

You also state that we are the same group which attacks the city on almost everything it wants to do. Just what are these things that the city wants to do that we are attacking. Please if you have a list then why not include it in your letter instead of using the dishonest "attacks the city on almost everything it wants to do". You see Murray credibility is everything and by making such a ridiculous statement either put up or expect to be criticized for being dishonest. Murray you say you wish someone would set the record straight or you will support the city. Murray have you attended any of the many meetings that have been held over the last year? Were you at the last PLC meeting Aug. 4?? Have you downloaded the information from the city web-site and read them??? Have you read the Molson Environmental Study or the S&P Reports which clearly show just how bad this location is??? these are the cities documents not ours. Have you bothered or even attempted to understand the issues???? Judging by your letter it seems not. So Murray if you want credibility then educate yourself on this and I suppose on other matters before Speaking Out or suffer the consequences of looking like a fool. The Citizens Coalition are most happy to help you understand the issues and hope you will contact us and the cities experts so that you can make an informed decision on not who you support but whether this site is a safe place to send our children to play.

As for building a MURF we are all for that. Murray for whatever their reasons

council and city management have made the site more important than the facility. We would welcome the opportunity to be part of building the facility but only on a safe and clean site. The MOE has ordered it so as well. This site is one of the world's worst contaminated and if used must be cleaned. If it is not used it still must be cleaned. The city has no choice. Their action of dig and dump has pushed the Toxins off site. Had they listened to us and our experts before acting the huge cost you complain about that they are actually responsible for would not have happened. You can thank council and city management for these excess costs along with their consultants.

jim tolnai

Aug. 19, 2005

Wider Distribution

Speaking Out has now been publishing for about four years. The original reason for writing and publishing this "Rag" as mayor Pinocchio likes to call it was the incredible frustration I felt about how taxpayers were treated and how the Packet reported it. To me this and the last council have been the most destructive in the history of Orillia. I won't go into detail but for those who have followed this Rag you know. For those who are new readers you can go back to previous issues and get an idea. I have learned a lot about computers, programs, building web-sites etc. What I have also learned is that there are people out there who really care more about their neighbors and community than about themselves. I have made some wonderful friends who have joined me and stuck with me through thick and thin.

My first recruit was my dear friend Doug Peddle. I call him the "Schmooser". Doug has an ability to ferret out documents and statements. He would then pass them on and I would analyze. Then I would double check and we would write our stories. We have always held to the steadfast rule that we only publish the truth. Our other rule was that if we made a mistake we apologized and did it right away with no weasel words. We also decided to not use weasel words in what we wrote and of course plain language so people could understand what we meant (weasel words are those with double meaning allowing the writer wiggle room). On top of all this both Doug and I dug deep to distribute printed copies of Speaking Out. Each month between us we distributed about four thousand copies. From time to time individuals came to us and helped distribute additional copies. Like Gerry who bought \$200 worth of stamps so we could mail an additional 2000 copies or Roger or John or Brian etc.

Eventually we figured that through a web-site we could reach people and we would not have to bear the financial burden as donations were sporadic and our costs were constant. So that is how www.speakingout.biz was born. Some late night learning how to develop a web-site. Download Upload frustration and the rest is history. We have had as many as 72,000 hits in one month on our humble local site so we are being read.

From our mutual interest in the community we started to see just how badly we were being governed. The deals, the special council meetings, the illegal campaign contributions, the waste, the lies was and is incredible and not only

from politicians but city management as well. From our efforts we were able to form the Citizens Coalition. This new set of dear friends saw what we did and joined our effort to make a difference to our community. These people give tirelessly of themselves and money to do what is right for all. I can't tell you the hours each and everyone of us has given, the abuse we have taken and all done gladly and proudly for our community which we love and respect. We respect the health and well being both financial and physical of everyone of you and have and will fight tirelessly on.

So why all this reminiscing and self praise some might say???? Well even though the Internet is allowing many people to read and be informed by Speaking Out we are now looking to wider distribution in Orillia and area. Our thought is to bring back a printed version that would be distributed once a month through the Post Office. More people are not on the net than are and we feel that they too should be informed. After all living in the dark age of Boss Hoggs running the show because local media doesn't report must come to an end. One way would be for the old media to adjust and start telling the whole story honestly. I personally can not see that in the near future. As long as the local media gleans a large income from revenue controlled by the very people they report on then self preservation will always take precedent over public good. Our request is therefore very simple. We need patrons to help publish and distribute 10,000 copies of Speaking Out per month to every home in the city. The stories on our web-site would continue for people who need their fix daily but all others will be informed as well except with selected stories from the month. The cost for printing and distribution of 10,000 copies is \$1380 per month. We need to find 138 people who care about their community and who know we have made a difference to take \$10 every month and help inform the community at large by distributing copies of Speaking Out. Just as an aside comment. Doug and I in the beginning dropped copies of Speaking Out off to some convenience stores. Most of these stores were approached and warned not to distribute this "Rag" promptly dropping us. So much for truth and freedom of speech unless it is approved by those in charge. Anyway we are testing the water with this request. Is there in Orillia 138 people who would forego 1/3 cup of coffee a day to let their neighbors and friends be informed???? Let's find out. Our request has been made, now it's up to you. **Do you suppose as mayor and councillor Lauer claim they are giving away their 40% raise they might entertain helping to inform Orillia taxpayers????**

jim tolnai

Aug. 18, 2005

Smith Against/Koughan Didn't Know

Today's paper has some interesting reading. "Smith against site from start" reads the headline. Does anyone out there believe that???? First Smith and Morano never called for a recorded vote on this subject at any time. Couple that with the mayors habit of never calling for a negative vote which does not allow a vote against, I find it hard to believe Smith would make such a claim. I have consistently seen this council vote unanimously most of the time for this hair brained scheme. So councillor Smith you can say what you want and maybe

some will believe you some of the time, but I will prove that you indeed voted for this scheme at a very crucial time.

Last May 17 councillor Smith had the opportunity to stop this scheme in order to have a second look at least or stop it completely at best. Here is what I wrote in Speaking Out Issue 20 June 2004.

At the risk of boring our readers I must again visit the MURF. I know, what more can be said. But it seems each day brings new revelations and concerns. On May 17 council voted to move ahead with the Toxic West. St. site. Tim Lauer who the week before voted to move ahead grandstanded to review the mistake council had made to build at this site. Councillor Smith had a pissy fit and ended up voting for the site which he is against all because Lauer now wanted to have a look at this deal and had voted to go ahead with it the week before. Are you with me so FAR??? For the full story go to previous issues and klick on Issue 20.

If Smith was really against this site and had he voted with Lauer then they would have won the vote as two other councillors also voted for the review. That would have meant a tie vote and we all know the mayor will not cast a deciding vote. So councillor Smith your actions speak louder than your words. You owe Orillia an apology for trying to mislead us about your voting. As for your other comments about cost and time you should be ashamed of yourself. Not once has public safety or public health passed your lips. Seems it doesn't matter how many people are hurt just so long as it doesn't take too long or cost very much.

In the same paper Lori Koughan says "There was no indication in the report the consulting engineers prepared for Molson that off-site migration of contaminants was a concern, said Koughan: "I don't believe we knew there was that potential". How on earth could you not have known about the problems??? The estimated cost of cleanup was quoted as \$20,000,000 in the report. Not only that but in the same report S&P suggested that contaminated groundwater should be pumped and treated at a cost of one million and up. Now Lori you had these reports and if you or Brown or mayor or council now say you didn't know then noses will grow. It never ceases to amaze me how smart these people are until they get caught. Then the standard pat answer is we didn't know. Sorry Lori you did know and did not follow through.

In a Environmental Site Investigation Report done by Earth Tech dated Oct. 3, 2002 here are their recommendations for 95 Barrie Rd. Do you suppose that if 95 Barrie Rd. is leaching that the same could apply to the MURF????

The below report is on 95 Barrie Rd.

Metal and TPH (gas/diesel & heavy oil) soil contamination is present in the southwest corner of the site, in the vicinity of the metal shed. Preliminary results indicate that contaminated materials are located within the upper 1 to 2 meters of the subsurface. Additional subsurface investigations should be undertaken to determine the vertical and horizontal extent of contamination present in this area. **Due to the nature and close proximity of soil contamination (BH-15) to the southern property boundary, additional subsurface investigations should be undertaken to determine the vertical and horizontal extent of contamination beyond the southern property boundary.**

Bingo way back in Oct. 2002 Earth Tech advised that more investigation was

needed and that there could be offsite problems on this property. Yet Lori says that no one knew about leaching???? Will these people ever just tell us the truth???? I doubt it. There was also concern in the Property Appraisal and of course S&P clearly recommended water treatment for the MURF site. If the chemicals were unknown then why the recommendation??? You see folks we need a Forensic Audit and we need it now to know the truth.

Now to the GL&V fire on Sunday. It is surprisingly quiet considering the fire was supposed to have cost \$350,000. If you go down to the site there is no smell of smoke coming from the building. As the fire inside was fought partly through the upper window facing West St. and this window is high it would have had smoke pouring out of it chimney like. But there is no sign of smoke or soot on the white window frame. Me thinks something smells and it isn't smoke. Remember these timelines. Saturday drilling takes place on West St. in front of these buildings as late as 7:30 pm. Sunday morning around 3:30 am we have a fire which seems to be smokeless. Then on Tuesday the MOE issues an Order for testing and Remediation very much concerned about offsite contamination. We know that VC gas ignites easily and has no known way of putting it out until it burns off. It only takes 42 degrees centigrade to ignite. If the fire caused \$350,000 damage then why could I not smell anything at 8:00am when I stood directly in front of the building? Hell if I burn a piece of toast the house stinks for hours. As I said this is all very suspicious. Anyone have an answer???? Are we to see other fires along West St.???? Lots of extra drilling is going on even down on Cochran St.???? I suppose the truth will come out sooner or later. Let's hope no one gets hurt.

jim tolnai

Aug. 17, 2005

City in Trouble With MOE

Well folks the sh*t has finally hit the fan. For over two years we have warned these geniuses to proceed with caution with the MURF site. We spelled out in clear and plain language that you can not damn the torpedo's when **Hazardous** chemicals are involved. So what do they do???? Damn the torpedo's and put 250,000 tons of dirt on the footprint of the building and squeeze the toxins off site. Of course they call it de-watering because it sounds nicer than "poisoning the community". Finally the MOE is taking responsibility and has realized that all is not right as the mayor, council, city management and S&P has been telling them. For a year now we have asked the MOE to take responsibility or force the city to be careful. Unfortunately now that the site is leaking like a sieve they mount their white charger to whack the cities peepee. Just a little too late.

The Order is interesting as it was issued by Ian Mitchell who always called himself an engineer in the past. We had Ian to one of our Coalition meetings at my house where he told us the city was doing everything right and there was nothing the MOE could do. For the past year we have heard the same crap from people at the Barrie office. Well Surprise! Surprise! as Gomer Pyle would say. Now Mr. Mitchell has transformed into a Provincial Officer who indeed can order the city to do the right thing. Why Ian Mitchell even has a badge number (701).

So why on earth didn't these people act before these geniuses pushed the plume off site creating a huge hardship for every taxpayer in Orillia???? Why did they treat the Coalition as a bunch of know nothings???? We begged, we asked, we demanded that the MOE save Orillia from the likes of mayor Pinocchio the eight puppets, Boss Hogg and S&P to no avail.

I will now predict that regardless of what mayor Pinocchio says which is nothing more than a load of BS the MURF will not be built on this site next year, the year after or in the foreseeable future. The site and offsite will need tens of millions of dollars worth of remediation and will take years. If other sites around North America are a template then figure on anywhere from eight to fifteen years. It is now time to pick a new site and let's get building the MURF somewhere else. The facility is still needed so let's build it. Let's rally the community around the project and build on a safe and secure site. Although the clean up will cost tens of millions it will be over eight to fifteen years. Don't expect anything from this present council in way of doing anything. In fact the best thing that could happen is if this council does nothing till their term expires and just do no more harm. The good thing is the next election is only 14 months away. If you choose wisely who you elect the cleanup can be painless and done right.

Another interesting point on this matter. The Coalition had tried to interest the Simcoe County Health Unit in hopes that maybe they could stop the contamination from going off site as a health issue. Well we were given the cold shoulder and told it was not their mandate. Surprise again. It seems that Ian Mitchell is now copying his letters to a Vito Chiefari of the very same Unit. Seems like this site is and was a health issue all along. Let's hope no one will be harmed. Funny how facts presented was fiction to these people and now they are acting. Good for them. Better late than never.

We now hope that the Packet will take their community responsibility seriously and work with the Coalition and other citizens to force Pinocchio and the puppets to do no more harm in trying to save face. We hope that the Packet will make sure the truth is available in their stories and articles. Orillia is at the dawn of a new age politically. The mayor, council and city management have no clothes and finally people can see it. Here are the documents in a pdf file to see for

yourself.

jim tolnai

Aug. 16, 2005

New Testing Expanded

Hey! what's going on with the new testing. Here it is 7 PM Tuesday night and the drill rigs are still working. From what we were led to believe this new testing was to be on West St. It looks like there are wells being drilled on Cochran St. and now they are drilling along the southern fence line on the MURF property. There were a couple of wells drilled on Queen St. across the road from the

industrial building. We are pleased with the testing but surprised by the extent. What has prompted this frenzy. Shouldn't the public be informed?? I also noticed that there has been two large yellow tanks placed on the site. Last fall these tanks were to be used for washing the trucks going to the dump with their hazardous loads but were never used for that as not one truck was washed down even though it was a requirement of the Health & Safety Plan. Now they are back and we wonder why. What needs decontamination if that is the plan???? This saga just keeps getting stranger and stranger.

Has anyone heard anymore about the fire/burglary on the GL&V property? I keep wondering why anyone would break into an industrial building with castings and patterns. There is nothing to steal as you would need a truck and towmotor to remove this stuff. And why start a fire to the tune of \$350,000?? I sure am suspicious especially since there was drilling right by this building on Saturday afternoon. So if anyone has some info let us know and we will post it.

At the last PLC meeting Don Richardson announced that they have decided to cut the PLC process short. You see originally there was to be 4 or 5 meetings. Don and who ever have decided that there would be only one more meeting which effectively shuts down the public consultation process before it even started (Don stated "we have decided to have only one more meeting") . Who is we????? At the last meeting PLC members Dr. Ford, Colleen Cooney, Bob Bowles and Mary Lou Kirby presented facts and asked excellent questions which went unanswered. I suppose Boss Hog and Mayor Pinocchio are afraid these questions will have to be answered if the meetings continue. The PLC was ordered by the MOE and it is now incumbent on them to review this decision to terminate the committee before there is any public input. We urge the minister and MOE officials to tell the city that this process must be allowed to play out or for the city to justify shutting it down. The minutes of the first meeting have not even been written or adopted by the committee as yet and only one more meeting allowed, which will involve what??? As I write this drill rigs are working. Obviously the PLC will be denied commenting on these test results which will form the Risk Assessment. What a **FARCE** these people are making of the supposed public consultation. Ms. Minister we ask that you become involved with this process and relegate your Barrie staff to the scrap heap.

PROVINCE WORKS TO ENSURE SAFETY OF NEW RECREATION FACILITY *City Of Orillia Requested To Hold Additional Public Consultations*

ORILLIA — The Ministry of the Environment is requesting that the City of Orillia develop a public communication plan as part of the process for their Multi-Use Recreational Facility (MURF) proposal.

This press release by John Steel came out last March. The city shutting down the public process now must be challenged by this ministry. Another example of Orillia thumping their nose at the ministry and citizens. If the MOE allows council to shutdown the process then how can the province honestly say they work to ensure the safety of the MURF???? Truth is they can't and haven't as yet.

Speaking of the Barrie staff. Last week Matt McNiece an MOE inspector with the Barrie office attended at the Wetland fill site on James St. Matt claimed that

only fill that is allowed was being used. Matt is either blind, incompetent or is lying. It is clear that construction waste has been dumped on this site. This waste consists of pvc sewer pipe, painted concrete blocks and concrete with rebar. Now that is just what we observed from the trail sticking out of the fill. Who knows what has been buried in the middle. It is time for the ministry to take their responsibilities seriously. We are not hicks that you can just appease with shiny beads and BS. Either do your jobs or get out. By the way Matt was also one of the inspectors at the dump claiming the 42,000 tons of soil was OK. Another example of selective vision or just plain lying. We have proven beyond any doubt that the soil was soaking wet dripping it's hazardous content. But according to Matt the soil must have dried in it's trip to the dump as he did not see wet soil????? Makes you wonder doesn't it?????

jim tolnai

Aug. 15, 2005

Flying High

Took a flight today to get a better idea of the extent that this crucial wetland filter has been destroyed. I tried to get a picture of the local industries as well as the MURF site in relation to this devastated area. As you can see we have a scrapyard along with the MURF and other industrial properties being drained by the wetland which is now 3/4 gone. With all the toxins leaching just off the MURF site never mind the rest this filtration was crucial for Lake Simcoe's health. Three quarters of this area is now filled in never to filter again. Shame on mayor and council for not only allowing the destruction but actually participating by supplying fill. Not to mention the loss of a catch basin for times of high runoff. Millions of gallons will now have no storage and flooding of James St. will likely take place.

jim tolnai

Aug. 14, 2005

Drilling on West St.

As is my custom I try to drive by the MURF site daily just to see what might be going on. Anyway on Friday there were two drill rigs putting holes into the outside northbound lane. One rig was a caterpillar type and the other a truck mount. Not a surprise as council had just approved spending \$59,000 more on off site testing and the Shaheen & Peaker van was there. What was a big surprise to me was that yesterday which was Saturday the truck mount rig was there drilling again. I thought to myself something is up and wondered if they had found some nasties and had to make sure where it extended to. So last night at just after six pm I took a drive over and was really floored to find the rig about 200 feet south of where they were at noon still drilling. This area is about 100ft. north of where the picture below shows the caterpillar rig drilling on Friday. Saturday night 6pm in the summer and still working????? Doesn't make sense so I was then convinced

that they indeed had found some nasties. You see with the sewer construction on West St. moving north it makes sense that if the nasties are down there they would have to determine how far the construction people could go north and be notified by Monday morning before work resumed. Remember the health implications of VC gases is horrendous.

Picture of truck mount unit in front of GL&V office where three holes were drilled

This morning I got a call from Colleen Cooney that a friend of hers had called saying that West St. from Queen to past Cochran was closed off completely. There was a fire truck, police and a backhoe. I hurried on down to find the fire truck, unmarked police car and the OPP Forensic van in front of the middle steel building facing West St. There was a ladder going up to the upper level window and fire hoses on the ground going up into the window. Obviously there had been a fire and most likely because of forensics being there some form of crime had taken place. So what happened? Could it be that while drilling VC gas found a pathway into the building?? Remember it only takes 42C to ignite VC gas and we know there is lots of it under the MURF site. We also know that there is a south east flow of groundwater from the site. This building is directly southeast. Let's hope that we will be given the story quickly and honestly. If the plume migration did cause this fire then all property owners must be warned and immediate steps must be taken to protect people and property. At this point we just don't know.

Here is what I encountered when I got down there earlier. I just this minute got a call telling me that there are three more emergency vehicles now on site. I will post this and head out right away and add to this story if necessary.

I just got back from West St. No one seems to want to tell us what is going on but as we stood on the street a member of the OPP SWAT unit went running by in full gear with automatic weapon in hand. About 15 minutes later two more showed up. We also observed a member of the canine unit. So we are still no wiser about what has happened but it does seem very serious. If anyone has more information let me know and I will post it to the site.

Member of SWAT Team

jim tolnai

Another chapter for a monograph on the MURF mess?

- by Allan Millard

August 12, 2005

The Arrogance of Power

The general purpose of this chapter is to provide further documentation on the extent to which Orillia's City Councillors were warned of the environmental and political disaster they were courting when they barged ahead with the MURF

project in 2004. This may seem like 'old news' to people familiar with the way Council habitually ignores the citizenry of Mariposa, but I believe that what I am about to relate will surprise even the most cynical observers of local politics. Some politicians are now claiming that they did not know about the contamination, but they did. In fact, they knew a lot more about it than I did when I, and many others, drew their attention to it. If that does not fly they fall back on the excuse that they are not engineers or chemists. Neither am I. It did not take an expert to see the danger signs. All nine Members of Council can choose their political epitaphs:

He knew but he did not care.

He knew but he thought no one would notice.

He refused to know.

He refused to think.

He pretended not to know.

He would not listen.

He thought he could blame the messenger.

He made his own bed.

Release from a Naïve Promise

First, I will address why I am making public a letter I marked "personal & confidential" and which I said at the time of writing (November 6, 2004) I would not make public. My letter was written in the context of a civil debate between concerned citizens qua citizens and their elected representatives over the most fundamental issues of human health and safety. I saw my letter as friendly advice offered in good faith to seven Councillors. Above all, my letter was not 'personal' either in a derogatory sense or in the sense of any personal gain or credit for myself. While I did not expect expressions of gratitude for my efforts to help the Councillors avoid a very serious mis-step, I did expect that they would privately appreciate that my facts were right and my motives were pure, even if they disagreed with the depth of my concerns.

The civil context I naively thought existed at City Hall turned out to be a figment of my imagination. Since I wrote my letter I was denied information which would have been available to any other member of the public or in any other city.

Councillor Garland has ascribed personal ambition to my criticism of Council.

The Mayor has said, incorrectly, that I make derogatory remarks. Councillor Downey says I am "abusing" staff when I question how the City Manager can get away with publicly questioning my intelligence and integrity. Councillor Garland throws a tantrum and tries to prevent me from speaking at the "open public forum" at the end of a Council Meeting. The Mayor threatens to cut off the microphone when I cite facts he finds unpalatable. The Councillors have been disrespectful, uncivil, and unfair, and the City, by denying me certain official communications I need to defend my integrity, has given me no choice but to release whatever information I do have.

In the struggle for truth, when the civil authority in a democracy abuses its power by attempting to silence and intimidate its citizens and by withholding information, the citizen cannot be expected to keep one arm behind his or her back. My letter of Nov. 6, 2004 is reproduced near the end of this chapter. A 'personalized'

signed original was hand-delivered by me to the home of each Councillor, except Councillor Cipolla, on Saturday, Nov. 6 (6 letters) or Nov. 7 (1 letter).

The Political Context

In October 2004 the City issued the tender call for "Site Preparation" with bids closing before the end of October and official awarding of the contract by Council on November 8. This bold move was a big surprise because those of us who had been trying to follow the City's secretive MURF dealings for over a year knew that the City had done nothing about the "environmental issues" which were admitted to exist. Unbelievably, in mid-2004 Council "sited" the proposed MURF in the north-east quadrant of a former industrial wetland property without a shred of information about the probable contamination. Not one monitoring well (MW) and not one "environmental" borehole (BH) had ever been drilled anywhere in the area of the proposed building until September 21, 2004.

We thought it inconceivable that construction could start without an environmental assessment (EA) and without a site-specific risk assessment (SSRA), but the site preparation was exactly that – the start of construction. (The money came from the construction part of the MURF budget.) This unseemly haste to start was political. Excavation and dewatering at sub-zero temperatures in November and December made no engineering sense. Destroying the vibrant swamp at least two years before it might be needed for a parking lot made no ecological sense. All that mattered, it seemed, was the vision of cutting a ribbon to open a grand recreation centre six weeks before the next municipal election.

The Contamination Context

I started looking for a good environmental lawyer in case, against all reason, the City went ahead with its ill-advised plans. Then in early October an undated and unsigned "environmental update" was given to Councillors and to the press. Although the update said that a new contaminant, vinyl chloride, had been found in the groundwater, further testing would be done to determine whether it was shallow or deep so that it could be managed. Nothing to worry about. The "good news" part was that off-site MWs (all shallow, by the way) showed that no contaminants were going off-site. We mockingly referred to this as the "Good News Update". Only in Leacock's Mariposa could the discovery of a highly toxic carcinogenic contaminant be passed off as a mere bagatelle.

We, the Coalition, began to think that some Councillors who had expressed doubts about the price tag or the location might find in the worsening environmental news a reason to hesitate, or delay pending further information, or even to vote against awarding a contract. When we found out from a Health and Safety Report in the tender specification document in mid-October that the levels of vinyl chloride were 4800x the MoE's Table 1 standard in late September and 7300x in early October, some of us almost convinced ourselves that a majority of Councillors surely would come to their senses. There were also serious exceedances of dichloroethylene and less serious exceedances of trichloroethylene, which sent us scurrying to a retired chemistry teacher and the Internet to understand what was going on under the surface. It was very easy to grasp.

The Tactical Context

I was one of those who thought it unlikely that reason would prevail over political grandstanding, and that pessimistic view of Council was the reason why our lawyer's warning letter was filed in time (before noon on Nov. 3) to be on the agenda at the Nov. 8 Council Meeting. Nevertheless, my naïve faith in reason – a nice oxymoron – and the sketchy new information about the chemicals in the groundwater pushed me to make one final effort to avoid confrontation. For me the question was never about winning or losing but only about getting Council to do the right thing in the right way.

Our Council did seem to be a "lost cause", but when I saw the "Council package" which is made available on the Friday before the Council Meeting I saw a 'faint-hope' opening. The recommendation to proceed and award the contract, signed by Lori Koughan and Ian C. R. Brown, said nothing about environmental issues, environmental testing, or about needlessly killing every living thing in the south-central swamp, or about an EA . Any Councillor on the ball might have picked up on any one of those glaring omissions, but the best opening I saw was the prima facie case that Council was being misled about MoE approval.

Refer to my letter, below, and note that the staff recommendation put the MoE's 'indication' under "Approvals" but the words "in keeping with" fall a little short of approval. The City Manager does have a way with words.

Our Councillors are not known to question staff or look behind staff recommendations. In other words, our Councillors do not have a record of directorial "due diligence". If someone could suggest the right questions, I thought, at least one Councillor might twig to what was going on and actually ask a good question. If they found out, as I knew, that they were being misled or short-changed they might at least delay the vote until they had good answers. Years ago, when working as the executive assistant to the president of a large organization, I found that the best way to influence my boss was to let him think he had come up with the idea or, at the very least, let him take all the public credit. And so it was that I was prepared to stand back and let any or all of the Councillors take the credit for asking the questions that obviously needed to be answered before they proceeded.

Throwing Caution to the Wind

When approval of the staff recommendation came up at the Council Meeting, there was no discussion. Councillor Lauer made a half-hearted attempt to buy a little time for the doomed swamp (which was far from the proposed building and had nothing to do with the construction schedule) but the Mayor impatiently said it was too late. No one asked about the contamination. No one asked how you could do a risk assessment without knowing what was in the soil and groundwater. No one asked anything. It took about four minutes, including three-and-a-half for Lauer's diversion, for Orillia's Council to make the second-biggest blunder it was possible for them to make. (The biggest one is still to come: Building without remediation.) The vote was unanimous, despite what Councillor Lauer now claims. He raised his hand "in favour" and the Mayor did not call for any votes "against". And by prior agreement, I am sure, there was no recorded vote.

We will never know for certain, but it does appear from the lack of questions and

the quick, unanimous vote that my letter was entirely counter-productive. It was as though there was a pact among them not to show any divisions in the face of growing public concern, some of which was manifested by most of the people watching in disbelief. I still can't believe that not one of them had a single doubt or twinge of conscience. But, actions speak louder than words.

For the record, the fair warning of possible legal problems given in Eric Gillespie's letter was also ignored. Even the two lawyers on Council did not blink. Of course, being stubborn or arrogant is easy when the cost is borne by the taxpayer.

As blunder has been piled on blunder and as the obstacles grew higher as a direct result of that failure on Nov. 8 to exercise caution, the notion of a political survival pact gets more and more believable. There is a pattern at the Council Meetings: MURF-related matters are far down on the agenda; staff recommendations are never questioned; the money for testing or to cover the staff's managerial mistakes is always voted without reservation; large consulting services contracts are never put out to tender; Shaheen & Peaker is the darling of staff and Council even though MW stands for "Money Well"; and there is never any debate about any of this. Does anyone not believe that all MURF matters are decided before Council meets?

Now, considering all that has transpired to put Orillia in its present 'fix', I look back at my letter and wonder how every Member of Council has the nerve to cast me in the role of the devil. My insights were accurate and they could have used them as their own. All of the issues and processes I alluded to have come back to haunt every Councillor, except one. (Councillor Gardy is naturally haunt-resistant because he can't remember what the questions were in the first place.) The taxpayers are paying a heavy price for not having a single voice of reason on Council.

I now invite readers to read my letter, which follows immediately, and try to put themselves in the shoes of a Councillor about to throw the dice for huge environmental, health, and financial stakes. Would you heed the warnings or would you 'circle the wagons'? Would you consider facts or would you listen only to your Manager?

Allan Millard
231 Westmount Drive South
Orillia ON L3V 6E5
06 November 2004

Personal & Confidential

Dear Councillor Smith:

Yesterday, when I saw the two-page staff recommendation dated November 3 regarding the (MURF) Site Preparation Tender, one sentence really caught my attention. I want to share with you why that was, and I assure you that I have marked this letter "Personal & Confidential" because I will not make it public (unless you do) and I will not use it in any way to score points or embarrass you. I simply hope that when the matter of the contract to Beamish comes up for discussion on Monday your questions may include questions about the following:

"Approvals[the Ministry of the Environment] have indicated that proceeding with the award of this contract is in keeping with the process of the Site Specific Risk Assessment."

Recently I asked Lori Koughan about this and she evaded my question. Perhaps you might have better luck.

1. What does "indicated" really mean?
2. From what level in the Ministry does this "indication" come?
3. How much information did the City provide to the Ministry to enable it to give the alleged approval?
4. What documents did the City provide to the Ministry and can staff produce a written approval from the Ministry?

Here are some of the reasons why these questions arise.

(a) Council has been misled, or actually kept in the dark, on several occasions on the MURF file, and I think I don't need to spell out what we all know on that score.

(b) Council has been told about a "confidentiality agreement" but it has never been produced.

(c) I recently spoke with an official in the MoE and he did not know of the tests results showing trichloroethylene and vinyl chloride. I asked how a concentration of the latter at 7,300 times the MoE standard could be non-hazardous. He could not answer, of course. My next question was, "How much does the MoE know?", and the answer is only what the City tells the Ministry. It is not conducting any tests of its own. I think we can safely conclude that City staff are telling the MoE only the most benign part of the story. It's like GIGO in computer talk – Garbage In, Garbage Out.

(d) Councillor Cipolla and Mayor Stevens have made several public pronouncements about how much trust they have in the experts the City has hired. The architects are certainly among those experts, and I understand that the firm of Shore Tilbe Irwin & Partners in association with Stafford etc. was hired at least in part because of their experience with "brownfield" sites. That was a wise move, but then after we pay them big bucks why do we ignore their expertise? Here is what I mean: In the Third Draft (April, 2004) of the architects' "Functional Programme" for the MURF, which was given to Councillors and some members of the public, there are pages which set out clearly, with graphics, the two possible levels of "Risk Characterization" and which tell you that the "Current Exposure Pathways [at the MURF site] Require Level 2 Risk Management". That level requires public consultation, which has not occurred. Another page tells you "Where Are We in the Process" and speaks of identifying the work required to complete the SSRA process, develop the Level 2 Risk Management, then scheduling, then public consultation. If there is one page you might want to look at again it is the one describing the "The SSRA Process". There are 8 steps and as new tests keep coming up with new hazards, it is obvious that Step One, Hazard Identification, has not been completed. You don't get to the SSRA Report until Step 5, and then there is "Peer Review", and finally, as the graphic shows, you get a written "Regulatory Acknowledgement". I am wondering how the City can have written approval (Step 8) when Step 1 is not completed?

I won't mince words. It does not seem possible that Orillia has MoE approval "in keeping with the process of the SSRA".

(e) Furthermore, when the architects set out the process in April 2004 they had only the Shaheen & Peaker Report (of May 2002, done to assist Molson). If the minimal information in that Report was enough to cause the architects to put the MURF site in Level 2 Risk Management and trigger the full SSRA process, imagine how much more important that process is now that more serious toxins in high concentrations have been found in the soil and groundwater.

We all want a safe MURF site, but as soon as the shovels go into the ground the SSRA process becomes irrelevant and developing a risk management plan is impossible.

I am delivering a letter similar to this to all Members of Council except Councillor Cipolla and Mayor Stevens.

If you have any questions, except about legal issues, or wish to talk about anything in this letter please do not hesitate to call.

Yours sincerely,

[Signed by Allan Millard]

Just a few wrap-up comments. (a) Did you notice that I drew the requirement for "public consultation" to their notice? The City did nothing about it until the MoE told them in March 2005 that it was mandatory. Our Councillors have an innate distaste for public input. Whether it is fear of admitting that others may have better ideas or whether it is some belief in elected status mystically endowing one with infinite wisdom, the view of Council from where I sit, as a member of the Great Unwashed, is of arrogance. Nobody is going to tell them what to do!

(b) That MoE "approval" has never been produced. It did not exist. It still does not exist. If the City waits for MoE approval of its RA before it continues to build on the West Street site, that approval, if it is ever given, will not be forthcoming for many more months.

(c) No good reason ever existed to destroy the swamp as part of the contract let on Nov. 8. No Councillor has had the guts to say, "I'm sorry."

(d) In spite of my willingness to talk to any of the Councillors not one has ever called me. Only Councillor Cipolla has talked to me and others in the Coalition. Neither of us is able to persuade the other, but at least he is civil.

Slight Digression:

The staff recommendation of Nov. 3, 2004 also contained a line whose significance was realized only some time later. Under "Financial Impact", a fancy way of saying "where do we find the money", Brown/Koughan say one reason the Beamish bid was lower than budgeted for construction costs was the "reduction in dewatering requirements". How did that happen? Did the age-old wetland become a dryland overnight? Did the groundwater level drop over a metre in a week? Did Moses appear to part the waters? If 240,000 tonnes of surcharging is a reduction, what was the original figure? Of the above possibilities, I would put my money on Moses. However, there is probably a better explanation: See my chapter (on Speaking Out) on dumping contaminated muck in the landfill. Cook the construction books to pretend that you never saw

the groundwater. Dump in dry fill to blot it up. Dewatering? What dewatering? And think of all the money they thought they were saving by pretending the contaminants were not there either. When Council awarded the contract to Beamish for the quoted amount of \$1,699,075 it was on the assumption that all of the excavated soil would go to Orillia's landfill on the shore of Lake Simcoe. The weights and normal tipping fees were recorded at the weigh-scale and it came to over 40,000 tonnes and just over \$5 Million (which is a real cost of the MURF but which vanishes when the total cost is mentioned). But Council also knew from my letter and from Shaheen & Peaker's Nov. 2 Report (which was not released to the public until Nov. 12) that there was serious contamination in the groundwater. Therefore, when Council awarded the contract they knew that hazardous wastes from the MURF building excavation would go to the landfill. There was no money in the contract for it to go anywhere else. I think Orillia is hopelessly stuck in the muck at least until the second anniversary of my letter.

Aug. 12, 2005

Truth is Coming Out Slowly/Surely

As predicted the true story of why Orillia is in such a mess with this MURF site will and is coming out. Take today's Colin McKim story in the Packet. There are a whole bunch of puzzle pieces which will help you see the true picture. Mayor, council, city management and Shaheen & Peaker have tried to distort this picture but as evidence comes to light the distortion is cleared. I am pleased that Colin McKim chose to write a balanced story using facts. Unlike last Friday's article this one is good except for one little detail. Colin still insists on calling anyone for cleaning the MURF site "Critics". So Colin as we have now been proven right, that what council, management and S&P tried to put over on the city was in the worst interest of everyone, why don't you start calling them the Critics of our sensible careful approach to dealing with this site. After all as your story points out the site is super polluted. The plume has been pushed off site. Clean up costs will be huge and most important site management without big changes to the plan is near impossible. This debate started over two years ago and just about everyone thought Doug Peddle and I were a little crazy. The Packet insisted the site was clean as a whistle along with mayor, council and city management. The attempt to marginalize us as a bit nutty was taken up with great gusto. After a year of investigating and proving to some we were right the Citizens Coalition of Orillia and Area started to grow. We were able to interest some very committed people to study the evidence and they all came to the same conclusion. The project was being built on a shaky base of lies. The dedication of our group will some day become legendary in Orillia. We have fought an uphill fight and finally we are at the top of the hill. I will attempt to analyze today's story and connect the new pieces to the puzzle.

Over the last two years we have been assured that the land had been adequately tested and all there was to be known was known. Well now in today's

Packet story Cynthia Robins (Expert?????) says "We didn't know the hot spot was there". Funny but Cynthia at the Swanmore Hall meeting stated that everything that was needed to be known was in the can and more testing wasn't necessary. This after Ian Brown stated that the property was like a pin cushion. So plans went ahead to design the building and site. Now Cynthia's statement is interesting because she then goes on to say in today's article "The decision to put the building there was not an environmental one. It was an architectural decision based on things like aesthetics and access". Doesn't this sound like council received no advice from their consultants on environmental grounds???? But hasn't council, mayor and city management been saying they were following the consultants advice??? Why in today's article the mayor says "We were relying on engineers and architects who said this was the best place for the building". So who is lying???? Mayor Pinocchio or Cynthia Robins???? The story goes on to say that "the city **assumed** , based on the history of the former foundry, that the contamination was primarily at the rear of the property, where foundry sand had been dumped for decades. The front portion of the property bordering West St., was **assumed** to be much cleaner and, therefore the logical place for the building". The question now is who **assumed**???? If Cynthia and S&P did the **assuming** and advised the city based on this **assumption** then isn't that professional brinkmanship???? But Cynthia assured the PLC that she and S&P have professional ethics????? Didn't Cynthia say at the press conference last October that no historic investigation was done on the site???? Yet now it is said that they based their decision on "**history of the former foundry**". So who is lying????? In the Packet article it is written "Stevens said council has relied on the advice of experts hired to conduct a risk assessment: Members of council are not engineers". So readers you figure out how when the "Expert" claims not to advise that the mayor can claim they followed this advice????? Me thinks someone's nose is growing??

Then we have Liar Lauer putting in his less than two cents of BS. It is important for everyone to know that Lying Lauer has supported this project at every turn. The claim that he opposed any decisions is just plain wrong. Lauer has a propensity for trying to look like he is sitting on the fence all the while supporting this asinine scheme. Councillors have the opportunity to register their **NO Vote** by asking for a recorded vote. He failed to call for this vote not only on the 1.7 million dollar contract to push the plume off site (turned into \$2 million) but failed Orillians by not calling for a recorded vote on dumping the **Hazardous** soil at the dump. His claim of opposing is just not true. He did not ever entertain the thought of fighting these votes and he knows it. Now, so do you. In the story Lauer says "the mushrooming environmental issues and the increased costs". Wait a minute how can these mushroom when Lying Lauer along with the rest claimed they knew everything there was to know. If we are to believe that cost and environmental issues are mushrooming and believe they had a handle on what was on sight all along as they claimed then how can it be a surprise to them as to what is going on. If they knew (and I believe they knew) and in spite of this knowledge they went ahead knowing that the plume would be pushed off site just to prove a point costing taxpayers to date millions, then that borders on the

criminal. Then Tim Lier Lauer says "The bottom line here is we're trying to do something progressive, trying to reclaim an old industrial site". So Tim if you are progressive in trying to reclaim old industrial land then why have you destroyed 20 plus acres of prime wetland on James St.???? Please don't give me the BS that you didn't know about it. It is city fill from East St. and West St. that is being used to destroy it sanctioned by the city. This area which was designated a Provincially Significant Wetland and was protected from people like you was changed to a Municipally Significant Wetland by you and the rest of council in 2000. The plan of council and management seems to have been to **take control and then destroy**. Some progress Tim????????? Not one member of council can claim they did not know. Finally on Nov. 8 before the vote to push the plume off site at a cost of 1.7 million dollars Allan Millard handed each and everyone of you a letter urging not to award the contract until more testing was done and other options explored. You chose to ignore and the only conclusion we can come to is that you knew exactly what you were doing with or without advice. Shame on you.

For Lying Lauer, council and city administration this is progress.

This is what Lying Lauer, council and city administration must destroy before their idea of progress can take place.

jim tolnai

Aug. 10, 2005

Mayor Pinocchio's Nose Just Keeps Growing

I read with interest and disbelief the article in Orillia Today. The front page headline "MURF test costs \$48,000. Frank's story likens Orillia's mayor and council to a band of space age pioneers in relation to dealing with the MURF site contamination. I wondered where Frank could have got such an idea until I read down further in the story. Why it was our own mayor who seems to have misled Frank and attempts to mislead you as well. The mayor says "We are in a what if all the time" What the hell does that mean????? Then he goes on "Brownfield sites are just so relatively new to all of us, it's a learning experience for every municipality," "We have nobody we can rely on to say, OK, what did the City of Hamilton do, or Montreal, or Quebec, or Selkirk Manitoba? "Nobody has gone through this."

Finally the mayor has admitted that although we have spent hundreds of thousands of \$\$\$ with S&P he and council have nobody to rely on. From day one the mayor and council have claimed they were relying on the consultants who were experts. Now it turns out council can not rely on them. Yet on Monday they OK'd another \$59,000 contract. The mayor claims that nobody has gone through this??? I sure would like to know where he got that idea. First of all every

piece of bad news generated by this site the mayor and councillors were warned about by the Citizens Coalition and Speaking Out up to two years ago. Mayor and council chose to ignore common sense, historical evidence and science and decided to rely on the experts who have now been proven wrong. We urged council to do due diligence and test the property thoroughly before digging. Obviously either the experts suggested that disturbing the site was OK or mayor and council went ahead anyway. The other night at the PLC the question of whether S&P advised council to dig or not was asked. The question of pushing the plume off site was also asked. There was no answer forthcoming from the experts. So was there bad advice or did council say damn the torpedo's and decided on their own to risk pushing the plume off site???? Anyway it is interesting that the mayor now feels he and council have nobody to rely on.

So here are some facts you can rely on. Go back to all our advice from two years ago to today. As we have been proven correct in every instance so far you could catch up by reading or re reading our advice. As for no other communities ever going through this type of endeavor here is some more advice. Go to <http://www.aboutremediation.com/caseStudies/casestudies.asp>

Here you will actually find case studies of other communities and how they dealt with their brownfields. Yes Hamilton has quite a number of success stories along with Cobourg, Collingwood, Cornwall, Dundas, Kitchener, Moncton New Brunswick, Pickering, Scarborough, Thorold, Toronto, Waterloo, Welland and Wingham. So klick on the link and get educated.

Be sure to visit the Waterloo example. It is very similar to Orillia's except not as toxic. These communities managed their projects honestly involving the community. Unlike you Mayor Pinocchio who has used cover up, lies, dumping hazardous soil etc. Honesty will always succeed unlike your plan. So if you want to blame the real cause of all the ills with the MURF site you and the puppets and Boss Hog should look in the mirror. Had you been honest and welcomed input from the community instead of trying to marginalize us you could have been well on your way to getting this project built and built safely. Even now you are trying to control the PLC and not wanting real input and advice. But instead you and council have been responsible for making a bad situation ten times worst. Yes you are responsible for pushing the plume off site. And you have the nerve to claim you have no one to rely on???? We need a **FORENSIC** Audit in this town. Eventually all the truth will come out.

jim tolnoi

Abandoned Industrial Property in the Heart of Waterloo

Now nearly completed retirement community properly cleaned up with community involvement.

Only difference between them and us is Pinocchio and the Puppets

Aug. 09, 2005

More City Experts Double Speak

As promised I will now continue with the PLC 2 analysis. As you know we have a full video of the entire meeting which we are making available for a \$20 donation to the Citizens Coalition of Orillia and Area so anything I write can be verified from our public video record. There were a number of issues and questions which came up that the cities hired guns never answered or spoke just plain gibberish. Simple questions which required simple answers were given long speeches which did not even come close to an answer. I suppose these people with their degrees think that we the unwashed will just take this rubbish and be satisfied. Not so. Those days are long gone when if you had a BSc. or PHD behind your name you were automatically believed. I suppose we would not be in this situation today if people 40 years ago had questioned the experts and held them responsible. So for me BSc. stands for **Bull Sh*t** and PHD stands for **Piled Higher and Deeper** where these people are concerned. Nothing could prove my point more than the responses of the experts the other night. So here goes.

David Stinson asked expert Bob Leach if there had ever been a venting system used under a building anywhere in North America or Europe for Vinyl Chloride. Very straight forward question requiring a short yes or no answer followed by the address as proof, right??? Bob instead of giving a straight answer went on and on for at least 5 minutes never answering the question. David again asked and Bob again didn't answer the question. The truth is there are no other projects anywhere that has used this type of venting especially on such a large building or Bob would have answered the question instead of trying to baffle us with Bull Sh*t. Following Bob Ian Mitchell of the MOE tells us that the MOE had never had a request for authorization to use this type of venting confirming that at least in Ontario this system does not exist. The experts want to use Orillia as guinea pigs. Are you willing to take that chance?? I'm not, that's for sure. Plain and simple I don't trust these people. I do believe Dr. Ford when he said "No **honest** venting engineer would ever guarantee that this proposed system would work for 50 years" which is the proposed life of the building.

S&P's senior hydrogeologist was asked twice about what the two full drums found where they originally said no drums existed contained. Both times he skirted the question by saying they contained Hydrocarbon like substances. Now please who are these people trying to fool. They analyzed the third drum and came out and told us it was water. So how come they can not put a name to the contents of the other two drums. Hydrocarbons is a wide variety of products. What do you want to bet that the contents were most likely very hazardous and they don't want us to know what was buried there. We ask again "What chemical was in the drums"??? If you don't show us the test results we will have to assume the worst that they contained PCB's or Ferons or ????? So please be honest and show us the test results. But again they try to Bull Sh*t we the unwashed.

Cynthia Robins in answering Colleen Cooney's concern that at some point this never tried venting system could fail or that it would not be maintained tried to claim the following. She said that if the city took on the responsibility it would have to operate the system as the plan sets out and that the MOE would be monitoring them anyway's and if they didn't follow through the MOE could shut them down. Now let me tell you a story about Cynthia Robins and the MOE. This lady drew up a Health and Safety plan to be implemented during the dig and fill last fall. She was in charge of making sure that the plan was carried out. The plan specifically stated that all trucks leaving the site with their toxic loads were to be washed down before entering the street. Not one truck was observed being washed. In fact the wash station was not even built for several days after the start of trucking. The plan also stated that West St. was to be washed nightly to remove any spillage. There was no evidence of the street ever being cleaned. Other issues was air quality that exceeded standards with no warning to neighboring people or even to workers. So why on earth should we believe this lady who did not implement her own Health and Safety when she attempts to reassure us that her plan for ventilation will be adhered to. Sorry Cynthia your actions speak louder than your words. As for the MOE where were they when all this was not being done???? Sorry but this ministry can not be trusted to do their job. Had the ministry been doing inspections and their job they would have seen the wet dripping trucks not being washed delivering their hazardous cargo. You see only dry soil was to be removed according to the MOE. Wet soil they have deemed Hazardous. But alas the MOE saw nothing, heard nothing and then decided to speak nothing. They too can not be trusted to protect us.

These are just three examples of the competence of the experts. So for you doubters in what I have just shared order your own copy of the meeting and see for yourselves. Lots more examples for you to find. Trust us they say. Sorry but you must earn my trust and I just don't see these people even trying.

jim tolnai

Aug. 08, 2005 **URGENT**

City Destroying Huge Wetland Area

Yesterday Bob Bowles asked myself, Colleen Cooney, Lillian Marsden and Don Marsden to meet him down on the trail at James St. Bob told us that someone was filling in a large wetland area that runs from the Back of the MURF site all the way to James St. In the last few days the dumping has become incessant and he wanted me to document on video and stills the activity. Folks when I saw the devastation tears welled up in my eyes. I can even now hardly believe that there can be people who claim to be humans who would destroy this jewel in the heart of our city. I will add pictures below for you to see. But even better get down there and see the devastation for yourselves. This area is a sponge and filter as well as a holding area for large run offs. Destroying this is a crime against humanity and nature.

This afternoon I attended at the site again and witnessed trucks rolling in and dumping their sickening cargo. The trucks are running dirt from the sewer construction site on West St. This site is southeast of the MURF site. Now remember the MURF site is leaching to the southeast it's toxic soup. Is there any testing being done on this dirt to see if it is contaminated???? Not likely. Doug Peddle contacted the MOE who sent out an inspector and he claims that there is only fill going into the wetland and they will not get involved. Now I question this guys eye sight and his integrity. Although what is being dumped today is fill there is lots of evidence that construction and demolition products have been dumped. Just walk along the trail towards West St. and see the huge slabs of concrete and painted 12 inch cement blocks. That is not fill that is hazardous material when paint is present. There is also a pile of garbage dumped on top of the fill sitting there out in the open for all except the MOE jackass to see. Look at the pictures and tell me it ain't so. Looks like the Barrie office of the MOE is still not doing their job and are still lying, lying and lying. So please call the city, MOE, Garfield Dunlop, Minister of the Environment, Premier McGuinty and the opposition parties. We have already had half of this free and beautiful filtration system devastated. We can not afford anymore. Remember nature took thousands of years to produce this free filtration system and it works for nothing. The mayor, council and city management are destroying it in months. Why???????? This wetland had a Provincially Significant designation until the city asked for it to be changed to Municipally Significant. The province bears the blame for this destruction as much as Mayor Pinocchio and the puppets. Obviously to council this wetland was not significant at all.

In the picture below can you pick out the pile of GARBAGE. Seems the MOE guy has either no vision or selective vision. How on earth could he miss this pile or the painted cement blocks in the other picture below???

The pond in high water is connected to Ben's Ditch which has been deemed a fish habitat. We have contacted the Federal Fisheries people to put a stop to this destruction as well.

Wonder where these building materials in the picture below came from??? Was the building contaminated??? Could it have come from 95 Barrie Rd. which had PCB contamination in parts of the building????? Does the city know or care??? Does the mayor or councillors care??? Doesn't seem so does it?????

The above picture shows the construction materials. Although the picture does not show the cement block as painted it is. Just go down and see for yourself.

I followed this truck after it dumped it's deadly cargo. He went to Cochran St. and backed down to West. Street to pickup another deadly load. Yes each load is deadly as it kills wetland and everything else that lives there. Eventually it will help to finally kill Lake Simcoe.

Here is the truck backing down Cochran to get it's next load. Imagine all this perpetrated by the people you elected. Shame on them. Yup!!! this behaviour sure deserves that 40% raise doesn't it. Next election remember what these people have done and keep doing. It's as if they are bent on destroying anything that is natural.

With the wetland gone so is the reservoir that holds excess spring runoff and flash floods. Mark my words as sure as I write this James St. will flood on a regular basis. Ben's Ditch has a very low capacity to discharge water. It was this low area that makes up the wetland which was a catchbasin for excess water. So unless the city will now build a man made catchbasin that will not filter at a cost of who knows what, flooding will take place.

jim tolnai

Aug. 7, 2005

Packet Columnist Attacks PLC Members

I wonder if packet reporter Colin Mckim attended Thursdays PLC's meeting. I saw him there but judging by the headline and story he wrote I question whether he was actually there. "Critics attack MURF plan" screams his headline. If Colin was there he would know that there was no **ATTACK**. What is up with the Packet and Colin that they can not report an honest story about anything to do with the MURF. Here is Colin claiming that the "two groups sparred for two hours"? There was no sparring. If Colin had been there in mind as well as body he could not have written this article. So again the true facts must be reported by Speaking Out. For all our readers we video taped the entire 2 1/2 hour meeting and offer this tape as proof of how the Packet misrepresented the event in their story. So if after reading my story you want to verify which of us is telling the truth we have DVD copies of the entire meeting for a \$20 donation to the **Citizens Coalition of Orillia**. Give me a call at 327-5717 if you want a DVD and we will be happy to get a copy delivered to you.

So here is what went on. Don Richardson asked members input for the meeting agenda. All members of the PLC and consultants agreed to this agenda. There was to be a presentation by Shaheen and Peekers senior Hydrogeologist followed by a presentation by Dr. Derek Ford a world renowned Hydrogeologist and PLC member. Next was a presentation by Colleen Cooney on health effects of Vinyl Chloride followed by a discussion on meeting process and Bob Bowles presentation on wetlands. Do you see anything confrontational so far????

S&P's senior hydrogeologist gave a four part look at what is happening at the site. At the end of part three Dr. Ford gave a presentation on the plume of toxins and what he felt the city should be looking to do now that S&P has proven beyond any doubt that the plume is directly under the footprint of the building was as bad as the Citizens Coalition had been saying. All the consultants working for the city from S&P and Gartner Lea praised the presentation. There was never an **attack** only graphs and models drawn by Dr. Ford. His presentation was so good and accurate that the S&P senior hydrogeologist offered Dr. Ford a job to work with S&P doing models on other projects. So Colin show me where there was an

ATTACK???? Dr. Ford at the end of his presentation asked that council re-think their choice of the building location on the site. He showed on his model how the building could be accommodated on the south side of the property once a comprehensive testing program proved that part of the site to be clean. His suggestion was well received by all and quite frankly made a lot of sense. You see Dr. Ford pointed out that nowhere in the world could he find a severely contaminated site where a building had been erected on purpose over such a dangerous and toxic plume. His idea was accepted and all consultants who spoke praised the concept and presentation. Dr. Ford suggested that pump and clean remediation might be used to clean the ground water. Bob Leach from Gartner Lee suggested that there were better and more cost effective cleaning methods but there was no sparring with Dr. Ford nodding his approval.

Colleen Cooney presented health effect research to all on VC. She used S&P's, World Health Organization's, MOE's and Litigation data to show how toxic VC is. All consultants who spoke praised Colleen for her work and accuracy of facts. So where was the **ATTACK** Colin????? No one **sparred**. This meeting contained facts and science that everyone agreed with. They may have differed on methods but all agreed the city has a huge and costly problem.

Bob Bowles did a report on wetlands and in particular the swamp that was filled in for no reason. You may remember Bob got down and dirty in the ice covered swamp to save fifty turtles from sure death. Well it turns out that S&P may have advised the mayor and council about saving the swamp but they (council) decided to kill the only healthy eco system on the site. Did not make sense then nor now. There was no **ATTACK** Colin just information, and certainly no sparring.

Colin your article is a total misrepresentation of how this meeting went. There was no **ATTACK** and no **SPARRING**. Your sensationalism and tilt on the meeting makes it sound like it was a brawl. Seems you and the Packet still have not come to grips with reality. From day one you have scoffed at anyone who brought information on this site to light and in fact continued to support this site even when you had the facts supplied to you by the Citizens Coalition. This behavior continues. When will you realize that this site is now being held up by it's own **Hazardous Toxicity** and not by your so called critics which **do not now or ever existed**. As has been proven by S&P, Gartner Lee and the MOE we were never critics or trouble makers. We were concerned, knowledgeable, and dedicated citizens who brought facts to public attention that mayor, council, city management and S&P were trying to hide with the Packets help I might add. Do you really believe that all the testing going on right now and in the future is caused by the **Citizens Coalition**???? Of course not. Once we showed the MOE the evidence and how they were lied to it is they who are now driving the process. Of course S&P has now taken their responsibility a little more seriously and it is they that are recommending and profiting from these tests and recommending that nothing should happen on this site until all information is in. Do you by chance remember what the next set of testing will cost after council approves the **\$59,000** being recommended tomorrow night for more off site test wells??? Let me help you. It seems we may need to do up to an additional

\$780,000 worth of testing. This will be recommended by S&P, Gartner Lee and the MOE because the site is leaching it's poison off site. You have been saying that the people you call critics are driving this???? No way Collin that is a lie. It is the site which you claimed was clean and didn't require any testing or clean up along with your friends the mayor, council, city management and S&P which turned out to be exactly what we have said and proved all along but you ignored and even covered up by not reporting facts or making light of them which were given to you but you failed to use. If not the world's worst contaminated site it is a close second. Had the Citizens Coalition not stood firm these guys would have started construction which you supported in April with huge consequences to health as well as financial. So Colin if you want to write the truth, for a \$20 donation we will get you the DVD and then maybe you will write the story the way it really happened once you reviewed the disc. Obviously your notes or perception are not accurate??????? More meeting analysis in the next article.
[Also see Jenine Bakers' letter in the We Get Letters page](#)
jim tolnai

Aug. 01, 2005

Mayor Pinocchio's Nose Grows Again

In the Thursday July 28 Packet Mayor Pinocchio was interviewed regarding Growth and Change. Now I am sure everyone by now knows I not only don't believe anything the mayor says but also don't trust him as far as I can throw him. Over his time as mayor this guy has proven himself untrustworthy. From making sweetheart land deals with developers to withholding information on the MURF site to dumping hazardous soil on the shores of lake Simcoe to filling in and destroying the healthy swamp at the MURF site to asking people to conserve energy while his air conditioners were running full blast to receiving illegal campaign contributions and many more examples too numerous to list this guy certainly does not deserve trust. Even in this article the untruths just keep coming. So here are the facts as I see them.

Under Financial uncertainty in the article is as follows. **"At this point, the city has not secured any provincial or federal backing, and neighbouring municipalities have not committed a dollar. Without outside assistance the city would have to raise property taxes significantly to bankroll the project, the mayor said"**. Now I believe that this statement contains some truth. After all how can you spend \$50,000,000 dollars without raising taxes. This amount represents about two years budget for the city. But then in Fridays paper there is a clarification on page 3. You see it's obvious the mayor realized he had spoken some truth and it would upset taxpayers so out comes the big lie. **"Mayor Ron Stevens says the City of Orillia can fully finance the MURF facility without raising taxes"**. The clarification (spin) then contradicts this statement with **"Stevens said the city can bear the cost "without a tremendous tax increase"**. Well which is it???? The clarification???? then continues **"Raising taxes one per cent per year over four years is only one option being considered, Stevens clarified"**. So has the preceding clarified anything????

From **NO TAX** increase to **without a tremendous tax increase** to a **4% increase to your taxes forever**. Using double speak Pinocchio is attempting to make you believe that your taxes will only go up 1% for four years. Had he been honest he would have said We will raise taxes 1% in each of four years for a total of 4% extra on your bill at the end of year four. This money will be dedicated to the MURF and will be levied for the next 50 plus years. We will also raise taxes to cover the operating deficit of this facility which maybe as high as another 1% to 3%. Now that is the truth. Each 1% represents about \$300,000 in new taxes. By year four this will amount to annual tax revenue of \$1,200,000 to pay for the facility alone. Let's face it there is no other way to pay for it. So why does this guy need to mis speak. People can add and subtract and understand these things cost money. We are not stupid and do understand and respect the truth. Only problem is Pinocchio and the puppets have not figured that out as yet. So on every thousand dollars of your tax bill you will be paying about \$50 to \$70 dollars per year for the next 50 years to pay for this puppy. Of course you will also be dinged the regular tax increases for city operating costs which have been in the 3% to 8% range annually. In the clarification the mayor says "the city could use the annual proceeds from the Orillia Power Corporation. Seems that this is our money in the first place and should be used to invest in renewable energy generation and make Orillia Canada's Renewable Energy Capital and not used for financing mayor and councils mistakes. Then there is what he does not say. According to Ralph Cipolla council has plans to build an Arena out at Westridge. That's right these plans according to Cipolla would use the ice making equipment from the Community Center and would require an additional \$10,000,000 in expenditures. Wonder why the mayor has not commented on these plans in his report to us???? Where is this money coming from??? And finally why does the mayor imply that if the MURF is not built on the West St. site it is dead???? We need a MURF and just because the West St. site is not used does not change the fact that the facility is needed. There are many sites available but the site seems to be more important to the mayor than the facility???? Wonder why and who would benefit from this site being used at any cost???? There was a good letter to the editor in the July 28 paper from a Ken Hammond. His theory is simple. Build the MURF somewhere else and clean the West St. site. Then if needed build the other arena there. Makes sense to everyone I have spoken to except mayor and council.

The Thursday article goes on to say **"On top of overall funding concerns, environmental problems continue to grow, with additional testing already delaying the scheduled opening date from the fall of 2006 to the fall of 2007"**. This is another dishonest lie. The environmental problem has been there for years and Pinocchio knows it. Remember all the statements about how this site is safe, there are no concerns, we know what we are doing, trust us and we can go ahead and build as proven by the pile of dirt on the site. He was warned along with the rest of the puppets but paid no heed. Now he has the nerve to say the problem is growing as if it is all new news. The truth is that he knew all along just how dangerous disturbing this site would be. Pinocchio and the puppets took a calculated risk and now are the authors of this towns misfortune. As the plume

heads for new ground filling cracks and crevices with poison the cost for taxpayers will be huge. Why even Pinocchio and Boss Hog are being quoted that cleanup costs would run \$25 to \$30 million dollars. This from people who said the site was not a problem and safe. Then there will be the cost of lawsuits and real estate buy outs and cleanups off site. Worst case scenario \$100,000,000 plus. Regardless of whether the MURF is built this cleanup cost is there. You see once they squeezed this plume off site everything changed. It is no longer up to the city whether to clean or not. Thank you Boss Hog, Mayor Pinocchio and Puppets for setting the city on the road to financial hardships and leaving future generations to clean up your mess. And this deserves a 40% raise?????

On Affordable housing the mayor mis speaks again. "The city is assisting the two projects by waiving property taxes for 10 years and deferring development fees. The truth is that on the Barrie Rd. project development charges are forgiven. You see when the property was sold to private developers for \$2 the deal also contained a \$900,000 development charge waiver. Why can't Pinocchio be honest about this. Well it could be because the Foxfell project is headed by Allan Millard and the Power is punishing those who need low cost housing thinking they are hurting Allan. You see Foxfell has their development charges deferred instead of waived like the private developer. The truth is the mayor on two deals has given away about \$2,500,000 dollars in development charges which benefit private business. But when a non profit group like Foxfell seek help with the development charges this guy says **"there are limits to what taxpayers can contribute to social programs"????????????**

"Stevens still irked by council raises" screams the headline. "Says he plans to give 'a fair chunk of it' back to community. What rubbish. If you are going to give it back then don't take it in the first place. You and Lauer can decline the raise if you so wish. I don't believe for a minute what these two are saying. You see the mayor failed to call for a NO vote. How can he in good conscience claim he voted against this raise. Lauer was asked by citizens to call for a recorded vote and I have heard that the mayor was asked as well. These two guys decided not to call for a recorded vote which would just keep controversy around longer but would have allowed them to vote NO. So his or Lauers claim that they don't want this raise but are accepting it does not ring true. So if you really believe the raise was wrong standup like a man and refuse it. Keep it in the city coffers. But then if you have plans for this money which you did not vote against then at least tell the truth.

We Need a Forensic Audit and that is the TRUTH

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