

Sept. 30, 2005

Doug Lewis Shooting from the Lip??

I was going to do a different story today but it will just have to wait for another day. You see Doug Lewis' "**Time for city to stay the course on MURF site**" column in today's Packet begs a reply. Doug makes statements that either he has done no research on or is "**just shooting from the lip**"???

His first inaccurate statement "**despite the fact that there is no evidence of anyone being affected by working at this site in the past**" is totally wrong. Doug you might want to take some time and speak with Roy Eastcott's widow. Yes Roy died as a direct result of exposure while doing his job. Before his death Workers Compensation awarded him a pension and still provides for his widow. Workers Comp. through Roy's widow are actually pursuing legal action against the companies whose products that were used in Otaco's manufacturing processes, which caused his illness and death as well as others. Doug have you taken the time to speak with former employees of Otaco??? Have you asked them to name former co-workers that have died of cancer??? What you will find is that they will name dozens of people who died from this alone. Was their illness caused by chemicals used by them on the job?? Of course it was. My own brother in law who died at the ripe old age of 30 from leukemia worked there for a number of years and then at General Tire in Barrie. My other brother in law who passed away in his mid forties also worked at Otaco and at Fahlralloy and died from Pancreatic cancer. Put two and two together and you get the idea. So before you write maybe a little research might be in order Eh???

You then go on to say "**Who is going to clean it up if the city doesn't take the lead**"? Doug have you not been in town for the last three years??? Upon your return who told you the city was planning to clean the site??? Was it your partner councillor Downey?? Shame on him to mislead you like that. The city has budgeted zero, nada for cleanup. Oh! there is about \$6,000,000 in the budget for cover up but not one thin dime for cleanup. You see \$6 million isn't even a downpayment on cleaning this site. So your partner and his co-councillors figured we will dump two or three feet of dirt on top and call it cleanup. Of course we will not do testing cause if we don't look we can say there is nothing there??? You then go on "**The city has to be able to say to the other levels of governments, we have had the site assessed by experts, not activists and here is their report in writing.**" Dougy, Dougy Dougy! have you not heard that the Provincial Ministry of the Environment has found the city to be not doing **proper testing**?? Using **unaccredited labs, not testing the contents of unearthed barrels but instead testing the soil beneath them.** Of course we mustn't forget the **mixing of composite soil samples and in the process aerating it, thereby coming up with a non hazardous reading.** Doug the MOE said you can't do that it is being bad. And who did all this for the city??? Why it was their **experts.** Again Doug just a little bit of research and **you** would be in the know, **you** know??

But you go on and so must I. Why, Colin McKim or you try to compare the Museum to the MURF I just do not understand. The problem with the Sir Sam

building was a lack of money to do a simple renovation. Which by the way the previous board and manager screwed up. There was no challenge except to get people to cough up some dough. So what has that got to do with the MURF site which is one of the world's worst contaminated. I know of no environmentalist who is against developing any brownfield site including the MURF site. You saying they are against the project, does not make it so. You know, your buddy Downey knows along with all councillors and anyone else who has been listening, **our concern is health and safety plain and simple.**

"This city council's legacy can be that they stared the environmentalists in the eye and said, We are going to meet and pay for, absolutely every environmental requirement that the city, province and federal governments have in place. When we are finished this site will be a credit to the city. We are going to build here." Absolutely fantastic Doug. Let's do it. Why don't you set up the meeting between the environmentalists, mayor and council along with the MOE, Garfield Dunlop and how about Paul Devilliers. Let's plan the cleanup together and build the dream of most Orillians. Doug you could and should be the savior of this project by finally getting the parties to the table. I will personally nominate you for Citizen of the Year if you can pull this off. Why, with your experience and great influence I am positive you can do it. So Doug don't let adversity get in your way. Make those calls and let's get going. We agree, everyday the site is not being cleaned up more and more toxins are being pushed off site. Timing is everything Doug and your time to shine has arrived. Show your leadership all Orillia would appreciate it and our **stare** will become one of admiration. And don't worry Doug you will not find any **Naysayers** among the environmentalist to a thorough clean up "**we promise**". Scout's honour.
jim tolnai

Sept. 29, 2005

Council Just Doesn't Get It??

Letter to the Editor:

The arrogance and laziness of city councillors surfaced when they questioned the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC)'s right to request answers to yet another serious wetland destruction within our city limits. I read EAC's request on the city website on Wed. September 21st under "Agenda - Council Committee". Surely our councillors, with new computers we're paying for, could do the same thing! They had five days prior to their meeting to determine why an infill permit based on a hand-drawn sketch was granted by the city and led to infilling almost all of the large James Street wetland. The property lying between the Lightfoot Trail and Ben's Ditch is needed for spring floodwater control. No city personnel checked to ensure only the small "approved" area was filled in to protect this Environmentally Sensitive wetland. Anyone using the trail should ask why extremely high infilling has been allowed to encroach on city property.

Our councillors cannot play dumb. They knew on August 11th that two

Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) officers visited the James Street property following a citizen's complaint. One councillor suggested waiting for the DFO report before any action is taken against the offending property owner(s). The DFO is only interested in fish habitat, gentlemen, nothing else.

Bob McDonald told Orillians that wetlands are essential to our environment. When the lowliest of creatures are not fed, then the larger species (humans) will eventually not be fed either. Wetlands serve a vital function controlling floodwaters, filtering, providing a haven for fish, wildlife and plants. Filling them in for the sake of development is poor planning and morally wrong for our city.

Three cheers to EAC's Dave Stinson for standing up to the unjustified council attack. Why would anyone volunteer to serve on any city committee when council uses power and control to gang up on them? Wake up council, earn your 40%, and realize what and who is really damaging our city's image.

Lillian M. Marsden

When will conservation/environmental groups become active in saving our environment?? Whether people like it or not saving the wetlands, lakes and environment can only be accomplished through politics. It is politicians who make the decisions to allow the destruction of our environment. If we keep on electing people like our present council, if we do not hold them to task then why expect more of these people??? Buying small pockets of nature while the area around it is destroyed will not solve our environmental problems. Counting the number of fish and frogs in one stream does nothing to stop people like Downey, Smith and company from continuing to destroy. Wake up folks and get involved in purging these people from power. If you think filling in the James St. Wetland was by accident you are wrong. This whole area has been targeted for destruction for the last decade. We must draw a line in the sand. We must demand that the filled in wetland be restored immediately. Send in the trucks and diggers. Charge the land owners and do it today. Make them pay for the destruction that was knowingly brought on the environment. Make them pay for the **Clean Up**. It is time to take a **Stand** and **Act**..

jim tolnai

Sept. 28, 2005

Can People Change??

Saturday night Anne my son Todd and I went to see Bob McDonald science guru at the Opera House. Bob was amusing as well as informative. From mans first step on the moon to garbage disposal Bob shed light on a litany of subjects. Well versed in all the subjects he touched on the almost sold out crowd were either laughing or nodding their heads in agreement. The show was put on by the Couchiching Conservancy a group who raises funds to purchase land to hold in trust for future generations to enjoy in it's natural state.

Here are some facts that I had not realized before. Did you know that regardless of what size the engine in your car only about 20% energy of the fuel

burned is used to run the car. The other 80% is wasted in heat and exhaust. The internal combustion engine is really very inefficient. Just imagine if we could increase this efficiency say to 80% not only will we save our oil for future generations but create less exhaust. Bob was adamant that research efforts should be put towards this goal.

I was happy to hear Bob touch on solar and wind power generation. A pleasant surprise was when he spoke of small scale generation instead of the huge efforts with giant windmill farms. I have been advocating that Hydro One encourage people to install solar panels and windmills where possible and sell the power to the grid. With some help and encouragement people would invest gladly while solving our energy crunch. Unfortunately the industry makes it very expensive to hook into the grid but maybe we can change their attitudes?? Just imagine all new homes constructed with solar panels generating clean power. Imagine the ten thousand homes in Orillia each with say 3 or 4 solar panels feeding the grid. That is 40,000 panels and one heck of a lot of power. With the help of city council and Orillia Power we could become the Renewable Energy Capital of Canada. Now that the city has bought the Horn farm for an industrial park let's lobby green energy equipment manufacturers to look at Orillia. Through the co-operation of Orillia Power we have a lot to offer these companies. Of course we need to elect a council who has vision and who can plan for the future and actually cares about the environment unlike our present councillors.

In the question and answer period of the show I was heartened by all the young people who got up and asked some great questions. Made me feel like there just maybe hope for old mother earth if only the next generation will do the right things. One good question by Colleen Cooney was on wetlands. Bob spoke of the importance of any wetland regardless of size. He made it clear that our survival at the top of the food chain is directly affected by the health and survival of wetlands considered to be at the bottom of the food chain. You see without a bottom there can be no top which is us. Unfortunately our lack of credible leadership (council) in Orillia has allowed acres and acres of prime wetland destroyed forever and more being targeted.

This brings me to the mayors attendance at the show. I was surprised to see him at the function of a conservation group with his **abysmal record** on the environment. Here is a guy who destroys perfectly healthy wetland and wildlife but has the nerve to schmooze with people who are trying to save the very land he is destroying. You know after hearing Bob and his concerns and information I had hoped Mayor Pinocchio might of learned something. Judging by his attitude on Monday night at council people like him will never change. His idea of progress seems to pave over everything green. He has no vision and certainly does not seem to give a rats ass about anything that concerns the environment. He was responsible for filling in the healthy wetland on the Molson property even though he knew no development could happen there until 2011. That eco system was a victim of his decision that nothing living and clean should survive so that they could pave a parking lot seven years down the road if ever??? No imagination and no conscience just eliminate without regret. The same attitude prevails on the James St. wetland destruction. Can this man ever change? Can

the present council ever change? The answer is "NO".

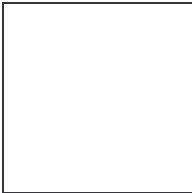
jim tolnai

Sept. 27, 2005

Novel Idea & more....

For quite some time I have been saying that Orillia needs an Independent daily newspaper. What we have now is nothing more than a rubberstamp for city hall and council. Last Fridays' Colin McKim's column is a prime example. Blame everyone except those responsible. Float ridiculous ideas like "council has to stay the course on the recreation complex on West St." Then on Monday after second thought run the same column but fine tune it. Remove some stupid quotes by the mayor and tweak the story all using the excuse of "editing error". Now wait a minute??? Isn't editing done to find errors???? Besides why would there have to be such heavy editing done to a story written by a local reporter??? Are reporters and columnists not being printed as they see it???? If management and editors are going to be allowed to basically rewrite stories then why not just have the heavy handed editors do the writing themselves???? I must admit the Packet has a **Novel** approach to telling a story or the truth.

I attended council last night and was not surprised at Mayor Pinocchio and the puppets behavior. As you are all aware there has been massive destruction of a vital wetland off James St. and the Trail. For well over a month this has been well publicized by Speaking Out and a very good and extensive story in Orillia Today. Questions had been asked at city hall and councillors had been made more than aware of what is happening down there. Last night David Stinson presented a letter from EAC to council in order to bring their concern before them



. Now in listening to councillors you would think this was the first time any of them had heard of this destruction. What the hell are these people responsible for as councillors?? What are they paid for??? Are we paying them for ignorance and stupidity?? If so they are certainly earning their 40% raise.

There wasn't one councillor who expressed an intelligent thought or expressed any knowledge of facts from this very important issue. In fact Doug Downey was concerned that EAC should not be allowed to bring an issue before council unless they expressly asked for their opinion. Francis Smith agreed with Downey and tried to tear a strip off Dave for having the nerve to approach council without it's express request. Smith sang Downey's song about EAC not being allowed to deal with issues that council has not sanctioned. David stood his ground and when Smith asked him if he believed that EAC had the right to bring forward issues not sanctioned by council the answer was a resounding yes. This fact was brought home to Smith and Downey when the clerk clearly read from EAC's term of reference that indeed that was their mandate and it was proper for David to inform council. Now wouldn't you think that Downey and Smith would be smart enough to have checked out this fact before they made asses of

themselves???? Wouldn't it have been a **Novel idea???** to actually have a councillor do some research instead of making fools of themselves because of bad advice??? Who supplied the inaccurate information to Downey?? But more important why would he not check out the advice before opening his Gob??? Oh! I forgot. Why would these guys check out such trivial matters when they don't even read bylaws before voting???

Then we have Morano suggesting that David came with questions but no answers. Hello! EAC was bringing information before these guys so that answers could be gotten. They all feigned surprise that wetland was being destroyed. Lot's of time for you clowns to have looked into what was happening as this controversy has been going on for over six weeks. But of course unless it comes before council it does not exist? If you bring it before council before they specifically ask for it then they trash your effort?? Does any of this make sense??? Only to them I suppose. Then there was Spears asking why council should deal with this if the DFO was investigating?? Maybe they have more teeth than we do so why do anything? Hello! What other organizations or authorities are doing has nothing to do with your responsibility. Then he suggests that some wetland can be filled while others can't. So why haven't you done some checking as to what type this is???? Unless you believe your responsibility is to destroy wetland then wait?? But if your responsibility is to look after the interest of your community then act. As is customary these people will not act. What do they do??? Ask for a staff report which is the great catchall for them. As always pass the buck instead of going for a walk to see the destruction. But wait they don't even have to go for a walk??? We have pictures on Speaking Out. Not only from ground level but from the air. So folks as councillors claim to not read Speaking Out please call them and let them know of the pictures. Maybe they will then ask staff to have a look and come back with another report??? Even better would be to forward via e-mail to them now that they have those spiffy new computers.

jim tolnai
Sept. 25, 2005

Risk Management / Mismanagement

I must have a hearing disability. Whenever I hear Orillia City officials like Ian Brown, Lori Koughan, Ron Stevens, or Ralph Cipolla use the words "risk management" my ears keep transmitting that as "mismanagement". Time to visit the audiologist, I guess.

When the City signed the deal with Molson in 2002 the City had no intention of doing any remediation or any site-specific risk assessment. (Read the Transfer Agreement.) As more and worse contaminants were found the tune changed slightly: OK, we'll do a risk assessment (RA) after we start building, not because we have to but because we want to (be seen to) do the right thing. Brown/Koughan even said that the RA might not be finished until after the MURF was built.

For 3 years one constant in this cart-before-the-horse thinking is that remediation is unnecessary because we, with our marvelous experts, can "manage" any risk. When some of us had the temerity to point out that (a) you can't manage a risk you don't know about (because of little or no testing), and (b) you can't engineer risk management into a project after the data is in and the building is up, we were dismissed as Cassandras.

When new 'brownfield' Regulations came into effect on October 1, 2004, again the tune changed, slightly, because risk assessment was rolled into "risk management" as a linked process (which the City started calling simply "the Risk Assessment-Risk Management process"). The City still planned to build before it submitted a Record of Site Condition (after the RA-RM was approved by a compliant Ministry of the Environment), but at least it accepted that it would have to go through the motions of RA-RM. It submitted its work plan (called the Pre-Submission Form or PSF) to the MoE in December 2004 even as it ballyhooed its plans to let the construction contract in March. No need to wait for the MoE or for an actual RA submission.

"Remediation" was studiously avoided except when the Mayor said repeatedly that it would cost money and there was no money for remediation. That was and is true - the MURF budget adopted in July 2004 has no provision for remediation. That budget has not been revised, at least not that the freight-payers know about. Both Brown and Stevens said recently that there is money for remediation, but that is not true. What we do know is that approximately \$6-7 Million was budgeted for capping contaminants as a risk management measure. That's not remediation or restoration.

(In environmental work "risk management" and "remediation" are more like opposites than alternatives. In Orillia officials seem to regard them as mutually exclusive. It needn't be so.)

In March 2005 the MoE gave it comments on the City's PSF. There were several serious omissions and inadequacies noted, and at one point the Ministry even used the dreaded word "remediation". Did the City take heed? Nope.

As recently as the Council Committee Mtg. on Sept. 12 the City Manager brought forth a report and recommendation on possibly shifting the MURP (the "P" is for palace) to another location on the contaminated site. It is geographically do-able since the site, including the half still under the Certificate of Prohibition registered on title in 1993, is almost 36 acres and the palace footprint is about 3.8 acres. Listen, and you will

see that the basic tune has not changed and no lessons have been learned.

Brown said that there were no scientific or engineering reasons for a shift, but that a shift might allay some concerns in the community. In that way he made it a political issue and maintained that his management was not the problem. In fact, the physical/scientific data accumulated so far (and testing continues) are the overwhelming factor dictating a shift. The engineering reason is the absence of engineering: No one has cited an example, anywhere, of a successful engineering/technological "management" of risks even close to those of Orillia's fact-situation. Readers, please note: Although Brown was talking nonsense, no Councillor asked questions or commented on his assertion.

Brown chose to present a 3-shift option suggested by the architects. Some Councillors fell into the trap of asking about additional architectural costs and Brown obliged. It was the same trick Brown used 18 months ago. Get the Councillors distracted about what to put in their MURP and its décor, but don't talk about the 'facts in the ground' and whether a MURP can or should be built on the contaminated wetland. Incredibly, no Councillor asked why they were again being asked to make a decision in almost total ignorance of the pertinent facts.

However, one Councillor came close. He remarked that the whole site was contaminated and asked if it mattered where they put the MURP. The City Manager's answer was classic Brown: The plan from the start was not to do remediation (true) but to follow an RA-RM process (almost true, eventually) which would result in a risk management plan which could be applied to different places on the site (mostly untrue). This much can be conceded to Brown: If the risk assessment of the whole 36 acres is thorough and if you know beyond a reasonable doubt what contaminants are there, how much of them are there, and where they are (in 3 dimensions), you might be able to manage risks well enough for playing fields or parkland and you might even find an area where a building could be erected after remediation or where risks could indeed be managed.

BUT, the City is far from that point and apparently has no intention of completing an all-purpose risk assessment on the whole site. Therefore, what Brown said is very misleading. The ongoing RA he referred to is premised on the MURP staying where it was originally planned. That RA will not result in identifying any other possible 'footprint'. No Councillor twigged to that.

Showing how stubbornly he is defending his mismanagement, Brown admitted, in answer to one question from a Councillor about the effect a shift would have on the problem of the VOCs under the proposed MURP site

(PMS), that it would be easier to deal with them if they aren't "under a swimming pool". Are we supposed to laugh or cry? The point is that it does not matter how one puts the question or what the facts are, the answer is always that 'it can be managed'.

It can't be. Consider this: Put up the MURP on the current plan with high concentrations of trichloroethylene and dichloroethylenes going down many metres below the foundation pad. The TCE and DCEs send vinyl chloride up (which can't be managed) and the groundwater carries them away to adjoining properties (which can't be stopped). On the other hand, if you don't bury them under a swimming pool or at least don't build until you have remediated to the point - Dr. Ford suggests >95% - where what's left under the PMS can be managed, remediation with known technologies is at least possible, albeit costly and time-consuming. The case against building on the plume of VOCs is overwhelming. The case "for" is nothing more than saving face for Ian Brown and all 9 Members of Council.

And that brings up Brown's recommendation that the possible 3-gear shift be referred to the MURF Design Committee. First, it isn't a matter of design at this stage, but that Committee is chaired by Councillor Cipolla, the staunchest defender of the current PMS. Second, the Committee does not meet in public and its minutes are not available to the public. (I know because the City Manager's office refused my request for MURF committee minutes.) Third, Councillor Lauer wanted to be sure that any Councillor could attend and be heard, and the fact that he had to make an issue of it raises questions about how that Committee operated up to now. Fourth, a few months ago Council decided to merge the three MURF Committees into one, called the MURF Steering Committee, comprised of all Members of Council. If the Design Committee still exists it would not be the appropriate committee for this discussion. Fifth, it is about time the public had its first say on this project in the form of a genuine, open public consultation. Sixth, if the Councillors won't listen to the citizens then at least they should hear from the right experts. That would rule out architects and any other "experts", like Shaheen & Peaker Ltd., who do not have a professional arm's length relationship with the City or who have been selected by Ian Brown, Lori Koughan, or Bob Ripley. One of the 'right' experts is Dr. Ford whose position, by the way, has twice been totally misrepresented to his fellow Councillors by Wayne Gardy.

Other than the above considerations, Council's sending this important matter to the MURF Design Committee was a brilliant move.

The latest chapter in this story of remediation avoidance is the exchange of correspondence between the City (Koughan) and the MoE (Ian

Mitchell, District Engineer) earlier this month pursuant to the MoE Order in August to do, inter alia, more testing for off-site migration of contaminants. The only part I will touch on here is the reference by Mitchell in a letter dated Sept. 15 to Koughan to a City-MoE meeting (closed, of course) on Sept. 13 at which the City asked "if the City can complete and file a risk assessment for the MURF property only and deal with the off site impacts separately." Even I could answer that one - "yes" - , but the real question is why the City was asking a simpleton's question.

Mitchell's reply is cautious and correct, but there are a couple of interesting statements:

"O.Reg. 153/04 is concerned with contaminants at the MURF property, including how anything left behind might affect the off-site environment after the [Record of Site Condition] is filed. The risk assessment must address this issue by stating whether the contaminants left on the site (i.e., residual contamination) will result in exceedances of the generic criteria at the nearest receptor off site."

Comment: This zeroes in on the high levels of VOCs known to be on the site and which Brown would not remove but leave "under the swimming pool". They will result, or have already resulted, in exceedances off site. The logical conclusion from what I see as a clear warning is that the Brown-style risk assessment will fail to pass, and the risk management plan will fall with it.

Mitchell also states:

"We were also asked if a risk assessment can be used to manage off site impacts". "The risk assessment process is a possibility for dealing with existing contamination on the off site property(ies), due to migration of contamination from the MURF property."

Comment: This clearly contemplates, possibly, a separate risk assessment because what the City is doing now can't apply, obviously, to any other property. The migration from the MURF and existing off-site contamination are accepted as fact.

Mitchell elaborates:

"The decision to use a risk assessment for off site impacts must be made by the responsible parties in cooperation with the affected landowners. Risk assessment is an effective tool for use by landowners when managing brownfield properties but it is not necessarily the most appropriate tool in all circumstances. The City should explore all options for site restoration once the nature and extent of off site contamination are understood in conjunction with sensitivities of the

affected property owners. It should be noted that, without the agreement of affected property owners, the risk assessment can not be used to set standards or manage risks off the MURF property."

Comment: What do you suppose would be the degree of co-operation the City would receive from affected property owners if the City Manager says we'd like to do an RA-RM on your land, and we'll pay for it because it's our property that has poisoned yours, but, by the way, we have no intention of doing anything about the source of the poisoning because it is rather a headache to deal with these trifles when they are in the groundwater 15 metres under our sports palace?

In its comments on the PSF in March the MoE asks the City to justify risk management rather than remediation. On Sept. 15 the MoE is asking the City to explore all options for site restoration. Anybody willing to give odds on the City doing the right thing? On Sept. 19 City Council adopted Brown's report and recommendation.

Allan Millard

Sept. 24, 2005

Lessons from Katrina/Rita

We have had in the last 30 days news of tragedy, irresponsibility, denial, stupidity, courage and miracles. The southern US has gone through devastation in a matter of hours that would have taken months if not years had it occurred by an act of war. For once US citizens are experiencing devastation on a scale that they have inflicted on others around the world. From Vietnam to Iraq and literally hundreds of other smaller military operations US citizens are now experiencing what others have gone through from US bombs dropped. Let's hope these people will remember what it feels like to lose everything and be displaced next time their leaders want to begin another military operation and will **Speak Out** to block stupid decisions????

Our lesson from their troubles should be that we the people must never take for granted that our leaders will look after our best interest or that they are actually making competent decisions. We must be vigilant and not give our trust blindly. We must demand transparency of their decisions and how and why they made them. The days of "trust us we know better" should be put behind us. As the people of Louisiana, Mississippi and now Texas have found out many of their public officials are and were incompetent. When the going got tuff these people made stupid or no decisions at all many choosing to flee themselves while leaving the weakest and least able to fend for themselves. In the case of Katrina the blame shifting began even before the storm had died down. Why??? Because irresponsible people will never take responsibility when the **"Sh**t hits the fan"**. Whether leaders are national, state/provincial or municipal they all sing

from the same hymn book. We didn't know, we relied on experts, we were misled yada, yada, yada.

Sound familiar??? This is no different than our own officials in regards to facing up to what is happening on the MURF site, the wetland on James St. or to the mayors latest reaction about the buildings not being available on the HRC property or the fact that provincial legislation supercedes municipal bylaws. These people claim expertise until the "Sh**t hits the fan" then they either suspected, didn't know, didn't think, the experts advised them or staff misled them. Never will they admit the truth, that they just didn't check for themselves regardless of advice or suspicion. Yes it is much easier to claim ignorance instead of making an effort to know for sure before a decision is made.

Here is the latest example of how irresponsible these people are. In the Thursday Sept. 22 Packet Mayor Pinocchio says about the HRC buildings not being available "Orillia mayor Ron Stevens said he was surprised to learn from the Ontario Realty Corporation **recently** that leasing vacant HRC buildings is not a possibility". "I **thought** the mandate of ORC was to sell or lease"? So here we have negotiations going with Lakehead University for about a year with the HRC property being touted as the place to locate. How hard would it have been to ask the question about these buildings before offering them as if they knew them to be available and misleading people. Then in today's Packet editorial the blame is being shifted to the provincial government. Hello! It was Mayor Pinocchio who should have been asking the question instead of "**Assuming**" they were available. Had he done his job negotiations could have been completed to surplus these buildings and making them available. Or did he know all along these buildings were not available and decided no one would notice his nose growing??? Instead just like all issues before this mayor and council they "**Assume**" instead of **do????** For a cynic like me it appears that there is more to this than most people realize. By keeping up the story that the university could locate at the HRC a commitment could be gotten from the Board of Governors. After this commitment is made then it is announced that the "Bad Old Liberal Government" won't allow them into the building. But lo and behold we happen to have 30,000 sq. feet of space that just by chance a very good friend of the mayor's has available at Heritage Place???? Now how lucky can Lakehead and Orillia be? The Governors won't be embarrassed, the mayors friend if only he can be convinced to accept the university as a tenant will have a secure tenant for space that would have taken maybe years to rent out as commercial units if ever being that the landlord had announced he would be very choosy as to who could rent there. Plus people will think of Mayor Pinocchio as a genius hero doing what is best for the city????? See everyone that **counts** wins?????

Now that the space problem is taken care of then we have Colin McKim write a story about how great it would be to tie the university to the MURF wagon??? Of course council must stay the course on the Molson site because now that the university is all of a sudden tied to it in their mind we do not need to be concerned about the pond of chemicals under it??? Hey! a university will make these **Hazardous Toxic Chemicals Disappear**, right???? Colin goes on to say that with the university downtown the students "can step out the door and walk to

restaurants, pharmacies, music stores and **BARS**" in that order I suppose as well as the new recreation center located on a site that had a university cleaning miracle performed on it"???? Wow! I'm getting goose bumps. That folks is what a responsible city administration, columnist and news organization should promote. Handy bars so close that one can run out at recess and grab a beer??? Do university students get recess????? They will in Orillia if they have anything to say about it I suppose. Maybe Colin the Packet along with council could lobby the "Bad Old Liberal Government" to allow **BARS** open for breakfast eye openers seeing that we have a university so close to them??? You know how hard it is to wake a student don't you?? Now there will be incentive for them to get up?? With eyes open these students would probably learn better as very little energy would be expended getting to and from the **BARS**???? Win! Win! situation for everyone as far as I can see it. Let's do it????

jim tolnai

Sept. 22, 2005

Wetland Destruction Continues

The wetland destruction on James St. continues despite our best efforts. City employees seem neutered or just don't give a damn. Council continues to play the violin while watching load after load being dumped. Seems very few give a rats ass. The MOE have yet to order the removal of illegally dumped painted blocks, cement with rebar or sewer pipe and other garbage. Even though they admit these items are there a blind eye and deaf ear attitude persists. As for the DFO it seems the Federal Department can't determine if Ben's ditch and the wetland is/was a fish habitat even though they have already determined that Ben's Ditch is a fish habitat????? As one walks down the trail today the amount of fill dumped in the last 5 weeks when Brian Round from DFO inspected is awesome. At that time Brian assured us that he had spoken with Mr. Keetch and further dumping would cease. Instead it has accelerated. The city environmental officer said that fill dumped on city owned land along the trail would be ordered removed and yet nothing has happened to date. Now if Mr. Keetch can haul more fill in, I suppose he has the capacity to remove illegally dumped fill and garbage right???? Doesn't seem so as evidenced by the one way activity.

On Aug. 31 I delivered two noxious samples to the Barrie MOE for testing that Allan Millard and I had collected from the James St. site. Our collection was on different days and different piles that had been dumped in different locations on the property. This stuff stinks to high heaven and we are convinced that it is most likely a toxic material. Double bagged in plastic and the stinky chemical smell is still overpowering. It seems the MOE has no interest in accepting the sample nor our complaint. According to Phil Bye MOE District Manager the MOE could not analyze the samples because "samples must be collected, handled and stored according to accepted procedures to ensure accurate and representative analytical results". Now I received this letter on Sept. 15 basically telling me we are not interested in what amounts to a questionable substance dumped right

next to Ben's Ditch which flows into Lake Simcoe. Now bear in mind that Allan or I have not even received a phone call so that we might help these people locate the piles so they could properly collect, handle and store according to procedures. They are just not interested period. Before delivering the samples Allan was in contact with them, to report the material being dumped and was told they were not interested. That is why we collected and delivered it to them. By the way I also sent samples to the Minister of the Environment and have heard nothing from her office either. Seems the cavalier attitude toward our environment comes from the top down.

We have retained samples and will now have to get them analyzed at our own expense. Samples will be sent to the Opposition Party Leaders so they too may do analysis. As for the offending piles of this stuff it has been covered over by Mr. Keetch and buried. If it turns out to be toxic I suppose private citizens will have to lay charges and prosecute as the MOE just doesn't give a damn.

Phil Bye continues in his letter to me "District staff will attend the site with DFO representatives in the latter part of September, at which time the in-filling of the wetlands will be addressed with the removal of any material that is impacting the wetlands habitat. In addition, any material that is not considered clean fill will be removed from the site and will be assessed and dealt with according to Ontario Regulation 347 (Waste) as well as the Certificate of Approval associated with the receiving landfill". Yes sir Phil that really gives us comfort. If you refuse to test if you refuse to attend when a complaint is made how on earth do you know the material is a contaminant???? As this stuff is buried now you won't see it so it does not exist does it? He further says "The ministry will **work with the owner** of the property and the City of Orillia to ensure that any environmental issues at this property are addressed". More comfort considering the past behavior of the Ministry in regards to taking our concerns seriously or their track record with the MURF site???????? Right!!!! Looks like we have another fight on our hands. Why must we fight to have the authorities do their job and do the right thing???? It's their responsibilities isn't it????

Above pictures taken Wed. Sept. 21. Will the Ministry order that all similar garbage buried beneath the "clean fill" will be dug up and removed? Or will the Ministry "**Assume**" that because they can not see below the cover fill on top that it is clean right to the bottom ??? By the way why is the Ministry prepared to work with the "**polluter owner**" yet refuses to work with concerned citizens???

Phil ends his letter with "Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention".

Your welcome Phil????

jim tolnai

Once Again a Disappointed Citizen

Sept. 21, 2005

Outrageous

I was watching CNN yesterday morning. It seems all the news on US TV is about Katrina and now hurricane Rita which is working it's way through the Gulf towards Texas. As Rita picks up energy there are predictions that it may become a category 5 storm. Texas is preparing, especially coastal areas and evacuation is going on even as I write this. My purpose is not to give you weather reports but to share with you my disappointment in the state and municipal governments in Texas. From what I see it is no wonder why people are becoming more and more cynical everyday.

The news report was about people being evacuated from coastal areas. Buses were ready and voluntary evacuation was ordered. Texans were encouraged to leave for the interior. People from Louisiana are being treated differently. You see these refugees from Katrina who are citizens and fellow countrymen but poor and mostly black are being given one way plane tickets to Arkansas. Yup! pardner what a great opportunity to get rid of these people. It is far cheaper to fly them out one way than to have to support them over the coming months until they can make their way back to Louisiana. How **Outrageous** is that?? So much for American unity and caring. I imagine the people in power are patting themselves on the back for this gift from nature that has allowed them to sweep this problem right out of the state without taking heat or criticism for it. I suppose once in Arkansas even if these people were able to return all help and support would be denied them as they came from Arkansas to Texas this time. What evil genius figured this one out??? The more I see of American society the less I like it. First the looting of hard goods, then rape and murder at the Super Dome. The withholding of relief for many days after Katrina and now this. Not a society I would like to be part of. Not a society that we should ever allow to develop here.

But you know what? It is already here. We have an elitist bunch at city hall. Yesterdays Packet headline is "City loses apartment fight". You may recall the owner of the Orange Hall on Mississaga St. wanted to renovate and create 13 units. Council rejected his request and Doug Downey one of two lawyers on council was the lead councillor fighting the project. After much expense on both sides it turns out that **provincial law supercedes municipal law**. Dah!!! The effort that Downey or the other lawyer on council would have had to expend to confirm this fact would have been nil. But no! Real estate lawyer Downey instead puts up a fight which a **first year law student knows would not succeed**. Does Downey care how much this fight would cost taxpayers? Of course not. This is not rocket science and there should have been **No Legal** costs. The law is there and has been all along. How many other projects have been stopped illegally over the years??? How many more housing units would have entered the market while driving rents down??? Why is Cipolla claiming that landlords would just rent these type of units for higher prices anyway?? Could it be that Cipolla is worried about competition and falling rents more than looking after the public interest????

In Texas we have politicians and officials claiming they care about the

Louisiana Refugees but can't wait to buy them oneway tickets. In Orillia Downey and council fight smaller and less expensive housing therefore by default keeping low income people out of Orillia because of a lack of affordable housing. To me there is no difference between the two examples. The net result is the same. Low income people are forced out. You know I couldn't understand why Downey was so adamant about protecting people from living in a smaller space??? I couldn't understand why we needed him or any councillor to intercede between two adults entering into a contract for space until now. Texas has brought it home to me. I hope I have brought it home to you now.

Then we have George Morano saying he has "**suspected**" that bylaws could not out weigh provincial laws? So George why would you not act on your "**suspicions**" and do a bit of research???? But then George claims to actually having been taught at police college that municipal law is subordinate to provincial law so why not make your knowledge public through council debate????? What about the other former cop on council?? So it seems we have four experts on this matter on council and not one of them made an argument based on their knowledge of the law. What advantage does Orillia receive from these people's alleged expertise??? My first thought is **Landlords vote Poor People and the Disadvantaged Don't.**

By the way I stand corrected and admit I made a mistake in this article. My statement that "**a first year law student knows would not succeed**" is inaccurate. Sorry??? I would like to amend that statement to read "**a first year law student and first year police college student knows would not succeed**". Another example of councils **Total Incompetence Eh!!**

jim tolnai

Proud Orillian Inspite of Council

Sept. 20, 2005

Let's Rekindle MURF Lies

In today's Packet Dave Town writes an impassioned letter asking for the rekindling of the MURF energy. He says "it only takes a small cadre of pessimists to suck the energy out of a project." He then goes on to end his letter by saying he thinks council is honest, diligent and forward thinking public servants doing everything they can to get us not only a MURF but a town we'll be proud to live in. Dave admits "We've got problems with the MURF. Polluted land is no small issue. We knew that going in to the project. Nothing has really changed." What a load of "**Bunk**". He then also claims Dr. Ford has made statements that are just not true.

First of all you must know that not one of the so called "pessimists" have been or are against building a recreational facility. You speak of honesty and yet either you are repeating the old lie or are knowingly lying that we as concerned citizens are wanting to stop the MURF. Poppycock and you know it. Our every word and action has always been a "health and safety issue". So either you are misleading people or you have not followed this controversy and are totally ignorant of the facts. Makes one wonder just how much energy you have put into this project???? No one has sucked the energy out of the MURF project. The need

for the MURF remains. If the facility is important then where it is built should not matter as long as it is not a toxic site. But you along with mayor and council have made the location more important than the facility. Makes one wonder why????

Dave says he thinks council is honest on the MURF issue??? Unlike Dave who only **thinks** they are honest on the MURF issue, I and other concerned citizens "**Know**" they have not been honest. In fact from the city manager to councillors and mayor as well as their experts, they have all been lying, lying and lying. Dave if you are so concerned about the lost energy then put the blame where it belongs. I suppose you are not aware even at this late date of our city manager claiming he could not make the Molson Environmental Report public as there was a secrecy agreement and Molson's would sue the city?? This was repeated by mayor and every councillor over and over again. Even though the Transfer Agreement said different they with held the report for 22 months. Finally the city manager had to release it and then flippantly admitted he and council had been lying when he stated there was no agreement. Then the lie of the property having been so well tested it was like a pincushion when only 27 test holes had been done on a 35 acre site??? What about the lie that all the land could be developed even though there was an "Order" on the back 17 acres till 2011??? Then there was the lie that the healthy swamp had to be filled in and there was no choice even though mayor and company knew about the "Order". Did you know that maps of the wetland given to the DFO were altered to make it look like there was no connection to Ben's Ditch. Thanks to Bob Bowles the lie was uncovered. Then the lies by Lauer in regards to buried drums and the lies continue even today. So if you think liars are honest people then I suppose one must question your honesty in what you write.

Dave then says that council is not just building a MURF but a town we **will** be proud to live in??? Speaking for myself and all other Orillians who are already proud of our town we collectively feel sorry for you that you don't take pride in your city. If pride in Orillia can only be when a MURF is built on one of the most contaminated sites in the world without consideration to the well being of our children then we are a sad bunch. Luckily we have good people who don't agree with your twisted view and are willing to fight in order to protect all.

Dave then claims "We've got problems with the MURF. Polluted land is no small issue. We knew that going in to the project. Nothing has really changed." What did you know Dave??? Did you know how bad the site was contaminated and kept quiet so you could be proud of Orillia??? Did you know about the buried drums and said nothing??? Did you know about the "Order" on the 17 acres yet said nothing to try and save the healthy wetland??? As for stating that nothing has changed again you are ill informed or choose to lie. Why, everything has changed. We now have the authorities (MOE) forcing the city and their experts to do what you should have demanded in the first place before you endorsed the site with so much "**energy**". We have **40,000** tons of **Hazardous** soil on the shores of **Lake Simcoe** and **Hazardous** contaminants are being squeezed off site endangering others property and possibly our **aquifer**. We have the expenditure of **\$8,000,000** for absolutely **nothing** in return. So to say nothing has changed is a doozy.

I wonder when you spoke to Dr. Ford Dave??? When did he tell you as a blanket statement the "West St. site can be re-developed for the MURF"??? I do not for a minute believe that Dr. Ford told you that. He certainly has never made such a statement publicly or privately at least to me without saying that there must be a clean up. But, first the site must be tested properly so we know what we are dealing with. Again Dave you are either repeating a lie or you are making up a lie. In fact Dr. Ford stated that he knows of no reputable engineers who would consider building on a plume of vinyl chloride knowingly. He also stated that he has been unable to find any project anywhere in the world where a site containing vinyl chloride had been developed on purpose without clean up first. You and councillor Gardy seem to be trying to prove that old adage "if you speak a lie enough times it becomes the truth". Sorry to disappoint you Dave but not in Orillia.

As for public input and choice the West St. site was not chosen by us or the site selection committee. It was pre-ordained by a handful of people back as far as the 90's. Evidence of preparatory work goes way back. There was no effort to provide alternative sites to the selection committee that was big enough to hold the entire grand plan. Even today council will not reveal all the other sites that were considered and passed up in favor of West St. nor the deliberation that took place. Why?? Why not make them public so that we could actually compare the committees choices??? Will never happen according to Ralph Cipolla.

Now I come to the form you signed your letter in. You signed as Dr. David Town. Dave you are **Not a Dr.** You are a **Chiropractor**. Sure you guys over the years have referred to yourselves as Dr. but your honest title is David Towns DC. I venture to say that **99%** of the people when seeing Dr. immediately think of an MD and you know it. So why mislead???. Do you not have enough pride in your chosen profession to identify it accurately??? Please identify yourself properly and stop misleading the public. For those interested here are some links for information on Dr. and Chiropractor.

<http://dictionary.reference.com/search?q=doctor>

<http://www.reference.com/browse/wiki/Chiropractic>

jim tolnai
Proud Orillian

Sept. 19,2005

Mnjikaning vs Ramara??

As most know Bill Duffy mayor of Ramara has been floating some zingers as of late. His idea to put up toll roads and charge casino patrons was widely criticized. His idea to close the casino and move it into Ramara was another bold statement that raised eyebrows. As a resident of Ramara I know that neither idea has a chance in hell of happening and is silly. But as a Taxpayer I appreciate that Bill has the guts to come out with some zingers in hopes of drawing attention to Ramara's plight. Let's face it the casino is an island surrounded by Ramara. As

10 to 11 thousand people pass through our community daily some are bound to require Ramara services and in fact do. Now I know that some will say Ramara benefits because people are employed by the casino. But so are people from Barrie, Innisfil, Alliston, Collingwood, Midland etc. So what?? That doesn't change the fact of Ramara Taxpayers picking up the tab for Ramas' and the provinces prosperity. Notice I am not saying Ontario native bands are prospering because they are not. They have been thrown a measly meatless bone to gnaw on and are expected to be satisfied while a handful of Mnjikaning members virtually become millionaires. Funny how until this prosperity came to Rama we always heard how we should share our prosperity with all native bands including Rama. But Oh! how it changes when Rama's prosperity is asked to be shared by their own people???

I fully agree that natives in this country have been and are being treated terribly. It is high time that they were given the same opportunities as anyone else. My heart goes out to natives anywhere who live in substandard housing, drinking putrid water and living hand to mouth. I also realize that the extra money that Mnjikaning is being asked to give up will not change their plight. But I do realize that as long as well off natives refuse to share their excess wealth with those less fortunate, people (whites) will use it as an excuse to not deal with their plight. I have had many people say "why should we help the natives while Mnjikaning refuses to share"? There is now a new class of natives in Ontario. The haves and the havenots. Mnjikaning and Ontario Bands, "quit fighting among yourself's". Show that you are one nation as you want to be called and not a whole bunch of communities trying to gather all the wealth for yourself's and be damned with the rest. The white??? community has been accused and rightly so by natives of this greedy type of behavior. Now Mnjikaning is doing exactly the same. White men, natives, just how different are they once wealth comes into the equation??? Greed is a universal behavior and regardless of race, colour, religion or creed all peoples are susceptible once they have the wealth. It's pretty easy to say share until it is you who has to do it.

As far as Ramara and our Mayor Bill Duffy are concerned I am sure we all wish nothing but the best for Mnjikaning and all Native Bands. But is it fair for us to spend a million or more dollars every year to support the Ontario Government and Mnjikaning citizens to enrich themselves at our expense? I think not. It is obvious that Bill Duffy is stretching it with his ideas but I don't for a minute believe he was ever serious. What he is serious about is bringing Ramaras' financial worry's to everyone's attention. Had the Casino closing in 2011 story not been floated as an idle threat Ramaras' prosperity may have been insured. You see after announcing the creation of the Water Resort which would have added an additional \$300 million dollars of assessment to our tax rolls I am sure Bill and council were ecstatic. But it seems that the development has been held up because of the uncertainty and infighting between Mnjikaning, Ontario and all other Bands. So either pay Ramaras' expenses related to making casino profits or help us achieve success for ourselves and remove the doubts on Casino Ramas' longevity and help us develop our own prosperity.

jim tolnai

Sept. 18, 2005

Critics or Critics What's the Difference????

Here I sit at my computer trying very hard to not write this story. You see I have been biting my tongue since way back in June but this past Thursday was the last straw and I must **Speak Out**. You see I have sat speechless since Doug Lewis' first column which ran in the June 02 Packet by choice. Doug has done a number of columns which have shown **hypocrisy** and should be challenged.

In his first column "**Why are rules different for interest groups**" Doug takes exception to interest groups who don't conform to his ideas and groups he supports. He asks the question "What accountability does the "interest group" have? What credibility should an interest group be given?" He went on to say sarcastically "After all they are coalitions of interested citizens and by their very name represent thousands of interested citizens"."Those of us who respect accountability must take the interest group for what it is, a small group of people, said to be interested in an issue rather than seeing their name in print, with no desire to be accountable and governed by rules and procedure".

Wow! this from a guy who went before council complaining that a developer should be stopped from proceeding and made to change his plans because he (Doug) and others (unidentified with no structure or accountability) in his small group or "coalition" (neighbors) might end up having strange cars driving down their street. The inconvenience of people using the street they live on should not be encouraged. Not that he or his group are against progress and development but not in his neighborhood?? Let others suffer the angst of traffic and strangers passing by their house EH!!!.

He then follows up with his article in the Sept. 15 Packet "**Here's the formula for driving The Gauntlet**". It seems Doug has formed a small group (coalition) and has become their unaccountable spokesman??? Now it looks like this small group doesn't have a structure nor a list of members so I am unsure of just how credible the group is, but let's examine their concerns and credibility. It seems the group or Doug have renamed highway 12 as the "Gauntlet". Not sure under what authority except that they are purporting to be doing public good???? Doug does say he is designating "the interested parties as those from Orillia and the surrounding area who use the Gauntlet all the time as "taxpayers" while out of town or OT motorists are everyone else. This notwithstanding the fact that highways 12 and 11 are provincial roads and paid for by OT's as well as locals not to mention the profits they generate for local Taxpayer businesses including lawyers. Add to this the fact of Doug living OT in Oro Medonte and all others in his group (coalition) coming to town, who are not city Taxpayers only making their living from town and are OT's who are actually causing the traffic backup I wonder how credible their concerns really are??? I also wonder how many of Doug's OT clients use the Gauntlet to make their way down to his office??? Is it OK! for them to use this road and inconvenience the Taxpayer or is it just non clients that are exempted from use??? So Doug if you can speak nonsense and

claim to be a group or coalition then why would you make such disparaging remarks about others? One thing I have noticed Doug, the concerns of say the Citizens Coalition are a health and safety issue and they are working to protect the entire community including the surrounding area. Your group on the other hand is all about yourselves. You and your coalitions want to protect **your** street from the unwashed masses as well as having a clear and uncluttered run into town. Seems your time is worth more than everyone else's doesn't it???

The other article where you seem to be speaking for a group (coalition) is "The Duffy Formula: may also be solution for MURF". You criticize Bill Duffy Ramara Mayor for his suggestion that maybe Casino Rama should be moved from Mnjikaning to Ramara in order to stop the bickering among the bands and for Ramara to share in the wealth instead of just the costs. Now you don't identify the group nor do you claim to have a structure but you seem to side with Sharon Henry and the Rama Band which by size are a very small group compared to all other bands in Ontario and Taxpayers of the area. Doug you don't seem to be concerned with Ramara Taxpayers who have to put up with OT's everyday of the year in cars and belching buses? You don't care that many taxpayers of Ramara have been injured by OT initiated accidents? You don't care that many Ramara taxpayers are woken up by police and ambulance sirens at all hours because of these accidents and medical problems generated at or by the casino? You don't seem concerned that the Ramara fire department is called out almost daily to deal with Casino Rama patrons. You see once these patrons leave the reserve it is Ramara who is responsible for them. But do you care??? Of course not, as long as you can get into town in 5 minutes without hitting any red lights and no one, other than your elite group drives on your street then you and your "group" will be happy. Of course you are not against growth and progress as long as it affects others and not you??? Seems to me everything your groups protest are for selfish and personal reasons. Bill Duffy is frustrated but does represent the Taxpayers of Ramara who are suffering a far worse "Gauntlet" to enrich a small group. Bill Duffy and most other groups and certainly the **Citizens Coalition** are looking after the community as a whole as well as their personal interest in a healthy and safe environment. I will put the **credibility** of the **Citizen Coalition** members up against yours and your self interest groups anytime.

jim tolnai

Sept. 17, 2005

Will West St. Site Ever Be Built On????

We are now coming to the end of the road for the West St. site. You may recall a few weeks ago I predicted that the West St. site could not and will not be built on for many years. I have based my prediction on good solid grounds and regardless of what Mayor Pinocchio or any of the Puppets say I will stick with my prediction. You see once these guys started talking about moving the building to another location on the property that was the last nail in its coffin. Even these guys aren't stupid enough to believe that they would be lucky enough to find a 3 acre spot anywhere clean enough to build on are they????

Our evidence has shown that the whole 35 acres is nothing more than a

cesspool of dangerous chemicals and metals. Remember the story related to us by Tom Egan in regards to **Cribs**. Well one **Crib** was located in the area where their footprint is now. The other **Crib** Tom told us about is located on the south east side. For those who remember the old building there used to be a motor vehicle repair shop and the press department along that side. The crib was located just south of the building. This is one of the locations **Boss Hogg** has floated. There has been virtually no environmental investigation in this area to date. If they drill and properly test another plume will be found disqualifying this area.

The western **17 acres** is under a MOE order and even if it was clean can not be built on until either **2011** or **2019** whichever you want to accept. But it doesn't matter as there has been almost no testing done there either. Our information is that buried barrels of paint and degreasers have not been found but indeed are still there. The MOE has stated that the geophysical study done was unacceptable and has ordered that ground penetrating radar be used (**another example of inadequate testing**). Many of these barrels will have ruptured and the chemicals have sunk contaminating the ground water. Again the truth is even if the Minister lifted the order which we have been advised would not likely happen they will find another plume and lots of asbestos.

The only area left is the north western part of the front half. Here too there is not enough clean area as we have been told that a company that treated lumber and used toxic chemicals in the process more than likely did a number on the ground. So you see unless these people are dead set on wasting hundreds of thousands more to drill and test it just won't happen. Even if they were to get **really, really lucky** and came up with enough clean land they would still have to spend another seven to eight million dollars to dig and surcharge the soil and be surrounded by hazardous land and ground water (sort of an island). Another 40,000 tons of contaminated dirt would have to be sent to the dump. Then of course the off site leaching still has to be dealt with. It's an impossible and far fetched dream that will just not happen. This site is dead as far as a MURF. The sooner they admit it the faster we can build the needed facilities.

Positive Options

I gave options for locating the facilities last week. Double Arena on the Oval, Single arena and swimming pools at Westridge and outdoor facilities on the 52 acres around the settling pond between Walmart and the Industrial lands. If that is not acceptable and they are hung up on one huge facility then what about the land behind Progress Industrial Park. There is a huge field probably 60 or 70 acres owned by the Province. It is an ideal location as Georgian College and OPP headquarters are just down the street. As well if Lake Head University comes to Orillia it will be almost across the road. This land has to be surplus to the province as they are shutting down the HRC anyway and not likely will they ever build on it. The property also has Twin Lakes High School across the road and has fantastic transportation arteries (highway 11, highway 12 bypass and Memorial Ave) and can be serviced inexpensively. Plus the benefit of having an Industrial area as neighbors instead of residential would cut down on noise and

traffic complaints. This location is close to the Southward, located in the Westward and by coming along Harvey Settlement Rd. Westridge is only a short drive and the Northward has fast access via highway 11 while bus service already exists. It is close to the trail which runs behind Mariposa Inn (formerly Kewadin) and there are three hotels within walking distance and of course the land is clean and stable to build on. Good access to downtown via Memorial and Colborne and just a few blocks from the hospital. Fast food outlets a plenty and more. An added bonus is that **Casino Rama** traffic will pass by showing off Orillia's progress. Don't forget, about 70% of casino patrons pass right by this property. I am sure a deal could be made with the province and probably quickly. So Mayor and council stop beating a dead horse the race is over. Start working for the benefit of taxpayers, quit wasting money for a change and give people the facilities they need and want while making it safe and accessible for all. The ball is in your court.

jim tolnai

Sept. 16, 2005

What Happens Now????

September 14th's story was about non testing of the contents in barrels that were dug up on the MURF site (**by the way they will find more barrels if only they look**). We have proven through City Management's and S&P's own documents that if something is **horrendously bad** then don't test it. Test here and there but don't test the **hazardous** material itself. Council, mayor and city management have the same philosophy on information. When information is made public they have in the past as yesterday started the "Pass the Buck Game". This is where the person who has the information will start claiming that we need to go through others or through "Freedom of Information" in order to stall for time and maybe discourage the person from pursuing the matter. That is exactly what has happened with information on the contents of the untested barrels. Here are the follow up questions from Colleen Cooney.

Lori,

I have a few more questions on the two full barrels found at the MURF site. Technical Memorandum #1 indicates the drums containing hydrocarbon liquids (inferred to be diesel fuel and/or waste oil) were "hailed" away by a licensed hauler for off-site disposal. Under the Hazardous Transportation Act., a report must be completed by the sender and hauling company when transporting any type of chemical materials & liquids, and listing what they are hauling to an off-site disposal. It should follow that the recipient of the material must sign for it under the Act. Could you answer the following:

- (a) Who arranged for hauling away to the off-site location - the City of Orillia or Shaheen & Peaker?***
- (b) What was the name of the haulage company?***
- (c) Was documentation completed listing the material(s) shipped?***
- (d) Could you please provide me with a copy of the document(s) completed by the shipper, the hauling company, and the recipient of the materials?***
- (e) Where was the off-site location to which this shipment was hauled?***

(e) Were there any specific fees involved? If it was included in the invoices that S&P have already submitted and had approved for payment by the city, which invoice covered the charges? Or will this be charged under a new invoice from S&P?

(f) At the May 25th PLC meeting, Cynthia Robins said "30 barrels were found in the foundry fill area, and a couple of barrels containing liquid were decommissioned. She said the liquid was disposed of, but it was also sent for tests which had not yet come back." There was no mention of "soil" sample testing at any time. Could you provide me with the laboratory results of the "liquid" testing to which Ms. Robins referred on May 25th?

(g) What laboratory was the "liquid" sent to for testing at the time?

Lori, I would appreciate replies from you and/or Shaheen & Peaker to the above.

Thank you.

Colleen

These are fairly simple questions. If you shipped the barrels then there must be paperwork? There must be a haulage company and there must be a place they hauled the material to? They also under legislation must identify the contents of the drums. Seeing that they did not test the contents according to Cynthia Robins how were they able to say definitively what was in them? You see the reason for identifying materials being shipped is a health and safety issue. If the contents were accidentally spilled how could emergency workers deal with it safely. I think everyone agrees that to mis-identify a product on purpose should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Here is what Lori Koughan said on Wednesday.

2. Technical Memorandum #1 indicates that the drums contained hydrocarbon liquid (inferred to be diesel fuel and/or waste oil). **The product was removed and sent off for off-site disposal by a licensed hauler.** I understand that the soil directly beneath the drums was sampled as the product was leaking out. I will ask Shaheen & Peaker to confirm with you the results of these soil samples.

Here is what Cynthia Robins from S&P said on Wednesday.

Lori:

To further clarify your response to Colleen Cooney's question 2, in Technical Memorandum TM1, the analysis of soil sample TP2 SS1 was conducted because this sample location was right beside the drum of liquid in Test Pit 2 and we considered the relative concentrations of the hydrocarbon parameters to be representative of the liquid that was in the drum. As shown in Table 1 of TM1, the hydrocarbons were mostly from the F1 and F2 ranges (gasoline, possibly some diesel). PCBs were not detected in the sample.

Regards,

Cynthia

Here is what Cynthia Robins said at the May 25 PLC meeting.

"the liquid was disposed of, but it was also sent for tests which had not yet come back."

Now following good old logic how is it possible to claim that the contents were indeed sampled and sent away for testing?? Yet the report given to PLC members in writing says the contents were not tested??? But more important is

the question "How were they able to ship and dispose of product that had not been identified as Cynthia said on May 25 the liquid was disposed of, but it was also sent for tests which had not yet come back. Now I would say that is putting the cart before the horse wouldn't you???? Would a trained professional who claims they have to abide by "Professional Ethics" dispose of unknown chemicals endangering anyone who might come into contact with it?? PCB's are disposed of differently than Bullsh**t isn't it???? Doesn't seem so to these people???

So here is the rub. Because they have again been caught lying, lying and lying then the Pass the Buck Game starts. Here is Lori's response to the **follow up** question.

----- Original Message -----

From: [Lori Koughan](#)

To: ['Colleen Cooney'](#)

Cc: [Ray Merkley](#)

Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2005 4:11 PM

Subject: RE: MURF

Colleen:

In order to keep consistency in the risk assessment public consultation documentation process, I am going to forward your questions on to Ray Merkley for response. This way, your questions and the City's response will be incorporated into the record that will be submitted with the risk assessment

Thank you,

Lori

Ray Merkley's role to the PLC is minute taker. This job requires that he takes minutes accurately???? post all questions and answers that Don Richardson supplies. He was and is not a go between. Don Richardson who has been hired at \$5,000 per meeting is the Chair. He is responsible for this. Had Lori said she would first report the answers to Don there may have been some weak reasoning but to use Ray is not only wrong but some what stupid. So just as in the past these people try to cover up a trail which is a mile wide instead of being honest. How can we or the MOE trust anything that these people say or write??? Just look at the orders issued against the city by the MOE. Look at the criticism of the Risk Assessment Pre Submission by the MOE. **Inadequate, Inadequate, Inadequate**. In a court of law this kind of behavior is called "**Perjury**". We need the Minister of the Environment to order an immediate investigation of City Management, Cynthia Robins and S&P's behavior. How much more questionable behavior do they need to be made aware of??? Lawsuit after lawsuit, misrepresentation both verbal and in writing, questionable testing, their own health and safety plan ignored (not washing trucks, air quality, shipping unknown chemicals etc) contamination site diagrams with no testing which at best is an uneducated guess and now **Not** testing?? Who protects the citizens of Orillia???? Who protects Ontario???? We need to have a "**Forensic Audit**". Here is a new one I had not heard before. "**You can slide further on Bullsh**t than on gravel**". How true until you run out of Bullsh**t or hit a wall. These people will

never run out of **Bullsh**t**, thank goodness for the wall.
jim tolnai

Sept. 15, 2005

WOW!!!!

Yesterdays article sure stirred interest in Orillia's struggle over the MURF site. The Speaking Out website last month had over 100,000 visits. This month we have been averaging just over 4,000 visits daily until yesterday. When I logged on to the site manager this morning I nearly fell out of my chair. From midnight Sept. 13 to 11:59 pm last night Speaking Out had 9622 visits. News of treachery and abuse of power must have gone through this city like a hot knife through butter. The extra 5,000 visits can't be explained any other way. We have had a total of 63077 visits to last night at 11:59 pm. For an irrelevant rag as Mayor Pinocchio calls it we are not doing too shabbily are we. For Laura Lee who says Speaking Out is not a credible publication I would say over 9,000 people yesterday disagreed with you. I dare say more people read Speaking Out yesterday than read the Packet.

It is not surprising that there is such intense interest. Months ago we brought information forward about Shaheen and Peaker being sued by their customers. Many cases have been brought against them and one against Cynthia Robins personally for negligence in doing adequate testing and not fully reporting the extent of contamination on properties these people were purchasing. We at that time warned mayor and council about these lawsuits and offered court documents of a number of them so that they could become educated (offer ignored). Back then the mayor made light of our efforts and suggested lawsuits were normal (the past usually foretells the future). Well we disagreed and now the proof is in the "**Barrel**" so to speak. Our investigation of this MURF-site scam has led us in many directions. We have gone to Toronto where our City Manager was employed by the Toronto Harbour Commission in a senior management position. You may remember the controversy of contaminated soil being dumped into the harbour and much controversy over questionable land deals and financial problems don't you??? As our investigation moves on we will report our findings and peoples connections to each other as well as tight business connections that explains many things that are happening and has happened in Orillia. People may think that what goes on here is by accident or bad fortune, but our investigation shows a very different picture. Much planning and work going back to the 90's was the reason this site was picked. For people who were on the site selection committee that believe they actually made the decision I say there is **NO Santa Clause**. This story is far from over. For those diehard fans of mayor and council all we ask is, just open your eyes a wee bit. For those councillors who have been **doped** we ask you to open your eyes as well. Especially the two former police officers who I am sure have dealt with all sorts of cases in their careers and may have connections themselves to do some investigating or at least ask questions in public and demand public answers. Remember if it looks like a duck, quacks like a duck and waddles like a duck

there is bound to be duck dodo. Watch where you step or you just might slip and land on your ass. We need a **Forensic Audit**. Remember Doug Little?????
jim tolnai

Sept. 14, 2005

And the Farmer Took Another Load Away

Last year we informed mayor, council and their experts?? that there were drums of chemicals buried on the Molson property. Naturally all claimed not to believe it and proceeded without any investigation to dig, dump and fill with no regard to environmental concerns. As time went on the cities experts finally decided that these phantom barrels had to be looked for as we kept on insisting of their existence. We suspect the MOE told them they had to make an effort and the hunt was on. We were not surprised when barrels were dug up. At the time of the find the Packet reported that 50 barrels were unearthed and that two of them contained hydro carbon like products. Then back in May the experts claimed there were only 30 barrels dug up. We then asked the question "Where did the other 20 barrels get to?" There was no answer forth coming only silence. During the August PLC meeting the question of what was in the two full barrels elicited the answer "hydro carbon like material". The question was asked no less than twice and each time the same answer. Now one has to ask the question "why would the cities experts not just identify the contents by name?? Surely they tested the barrels contents didn't they??

Colleen Cooney who did not receive the answer to her question decided to ask Lori Koughan the cities project manager where the 20 barrels got to and what chemical was in the barrels. Here is her correspondence with Koughan.

-----Original Message-----

From: Colleen Cooney [mailto:colleenc@amtelecom.net]

Sent: Sunday, September 11, 2005 10:14 AM

To: Lori Koughan

Subject: MURF - test results

Hi Lori,

1. I understand that there has been recent testing at the MURF site as well as at neighbouring properties - across West St. and Queen St.

Please send me the results.

2. At the second PLC meeting David S., hydrogeologist for S&P, mentioned that two barrels found at the MURF site contained "hydrocarbon-like" substances.

What exactly were the chemicals in the barrels?

3. Originally it was reported in the Packet and Times that 50 (51?) barrels were found at the MURF site. Recent figures mention 30 barrels.

Where did the other 20 barrels go? Or which is the correct figure?

Thank you for your attention to these questions.

Colleen Cooney

Se-----Original Message-----

From: Lori Koughan [mailto:lkoughan@city.orillia.on.ca]

Sent: Monday, September 12, 2005 3:50 PM

To: 'Colleen Cooney'

Cc: Cynthia Robins (E-mail)

Subject: RE: MURF - test results

Below is the answer/non answer to Colleen's questions. In Non Answer 2 note that Lori claims that the drums contained "hydrocarbon liquid(inferred to be diesel and/or waste oil) So which is it??? If these people tested the drums contents then why can't they definitively identify them. She then goes on to claim only 29 barrels were found?? From 50 to 30 to 29. Not only can these people not identify chemicals they can't even count. Read on as the story gets more interesting. Lori's use of the word "inferred" caught our eye.

Hello Collen:

1. The results of the most recent testing on-site into the bedrock, and off-site on West and Queen have not been received yet.

2. Technical Memorandum #1 indicates that the drums contained hydrocarbon liquid (inferred to be diesel fuel and/or waste oil). The product was removed and sent off for off-site disposal by a licensed hauler. I understand that the soil directly beneath the drums was sampled as the product was leaking out. I will ask Shaheen & Peaker to confirm with you the results of these soil samples.

3. The logs of the test pit investigation indicate there were 29 barrels/pails found in the 23 test pits. These logs are contained in Technical Memorandum 1. I don't know why the Packet reported the 50 barrels - you would have to check with them. No barrels were removed from the murf site - only the product found in the drums containing liquid.

I hope this clarifies your questions.

Lori Koughan

Lori had suggested she would pass Colleen's inquiry on to Cynthia Robins city expert?? for clarification. Her response proves beyond a shadow of doubt that Smith's statement that he has lost faith in S&P is right on the button. Better late than never. Here is her response as forwarded by Lori Koughan.

-----Original Message-----

From: Cynthia Robins [mailto:crobins@shaheenpeaker.ca]

Sent: Monday, September 12, 2005 6:44 PM

To: lkoughan@city.orillia.on.ca

Cc: 'Lewis, Dave'; 'Sawicki, Dave'

Subject: RE: MURF - test results

Lori:

To further clarify your response to Colleen Cooney's question 2, in Technical Memorandum TM1, the analysis of soil sample TP2 SS1 was conducted because this sample location was right beside the drum of liquid in Test Pit 2 and we considered the relative concentrations of the hydrocarbon parameters to be representative of the liquid that was in the drum. As shown in Table 1 of TM1, the hydrocarbons were mostly from the F1 and F2 ranges (gasoline, possibly some diesel). PCBs were not detected in the sample.

Regards,

Cynthia

Cynthia L. Robins, P.Eng., C.Chem

Shaheen & Peaker Limited

20 Meteor Drive

Toronto, ON M9W 1A4

Could we find any more irresponsible experts???? than S&P and Cynthia Robins. In Cynthias response she admits that the contents of the drums were not tested. Read it and weep councillors and tell us how any of you could be part of such a scam and cover up. Note she still does not identify even the soil sample definitively as she uses the word "**possibly**". And the farmer took another load away.

the analysis of soil sample TP2 SS1 was conducted because this sample location was right beside the drum of liquid in Test Pit 2 and we **considered** the **relative** concentrations of the hydrocarbon parameters to be **representative** of the **liquid** that was in the **drum**.

How dare these people not test the drums contents? They claim to be professionals, the mayor claims their professionals, Ian Brown claims their professionals and most of council claims it too. But look at how incompetent their search for toxins have been. Why would you test a **representative** sample which they didn't know was representative but **only considered** it to be when they had the actual chemical in the drums??? There isn't even evidence that what was in the ground came from either drum. Also where are the results of the second drum?? Was the soil tested in the vicinity of the second drum??? They don't say do they???

Councillor Morano and Smith look at the evidence. These people shipped off two drums of chemicals without knowing what was in them. Why??? How could any responsible person, never mind a professional just ignore what was in the barrels. Wouldn't one be curious, seeing that this is such a hot topic in Orillia and all the other toxins they have been forced to find which they claimed didn't exist in the first place???? Councillors your experts are the biggest farce this town has ever seen. They keep billing and keep telling you more testing is necessary yet they don't test chemicals they find by the barrel. How can you trust them???? Why should you trust them after this????? How can you trust your City manager???? Why should you trust the City Manager???? Time to stop being made a **Fool** of councillors or are you a part of this attempt to deceive???? Or are you just really **fools**????

By the way where the hell is the MOE in all this. Where was the MOE when

these drums were found??? How come the MOE did not question why the drums contents were not tested???? Do we have an MOE??? Doesn't seem so does it???? We must assume the worst case scenario on what was in those drums. We believe that they contained PCB's. The effort to cover up their content proves to us along with past performance that the barrels could have only contained very dangerous chemicals. Cynthia in her reply made a point of saying "PCBs were not detected in the sample. " We never suggested that there were PCB's present so why offer this advice?? But look at what she is really saying. The **sample** was dirt from around the barrel and not the content of the barrel so even if the sample had PCB's it would not necessarily mean there was PCB's in the sealed drum now would it?? But the reverse of that means even if the sample had No PCB the drum could contain PCB's??? If you don't test the contents how do you know???? Totally trying to mislead us. Could the barrels have contained anything but PCB's??? I don't think so. We need a Forensic Audit and now an investigation by the MOE on this entire mess along with S&P's conduct. Who knows what this site contains??? If these people don't test the obvious and try to cover up it's existence then what else have we and the MOE not been told????? What harm are we being exposed to right now???? Forty thousand tons of Toxic and Hazardous dirt on the shores of Lake Simcoe pops to mind along with the GL&V fires. Unacceptable....

jim tolnai

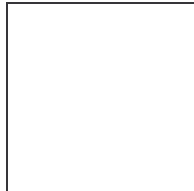
I was just informed that the Packet is conducting a poll on whether you believe the MURF should be relocated to another site. If the above article doesn't convince you that this site stinks and should be abandoned then I suppose nothing will. I do invite all of you to visit <http://www.orilliapacket.com/webapp/sitepages/> and vote. The silent majority must speak up either way. Please vote today.

Sept. 13, 2005

Tonights Council Committee Meeting

I attended tonight's meeting at city hall for really only one reason but was fascinated by councils performance. For some reason unlike past meetings some councillors actually had decent questions and pressed for answers. Mind you there was nothing really controversial but I will share my impression and tell you how councillors came across.

The first item was about the transit service. I sat through this with a great big smile on my face as they discussed using taxis on a limited scale to compliment bus service. You see I wrote in our very first issue of Speaking Out way back in November 2002 about using taxis to make the transit system more accessible



and efficient. Here is the PDF for [Orillia Transit vs Taxis](#). Anyway I almost fell off my seat when I heard talk of using taxis to pickup people in unserviceable areas and paying bus fare. The cab would move people to the

nearest bus stop and issue a transfer so the trip would continue by bus. In this way people in the outlying areas can have at least some service. So I am pleased that after almost three years at least some sense is being shown with public transit. A small move in the right direction that now needs to be implemented.

The next item was a request by the Orillia Terry Fox Run Committee to name a street in memory of Terry. Chosen was the circle down at Couchiching Park. It is to be named The Terry Fox Circle. I whole heartedly agree that it is time one of the greatest Canadians be honoured by the naming. One thing that I found very disturbing was Doug Downey taking issue with saying that there are lots of people in the Orillia hall of fame and that other than giving a talk in the park Terry Fox had no Orillia connection. Councillor Smith said it for me as I saw Terry running on Hiway 11 as well. He said as a local policeman he was involved with Terry's visit and watching him run brought tears to his eyes. Way to go Francis I and all caring Orillians appreciate your sentiment as I too had the same feeling as Terry passed by me. As for Doug Downey if you don't think Terry Fox is a hero and deserves every honour bestowed on him one can only feel sorry for you and disgusted by your words.

The final item I want to comment on is the City Manager Building Relocation Report. Boss Hogg seemed quite subdued tonight and certainly did not elaborate so that the public was in the dark as there were no copies of his report handed out to the audience. One thing for sure some councillors are starting to wake up to what has been happening. Councillor Morano made it quite clear that the three options of moving the building should have a fourth option added. As he said regardless of where you move the building on site it will still be on a Toxic property. He asked that a new site somewhere else be chosen and get on with building the MURF. I agree whole heartedly. Of course Boss Hogg stuck to the line that there need not be a site cleanup as it can be managed. He did admit that off site contamination must be dealt with regardless of the costs. Let me make it simple for Boss Hogg and those councillors like Gardy who have trouble understanding even simple things. Say your bathtub is overflowing. The way Brown tells it you deal with the problem by running and getting a pail and mop and start mopping as fast as you can and squeezing the mop into the pail. But no matter how much you mop up more water is overflowing. You could be there until next week and never mop the floor clean. Why?? Well if you don't shut off the source of the water only thing happening is more water keeps spilling. Same thing on the Molson property. If you don't stop the leaching from the site no matter what you mop up off site more will come. So Mr. Brown and councillor Gardy please let your bathtub overflow and see if you can mop up while the tap is still running. Maybe then you will understand what is happening down on West St.

Councillor Smith agreed with Morano on looking for a new site and stated he and some other councillors had lost faith in Shaheen and Peaker. He demanded a meeting with the MOE so that council would get first hand answers to their questions. Good for you again Francis. It's time you guys took charge of this scam that has been built on lie after lie after lie. Gardy accused you guys of

jumping ship and you took exception to that. I agree with you Francis you are not jumping ship at all. You have finally realized that Boss Hogg and Mayor Pinocchio along with guys like Gardy, Downey, Lauer and Garland have been steering the boat towards certain disaster on the rocks. You now realize that the ship must be steered clear even though there is \$8,000,000 dollars damage to it. You now know that if you hit the rocks damage will be in the tens of millions on top of the tens of millions it will cost to turn off the tap and mop up. Better late than never guys. Finally we have some councillors taking responsibility for the future instead of trying to cover up the past?????

Just one more comment on what Gardy said. We have for a long time suspected that mayor and council must have been meeting and discussing the MURF issue outside of the public eye. Our evidence is the lack of questions before unanimously voting to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars. We could never figure out why these nine people never questioned any of Ian Brown's reports and yet rubberstamp them regardless. Well Gardy has given us another piece of the puzzle when he says "Now is not the time to jump ship. We agreed to wait until the Risk Assessment was done" in response to Francis Smith. I can not recall any open forum council meeting where there was discussion of this issue. So when was this backroom deal made among our elected representatives??? Maybe Wayne could tell us when it was discussed in open council???? I remind Mayor Pinocchio that it is illegal to hold council meetings outside of council chambers unless it is to do with personnel or sensitive financial matters. Making a deal of solidarity and voting without question against the best interest of Orillia and to waste taxpayers money does not qualify as either. Again we must have a **Forensic Audit** and a **Review of The City Manager**.

jim tolnai

Sept. 12, 2005

Energy and Taxation

There is much anger against government over the cost of energy. True to form all governments take advantage of opportunities to rake in more cash. People have asked that the federal government reduce taxes on gasoline to give people a break. In Ontario we do not produce much oil and must import most of our needs, but we do have oil wells. For those who think the governments are to blame for high gas prices, taxes are only a part of the problem.

We are told that we have a free market system in Canada and that market forces are the cause of our energy pricing. Sorry but I really can not believe that. Canada is totally energy self dependent and we export as much as we consume. As a society we own the resources collectively but only a select few profit from this abundance. Just think of oil companies operating oil wells drilled when a barrel of oil sold for \$5 and were making a profit on it after paying government royalties? Today the same wells are selling a barrel for \$65. Who gets this extra profit??? If there is to be a windfall shouldn't we (society) be getting the lions share of it??? Sure royalties increase to government but as a total of the \$60 increase it is a pittance. Now I don't begrudge oil companies making a profit and

even a bit of a windfall but what is happening today is a disgrace. A good system to implement in this country is to set the bar for what oil companies can keep from the world price of a barrel of oil. Drilling offshore is far more expensive than in Alberta so naturally they should get a higher price. But when the rigs off Newfoundland were put into service oil was at \$15 per barrel and they could make a profit. Now at \$65 they are making a killing. Sure they say we need this money to finance new wells but that is a load. Each well they put into production pays for it's own exploration and for the dry wells hit looking for it. Excess profit goes into a few pockets while creating hardships not only for personal use but industry as well. Recently I heard a report where BP (British Petroleum) reported earning of 5 Billion dollars for one quarter. That is only 3 months. Were the people running BP good business people or did they cash in on our collective pain??? I would suggest that the latter is the case.

I could go along with these huge profits if these companies spent the bulk of it on alternative green energy research. Unfortunately they do not. Board bonuses, management bonuses, padded expense accounts are the norm in times of plenty not improving efficiencies. No need to improve efficiencies from their perspective as they are making lots of money. All these wells are producing up to an extra \$60 why bother? Our governments must take immediate action. We live in a vast country where we have no option to long distance travel for ourselves and our goods. Our economy depends on lower energy costs per mile than say in Great Britan. You can drive from the south end of Great Britan to the north end and travel less than a thousand miles. It is 1200 miles to Thunderbay and you haven't even left Ontario. So if we are going to pay world prices for our own oil then government should collect the windfall and use it for our benefit by lowering other taxes. And yes give the oil companies some of it but certainly not all.

Canada is the world's ninth largest crude oil producer and they continue to climb up the list with production in oil sands increasing regularly. In 2000, Canada surpassed Saudi Arabia as the US' most significant oil supplier. Unbeknownst to many, the size of their oil reserves is second only to Saudi Arabia.

jim tolnai

Sept. 11, 2005

Farmer Brown Spreads it Thick

Did anyone out there see Saturday's Packet? There was a picture of city manager Ian (Boss Hogg) Brown with the headline "City council to consider MURF move"?? Seems Farmer Brown will bring his spreader filled to the brim Monday night to council and attempt to unload it's contents around the council chamber. Reading the article it's not hard to see just how thick the place will be covered. Of course it's not the first time Brown has spread this stuff is it???? Remember the famous words "the site is like a pin cushion and we don't need anymore testing"?? Or what about the really stinky load he spread claiming there was a confidentiality agreement with Molson's on the environmental report???

Why he even claimed Molson would sue the city if he dared release it??? He never did produce the agreement and finally admitted it did not exist. Withholding this report and all the rest of what he and council spread has cost taxpayers over \$8,000,000. What have we got for this \$8 million? Well! we have 40,000 tons of hazardous soil on the shores of Lake Simcoe, 250,000 tons of soil that is being contaminated as I write this on the MURF site which is forcing hazardous chemicals off site to wreak havoc on other property owners and about \$1 million in **Experts**???? fees with no end in site not to mention over \$100,000 in unnecessary legal fees. Not much to show for \$8,100,000 is it????

In reading the article, if Farmer Brown gave this story to Colin McKim and it is accurate then I must take exception and try to clean up what is being spread.

"Moving the building may help allay public concerns about high concentrations of vinyl chloride discovered directly below the proposed building footprint, city manager Ian Brown comments in a report to council."

Wait a minute everyone. How is moving the building going to suddenly make the site safe??? First of all there has been no proper testing of the areas proposed that we have witnessed. The gist I get from the article is that these people instead of doing proper testing first and then consider moving the building, are making the same mistake??? as before. You see the placement of the building was originally chosen for esthetic reasons with no consideration of environmental consequences nor testing. Now that came right from Cynthia Robins of S&P. So how can they consider any area until we know if it can be put there by properly testing and using an accredited lab as well?? They still put the cart before the horse.

The next load we need to clean up.

"Although consulting engineers are confident this volatile and toxic gas can be safely dealt with by a ventilation and filtration system, some project critics say it would make more sense to simply relocate the building."

First we have never criticized the building of a MURF and Farmer Brown "project critics" is just not true.. In fact it is just another load of dodo. We have consistently been asking consulting engineers to provide one example of a ventilation and filtration system anywhere in the world that was designed and implemented for new construction and a building this size. To this day, and the question has been asked many times, we have received nothing but **gibberish**. They have been unable to give us one example of anyone, anywhere in the world who has been stupid enough to consider such a system but they keep talking about methane ventilation systems instead. Methane and vinyl chloride gas are worlds apart on the Toxicity scale. Now get this. These guys are now willing to spend according to the article 10's of thousands of dollars more for engineering plans and then another \$7,000,000 dollars to dig another hole, take 40,000 more tons of hazardous dirt to the shores of Lake Simcoe, fill the new hole with 250,000 tons of dirt and wait another year before construction and of course squeeze even more toxins off site and all this to appease **"some project critics"**?? Aren't we special??? Boy! Farmer Brown that is just about the biggest load of dodo you have ever tried to spread on us isn't it????

"Even though the consultants remain of the opinion that there is no scientific/engineering rationale requiring such a move, they acknowledge that such a relocation, together with some possible on-site treatment of the 'hot spot,' might alleviate any concerns of the general public," writes Brown in a report to council.

I strongly suggest councillors bring their latex gloves before handling this report and certainly don't suck your thumbs as you will not like the taste from this report. How can anyone believe anything this guy says?? The nerve of him reporting "together with some possible on-site treatment of the 'hot spot,' might alleviate any concerns of the general public,". Remember how he and council have treated the "general publics" concerns?? The **plume** has left the site and you now can not just do "**possible on-site treatment**". No more opportunity to just cover up either? The leaching has to be stopped. As for a "**hot spot**" that certainly is another load all by it's self. It is a large pond not a spot. In order to clean up this pond 10's of millions \$\$\$ will have to be spent and this guy is giving a report on moving the building to another location on the site instead of a clean up plan?? Wow!! is it just me or do you see the Bullsh**t ??? If you don't pump and treat what is to stop the plume from leaching under the building due to construction activity wherever you move it on the site?? And of course, it will still continue to leach off site as it is doing right now? It is still and will remain a **Toxic Site** until some one takes responsibility and cleans it up (truth is you people screwed up)?? Then you will still have to engineer a ventilation system that doesn't exist until it is invented. So how far have we come to at this point?? I call that full circle to nowhere except to waste another \$8,000,000 don't you??? So give your report Farmer Brown, might as well waste more time and money as you and council know Orillia taxpayers have deep pockets and can afford it. All they have to do is give themselves a 40% raise???? Others have done it so why can't they right??? You have claimed the silent majority supports what you are doing so another \$8,000,000 for them won't be a problem will it??? Boy! we need a **Forensic Audit**, we need a **Management Change** at city hall and not necessarily in that order????

jim tolnai

Sept. 10, 2005

The American Dream???

The past week has seen horrendous tragedy in the American deep south. Concerned thoughtful people had predicted this tragedy but local, state and federal officials and governments ignored them. Although no particular official or politician can be blamed for the storm itself these people can be blamed for allowing the destruction of natural storm buffers and for permitting the paving and building on clearly unsuitable land. There was a great letter in the Packet on Thursday from Alice Ansell. Her description of how these authorities did not do planning for their communities has now come back to haunt them. If you allow building on a flood plain then at some point be prepared to get wet. Alice says as

a retired appraiser and real estate broker she had some clients who wanted to build on flood plains but authorities wouldn't let them. **Of course if you wanted to create a subdivision on a flood plain in Coldwater while Ron Stevens was mayor you could go right ahead with his blessing and damn the torpedo's???** She goes on to say Canada protects her citizens, sometimes even from their own foolishness. But who protects the people from the foolishness of the politicians???? I guess it is people and groups who decide that what politicians and bureaucrats are attempting is so outrageous that they take a stand and fight them.

People who give instead of who always take as most politicians are want to do. People who keep fighting even though they have a fraction of the resources of the very politicians and bureaucrats (always public funds) they are fighting. Yet because of the ineptness of these politicians and bureaucrats the little guy can overcome their plans. Take the Citizens Coalition for example. We are a rag tag group who said enough is enough. We have watched the most inept mayor and councils in the history of Orillia for the last two terms making decisions that can only be described as either stupid or stupider. I guess some one had to draw the line in the sand and it was our turn. Like in New Orleans where warnings of destruction were voiced we spoke of contaminating off site if these people proceeded with disturbing the Molson property. Like in New Orleans we were dismissed and the claim was made they relied on experts who knew more than us. They labeled us trouble makers, denied our citizens rights and went on to push the toxic plume off site. Now they are spending hundreds of thousands to determine how far they have pushed it. Hello? You know the plume is leaking off site. Now start making an effort either to stop or at least slow it down. Obviously they can not chew gum and think at the same time??? You see these geniuses still have not learned anything just like some in New Orleans. Instead of doing the right thing and actually doing, they will try to cover up for years. The simplest way to solve a problem is to get to work on it. But of course if they got to work on it they would have to admit that they screwed up so let's keep up the charade and maybe people will get sick of it and go away???? Don't hold your collective breaths because if you do your embarrassed red faces will only turn a dark blue.

I was having a conversation with a very savvy lady who has been following this soap opera. She tells me at first there was disbelief that mayor and council could be making such bad decisions as we claimed. She supported these guys and wanted to believe in them. But as documents were unearthed along with barrels and lies she became uneasy about her support. Then as lie after lie was exposed the doubt clouds grew darker even though she desperately wanted to believe. The final straw for her was when Dr. Ford a world renowned expert and a concerned citizen of Orillia was referred to by city solicitor Mike Miller as Dr. Crazy. At that point she realized just how desperate the mayor, council and their hired guns were. To top it all off the Citizens Coalition were backed up by not one judge but two who agreed with us after hearing all the evidence. Since then she said her attitude and trust of the system but in particular the people running the system has changed. Never again will she trust blindly. Words alone will not sway her only clear action and transparency. I am sure the victims of the

Gulf will also no longer believe as they have been taught their lesson.

Just like in Orillia we have seen that the Emperor has no clothes so too has the US been shown it is not the Super Power it claims. Sure if you believe a Super Power is one of guns and bombs there is no doubt that the US is on top. Had Bush sent his military in and gunned down the hundreds of thousands the whole operation would have taken no more than two days. But actually saving lives is another kettle of fish. My hope is that like the Orillia lady citizens of the US will realize that they have not been living the American Dream but a Nightmare and have now woken up and will actually become active in their future???? "Never Again" as the Quebecois say.

jim tolnai

Sept. 9, 2005

95 Barrie Road & More...

Last Friday I had a call from Ralph Cipolla in regards to my article on Ottawa Funding. We had a long talk and Ralph suggested that we were both right in our take on funding from SDTC. I disagreed suggesting that there is either funding or not. We went on to talk about other concerns. I informed Ralph that the new monitoring wells were being harvested for samples last Thursday. He offered the fact that samples were also collected from the wells on top of Old Smoky (my pet name for the mountain of dirt). So hopefully we will be given the test results a.s.a.p.

The other subject that came up was 95 Barrie Rd. Ralph was adamant that the severance of the property had not happened nor would it happen unless the contaminated dirt piled on the east half was dealt with. I suggested that as council has passed the severance the developer could demand severance and the city would have to comply or face a lawsuit. Ralph claims that there is an add on to the severance permission that environmental concerns must be met. I suggested not so as it was not discussed at council and asked Ralph to get me a copy of the document which states this. He promised he would but as yet I have not received it. Now my hope is that Ralph is right but I do doubt it. So Ralph if you are reading this then please get me the document as promised so that we can see for ourselves that you and council have finally started to do things right. As I passed by 95 Barrie Rd. yesterday there parked on the lot is a big digger which had not been there the day before. Now either the intention is to start construction or maybe move the contaminated dirt???? We'll see over the next few days. Nobody just parks a 1/4 of a million dollar machine now do they???

So what's happening on the James St. wetland destruction???? Well! it seems Brian Round the DFO officer was to return to Orillia this week but has been sent to BC and can not come until Oct. He has assured us that Mr. Keetch the property owner had agreed to stop filling in the wetland. As far as we can see he is not filling in new wetland area but is certainly still trucking in dirt and filling

on top of fill. Brian has been made aware of this. City officials Andrew Schell and Kathy Sugget have both stated that "**the area that was filled was a great deal larger than what the permit stated**" Bob Bowles who was talking to these two says "The permit was just for a small area but I still can not figure out why the permit was issued for any of the area in the wetland". Bob let me tell you why. As I told Ralph plans for this whole area were made way back in the 90's. The changing of Provincially Significant Wetland to Municipally Significant was no accident and was orchestrated by senior city management and passed by council. In spite of Andrew Schell now claiming that more was filled in than permitted he **Permitted** it and continues to **Permit** it. You see a few weeks ago as we unfolded this drama Doug Peddle spoke with Andrew. At that time his opinion was that it was private property and the owner could do with it as he wished. Now this from the guy whose title is Environmental Officer City of Orillia. Once the Sh**t hit the fan these people are scurrying to cover their ass. They now are claiming they were negligent in doing inspections because admitting that they had an original plan would be worse. They never believed that anyone would notice and once the wetland was filled it would be just accepted. Only problem for them is they got caught again. Don't believe me??? Just look at the map of the James St. properties then take a bit of time and go have a look. What has happened down there is a crime against the environment, Lake Simcoe and the whole region. The people who planned and executed this crime against our environment should and will be held responsible. First you destroy the healthy wetland on the MURF site then you destroy the wetland it flowed into. You dump 40,000 tons of hazardous soil on the shores of Lake Simcoe and put 250,000 tons of dirt onto the footprint in order to squeeze the toxins off site to do even more harm. Had terrorists prepared this plan it would be called evil. What should we call it when it is being done by our own elected representatives and paid city officials?????

This is no mistake as they will claim. Remember the city's Sugget and Schell say that more area was filled in than allowed by the permit. So why are they still allowing fill to be trucked onto the property even as I write this?? The piles just keep getting higher on land that was not supposed to be filled in the first place according to the permit and these two along with council and mayor still turn a blind eye. Isn't putting fill on top of fill that **wasn't** supposed to be there in the first place still **filling**?? Will they stop the madness?????? I doubt it as that would spoil the **Plan**.

jim tolnai

Sept. 8, 2005

Energy Prices

There was an excellent article in yesterdays Packet by Bruce Galway on

electricity costs. Bruce is absolutely right on, energy is nothing more than a money grab. I believe that no matter which party is in power they all act the same once in office. There is absolutely no difference in the end result of higher prices between what Ernie Eves did and what McGuinty is doing to us right now. Both men and parties are controlled by a very small group of business interests that decided to take control of our economy by controlling energy. Now remember whether it is natural gas, oil or electricity these resources are owned by all of us. Companies benefiting from these resources made lots of money in the past but no matter how much they get it is never enough.

Take the theft of Orillia Power from the citizens of Orillia. Yes Orillia Power was stolen from you and I. The PC government passes legislation which forces municipalities to either make their utilities for profit or not for profit. The existing form is not allowed to remain of course. If they choose non profit then there are penalties. If they choose for profit then wheelbarrows of money will come into city coffers to be used for political purposes and council can take credit for the spending. But this money isn't made the old fashioned way by earning it is it. It is loaded on the backs of people regardless of production cost. Look, anyone can make profit if prices are guaranteed and no competition is allowed. So when Orillia Power and council thump their chests on how smart they are that this money was made they are not responsible to show their efficiency in making it. One of the problems with Orillia Power is that instead of answering to the people for financial mismanagement they answer to the most **"incompetent??"** mayor and council in the history of Orillia. Because in effect OPC is now a private corporation, access to financial information is at their discretion. So once a year OPC goes before council and tells them there is a cheque for them. No questions are asked as council rushes off with the cash only to squander the money on projects like the MURF **Site**. Meanwhile we are stuck with paying and paying and paying. We need the next council to order OPC transparency and accountability to the real owners who have been robbed of their birth rite.

You know when the Soviet Empire fell one of the conditions set by the west for normal relations was that confiscated assets be paid for. The new democratic governments of these countries were forced to pay for the theft and rightly so. Then we have our own Provincial and Municipal governments steal our utilities without batting an eye. What makes me angry is that these financial geniuses take credit for the stolen assets as if they earned it. We have a gun to our heads and it is loaded. If we don't pay their exorbitant charge for delivery or artificial prices for the electricity we are cut off. No bargaining, nowhere else to shop, no competition allowed. Just pay and shut up.

I did some research a couple of years ago on cost to produce power from OPC's generation. The cost is about .025 cents per kw. In the past they sold it at controlled prices of .035 cents and managed to make profit in the million dollar range. Today they sell energy at up to .50 cents per kw but never below cost of production and they are only making profits of \$3 million. Now if their costs of operation is met in the past from selling at .01 cent above production cost and still make a profit of \$1 million then how come when they sell power for up to 20 times above cost of production do we not have more profit???? Doug Peddle had

a meeting with John Mattinson about 18 months ago and asked for financial information so that we could see just what is happening inside this privately controlled, confiscated asset of the citizens of Orillia. He agreed to let us have this information but as yet we are still waiting. I guess their busy counting the money they are "**making???**" and don't have time for accountability.

The next council must take an active interest in the financial dealings of OPC and I hope that people like Maurice MacMillan will be invited to sit on the board of directors. In fact Maurice should be made chairman. Maybe then we will have accountability. Like we have said a **Forensic Audit** is needed for all City of Orillia assets.

jim tolnai

Sept. 7, 2005

Bullsht Part Deux**

Here we go again. Another article this time in yesterday's Packet misleading at best out and out lying at worst. It seems that council and city management are bound and determined to have you believe that there is a New Fund from Ottawa for cleaning brownfields. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Ralph and Mayor are basing this on a press release from Sustainable Development Technologies Canada (SDTC). Now I have read this news release and have investigated their web-site and even signed up on their application process. I have said it before and I will say it again "There is no fund available to tap into for Orillia or anyone else to clean their contaminated site". SDTC's mandate is to invest in Companies that are developing **NEW** Technologies that have potential of some day going to market. Now if Mayor and Ralph are developing New Technology to deal with the MURF contamination then they might have a chance to get some funding for developing their product. But our Mayor has already admitted that he and council are **Not Engineers** so I doubt if they would qualify. At the risk of boring you here are excerpts from the Media Release Ralph and Mayor claim says funding is available. In fact it is very specific in what SDTC does.

Clean Water and Soil Technologies Part of New Call for Statements of Interest by Sustainable Development Technology Canada
Ottawa, Ontario, August 16, 2005 – Sustainable Development Technology Canada (SDTC), a Government of Canada initiative that **finances and supports the development and demonstration of clean technologies**, announced that it will commence its eighth call for Statements of Interest (SOIs) on August 24, 2005. The upcoming call for SOIs will include, for the first time, a request for **projects with technologies** that address water and soil quality issues as well as climate change and clean air. The closing date for submissions is October 5, 2005.

Prospective clean water technologies will look to optimize Canada's water infrastructure, update existing diagnostic tools and methods, and address public concern over the safety of drinking water. Soil technologies will aim to prevent, treat or contain the contamination of soil, improve water retention, crop yield and vegetation cover, and to support brownfield redevelopment to enhance land value and use.

In this SOI call, **SDTC encourages technology solutions that integrate air, soil and water co-benefits**, and offer front-end approaches that help prevent environmental damage and achieve greater sustainability for all of Canada's economic sectors.

Solutions that mitigate environmental impacts such as soil remediation, or that remove pollution and generate value such as brownfield redevelopment, will also be considered.

"With approximately 20 per cent of the world's fresh water and 30,000 brownfield sites, Canada has a critical role to play in the investment and innovation of clean water and soil technologies," said Vicky J. Sharpe, President and CEO of SDTC. "Over the past four years, SDTC has made its mark in supporting clean air and climate change projects. This larger role endorses sustainable development as a comprehensive solution that will help ensure the competitiveness of Canadian industry, and the protection of our natural capital – air, land, and water."

SDTC's mandate is as clear to see as Mayor Pinocchio's nose. They do not have any money to give away for remediation nor are they allowed to. The Green Municipal Fund which Ralph has not spoke of in either the Orillia Today article nor in yesterdays Packet could be tapped into but not as a grant. Here is the info.

By supporting clean technologies in the development and demonstration stages - traditionally the weakest link in Canada's innovation chain - SDTC de-risks technologies and helps to prepare them for commercialization as well as potential adoption in complementary and later-stage programs, such as the Green Municipal Fund (GMF), an initiative established by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities

(www.fcm.ca). The Green Municipal Fund offers financial services and builds capacity for Canadian municipalities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve the quality of air, water and soil, improving quality of life through sustainable community development. In October 2005, the **GMF** will issue a Request For Proposals for brownfield remediation financing. **Successful SDTC-funded technologies will play a part** in the New Deal for Cities and Communities, the Government of Canada's strategy for helping to create economically prosperous and environmentally sustainable communities across the country.

Here is the link to GMC. Read it and weep

<http://www.fcm.ca/pcp/GMEFcrit-e.html>.

The Green Municipal Enabling Fund (GMEF) is a five-year, \$25 million fund that provides grants to support feasibility studies.

Please go to the above link and see why Ralph and the Mayor didn't want to talk about the fund that is actually available which amounts to the sum of ZERO for Orillia. Why do these people insist on keeping the Bullsh**t going.??? Why does the Packet help them???? Other than the admission that the West St. site must be cleaned (which is the big story) Ralph and Mayor have no news. So let's get on with the clean up and stop the Bullsh**t Merry Go Round. We should still hunt down funds but let's be realistic and not waste time and money for nothing. Everyday that goes by sees more contaminants leaving the site.

As for the Packet and it's editors and reporters what the hell is wrong with you. Why are you taking part in this nonsense?? Don't you investigate your stories??? In your article you identify John Godfrey as Ontario Infrastructure Minister. He is Federal. If you can't get that simple fact right then how much faith can your readers have in anything else you write????

jim tolnai

Sept. 6,2005

Past Reflects Future

History is a great barometer of what the future will bring. Politicians never want to talk about the past nor do they like it when the past is brought up to them. Like Mayor Pinocchio who says you have to have his permission to bring up his past negligent decisions. Of course it's not only the mayor who resents this is it? During the last election I ran in Ward 1 for council. During the campaign I attempted to bring Smith and Gardy's record out into the open. Both guys being true blue politicians kept saying "we don't want to talk about the past but about the future". **Well! welcome to the future.** You see as any student of history will tell you the past gives you a very accurate picture on the future. What I was very surprised at was voters themselves were not really interested in the past either. I must be naive because I couldn't understand why, how these people acted on past councils didn't seem to matter?? My hope is that in the next election people will have learned that past performance does matter.

During the mayors first election campaign he accepted illegal contributions. When caught he wrote a cheque to the city and claimed not to be guilty. Councillors like Smith and Gardy supported the mayor. Why they even criticized those who dared to ask for an audit. Their behavior then, spoke volumes about their behavior in the future. Then there was the Doug Downey Special council meeting. Again their vote to allow the sign bylaw to be compromised by one of their own again speaks volumes. Now remember they thought nothing of **Not**

giving Glen Wagner a break when he broke the same law unknowingly. Their behavior again speaks in volumes. Then there was the deal on **12 acres** of prime land behind WalMart that was virtually given away below market price plus future **Development Charges** were also thrown in now worth up to \$1,7 million dollars. Then there is the statement by Smith how councillors don't get paid enough to read all information and that he does not bother to read everything. Certainly answers the question why we are in such a mess with the MURF site doesn't it??? What they don't say also speaks volumes. During the last election not one councillor gave a hint that the job was worth **40%** more than it paid. About the only person to admit he didn't think he was paid enough was Smith but then he admitted to not doing his home work so it all must have worked out financially for him at least. People in the old Soviet Empire used to say "The state pretends to pay us and we pretend to work"ha!ha!. What about Doug Downey admitting he nor any councillors read bylaws they pass?? Yet Doug voted for that **40%** raise didn't he??? In fact Doug and Francis were on the three man committee to research compensation weren't they??? Funny how they don't read bylaws or do their home work so that they understand the issues yet they worked and did their home work on the **40%** raise didn't they??? Or did they??? Yes history does paint a picture of the future doesn't it??

Today Orillia taxpayers are facing horrendous costs for clean up of the West St. property these people have committed us to. Why so far this project has cost taxpayers a cool **\$8,000,000** and all we have is 40,000 tons of contaminated, **hazardous** soil on the shores of Lake Simcoe which will most likely have to be moved at a cost of **\$10,000,000**, a mountain of dirt trucked to the site which is slowly being contaminated from below, a healthy wetland destroyed along with everything living in it and the forcing of contamination off site by their decision to proceed with the project before doing their home work or doing some reading. Had voters paid attention during the election to how these people did business in the past we could have avoided at least some of this mess. So when the next election comes around make sure the past is made an issue.
jim tolnai

Sept. 5, 2005

Taking Responsibility?? Not!

As I watch TV and read stories about the New Orleans tragedy one thing is abundantly clear. No one but no one is willing to take any responsibility. For years scientists, groups and concerned citizens have warned about how dangerous destroying wetland was to the city and area. Today I see the Secretary of Homeland Security claiming they just didn't know nor could they have known the levees were so vulnerable. Then on comes a dozen people who said this guy is lying. They showed reports, books written and even video presentations that said exactly the opposite and have done so for years and years. This guy along with everyone in power who are responsible for this disaster and who used their power to get their way and pave over to build on the

wetlands in spite of the consequences are now saying they just didn't know. Sure sounds like the way our own mayor, council and city management operates doesn't? Don't forget how everyone who was responsible in New Orleans is now trying to pass blame onto others. Just like our mayor has claimed after the fact he and councillors are not engineers. They followed advice? Yet their experts claim they gave no advice? Big shots making bad decisions in spite of being told what would happen now claiming ignorance of the facts.

The reason why New Orleans is a bowl and so vulnerable is really quite simple. When wetland is dried out it shrinks and sinks. Yes as we saw on the MURF site when inspection holes were dug the ground is made up of clay/silt/silty clay. That is why we have dewatering going on by squeezing the water out from underneath the footprint of the proposed building. The difference in Orillia is that the water and toxins were in a bowl that kept us safe. Now we are squeezing them towards the people sort of like dumping a bunch of rocks in a bowl and having the soup overflow. Naturally the people responsible for doing this will not take any responsibility and claim others are to blame. We must not let them getaway with it. They knew then and they know now what would happen and is happening. Here is what Doug Peddle wrote about the Coldwater flooding showing just how our mayor takes responsibility. Not!!

Issue # 20 Speaking Out

by: doug peddle

It was with interest I read a letter to the editor June 4 Packet. A chap by the name of Paul Locke wrote about his hopeless presentation to former Mayor Stevens and council of Severn Twshp. concerning the Caswell Creek Subdivision in Coldwater. He states "The developer and his engineer were there to defend their interests and to argue against my concerns. I was not received well by the **Mayor (Stevens)** and my concerns about water and flooding was considered a joke, especially when I mentioned that some of my neighbors had canoed through the area designated for development." He further states that he was dismissed as a typical **NIMBY** complainer. Well guess what? Last month the Coldwater River rose and flooded this area where only a canoe or boat could access. The road graded for the subdivision became a river. Most of the property was under water. Luckily no homes have been built on this land as yet or else it could have been a disaster to the people who purchased the homes thinking that **Stevens** and his council had actually allowed the subdivision because they knew it was safe.

Now this guy has made it to be mayor of Orillia and again he is insisting that he actually knows what he is doing. Like his attitude towards Paul Locke he now trains his sights on the likes of Allan Millard, Jim Tolnai, Kelly Klune and others as well as me. Trying to label us as **NIMBYs** or **provocateurs**. Not looking at the facts and seeming to believe the rubbish fed to him. Mr. Mayor you were wrong on the Coldwater subdivision. You showed your total disregard for the safety and well being of the people who might have bought into this subdivision. You blindly took the so called experts opinion over the local people who knew and spoke the truth. You show the same contempt for all of us who have the interest of our neighbors at heart. Yes Mr. Mayor you were wrong in Coldwater and luckily no

one was hurt. Now you are wrong about the safety of the MURF site. The site is Toxic and especially dangerous to children and no self serving expert deserves a hearing.

Then the next time Doug ran into the mayor he wrote of his encounter.

Issue #21 Speaking Out

by: doug peddle

Wow!! Did I ever hit a nerve with last months article. I wrote how Mayor Stevens in his former career as mayor of Severn disregarded concerns of citizens that council was wrong to approve a subdivision in a flood plain area. I wrote how the Mayor's judgment was flawed then and it is flawed now about the MURF site. (See Flawed at www.speakingout.biz Issue 20)

I happened to be at city hall on June 21 when the mayor spotted me. He approached angry and yelling that I "needed to get his permission before I wrote about his former life". Obviously I hit a Nerve. He claimed I had my facts all wrong as usual but when I asked him what facts were wrong he refused to specify or even challenge any of my story. So Mr. Mayor here is a challenge for you. If you want to clear up any facts I will be happy to make page 2 available to you in next months issue. Write your side of the story. If my facts were incorrect then tell us where we erred. Speaking Out is not above looking at all evidence provided and report the truth. So calm down and take pen in hand. Let everyone know your side.

The mayor has never availed himself of the opportunity to give his side.

Why??? Because our story is correct and there is nothing to clear up.

Remember these stories were written in 2004 so he has had plenty of opportunity. Make decisions and take no responsibility and get paid for it to boot with a 40% raise. Great job this guy has isn't?? People in power must be held personally responsible for harm they do and not just by not re-electing them. Then of course there is the trichlorethylene contaminated wells in Coldwater known to Stevens as he was the mayor of Severn in 1996. There was never an option given to the people of Coldwater who preferred not to drink poison, but have done so for the past nine years. Who made the decision to not inform the people if **not** mayor and council of the day?? Who made the decision to **not** inform private well owners around Coldwater of the danger if not mayor and council of the day?? Who takes responsibility for the harm done in Orillia and future harm if not the present mayor, council and city management of Orillia????
jim tolnai

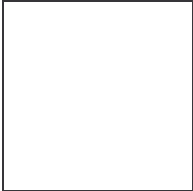
By the way the offer to refute any story we write or countering our opinion is open not just to mayor but everyone. If councillors, city employees or anyone else wish to give their side please do so. With over 100,000 hits per month your view or explanation will be seen by interested people. We promise not to edit.

Sept. 4, 2005

Orillia Filtration Wetland

The following PDF file is a report put together by Bob Bowles and presented to the PLC as well as observers. Bob has given us permission to share this report

with you. Please read it and especially study the map showing the filled in wetland unnecessarily destroyed by mayor and council. The red outline is the actual pond. You see Bob walked the pond before it was destroyed with his GPS so that his outline is accurate. The blue is what mayor and council claimed was the pond in an attempt to make it look insignificant and to hide the fact that there actually was a connection to Ben's Ditch. We have furnished this information to the Federal Fisheries Dept. They were not amused about the dishonesty and this will come back to bite someone in the ass. Thankyou Bob and all who took part in this incredible effort to save these living and thriving creatures from mayor and councils decision to destroy them. So here is the file.



Sept. 3, 2005

Lessons of New Orleans

The tragedy playing it's self out in the USA south is a lesson to be learned and used by all communities. Here is an example of the worst kind on every level. To begin with there was a group of people who over the years warned of impending doom should a large storm ever hit the area (not unlike our own Citizens Coalition). You see New Orleans is built in a bowl with water all around it held back by levees. Compared to our Bowl of Toxins located on the West St. site. The people who attempted to warn about the dangers were dismissed as trouble makers, malcontents, gadfly's, critics etc. Local, state and federal politicians dismissed these doomsday scenarios and claimed "trust us we know what we are doing". Sound familiar folks??? Whether in New Orleans or in Orillia they say and act the same way don't they??? The greed of a small group associated with development in New Orleans controlled political decisions not unlike in our own community. Bad advice, bad engineers and corrupt politicians are to blame for the New Orleans tragedy as much as the storm is.

Look at who is suffering down there today. By a whopping 98% the people stuck and suffering are the poorest. The well heeled along with their politicians packed up and left for higher ground. They may have lost their homes but their families and them left not on buses but by limo. Left behind were the old and poor to fend for themselves. The politicians are scrambling to blame other politicians. All are claiming it's the other guys fault. Just listen to the New Orleans mayor. How many bad projects had this guy pushed through in spite of concerned citizens which has now made their situation worse???? Listen to the Governor of Louisiana. How many bad projects did she help push through for the benefit of profit for the few??? Listen to the President who allowed rescue efforts and supply efforts to lag for 5 days until there was an outcry. Hey! do you suppose if Beverly Hills was struck by such a tragedy that it would take 5 days to mobilize an effort???? Look at Orillia??? Can anyone remember which councillor

claimed our own less affluent part of town did not receive the same level of service and concern????? OK! let's make a contest out of this. We had a councillor this year who was upset and actually stated that had the problem he was referring to been in the North Ward it would have been dealt with. So who was this councillor and what was the problem??? The winner will have \$30 donated in their name to Sleeping Children Around the World by my family.

Although the tragedy of New Orleans is on a huge scale, our own tragedy of leaching toxins should not be dismissed as insignificant. Like in New Orleans we will suffer financial, health and environmental loss. So Mr. Mayor and council when the Sh**t hits the fan where will you run to hide???? Hey! Mr. Mayor why not Coldwater??? Oh! I forgot the wells in Coldwater are already contaminated and of course you have known about it since 1996 when you were mayor of that community but some how forgot to tell the people and allowed them to drink it didn't you??? Oh! yes it was also you who voted to allow a developer to build a subdivision on the Coldwater flood plain as well wasn't it. In spite of local concern and good advice you as mayor made light of these concerns didn't you??? Then two years ago the flood came and you refused to accept any responsibility ??? Luckily houses had not been built as yet or we would have had our own local flood refugees. Boy on a smaller scale bad??? decisions you made have affected our communities in terrible ways hasn't it???? There are lessons to be learned from New Orleans, and the poor, sick and least able have paid the ultimate tuition for a few peoples greed. Not unlike in Orillia and Coldwater is it??????

jim tolnai

Sept. 2, 2005

Ottawa Funding??????Bull Sht**

Yesterday I wrote about Ralph Cipolla's suggestion that there maybe money available from Ottawa. Just out of curiosity I decided to check out Sustainable Development Technology Canada <http://www.sdtc.ca/en/about/index.htm> . As I read through their web-site all I could do was shake my head in disbelief. Nowhere but nowhere could I find where it says or even hints they fund brownfield cleanups. What the hell is wrong with Ralph that he would give out a story such as this??? What the hell is wrong with Orillia Today to do this story without checking the facts? SDTC invests in developing new technology that deals with energy, water, pollution, etc.

Their role

Sustainable Development Technology Canada (SDTC) is a not-for-profit foundation that finances and supports the development and demonstration of clean technologies which provide solutions to issues of climate change, clean air, water quality and soil, and which deliver economic, environmental and

health benefits to Canadians. To do so, the Foundation draws from an investment fund of \$550 million.

Their mission and mandate

SDTC was established by the Government of Canada in 2001 and commenced operation in November of that year. SDTC's mission is to act as the primary catalyst in building a sustainable development technology infrastructure in Canada. The Foundation reports to Parliament through the Minister of Natural Resources Canada. We do much more than simply *fund* groundbreaking technologies. We work closely with an ever-growing network of stakeholders and partners to build the capacity of Canadian clean-technology entrepreneurs, helping them form strategic relationships, formalize their business plans, and build a critical mass of sustainable development capability in Canada. Their mandate has absolutely nothing to do with financial support for cleaning toxic sites. Here is the link to show what companies they have funded http://www.sdtc.ca/en/results/portfolio/project_locations.htm

After reading this site tell me how on earth Ralph or anyone else dare claim there was even one red cent available for cleaning up the MURF site from this outfit??? I don't know about you but I am sick and tired of the Bull Sh**t. I am also sick and tired of the local media making an ass of themselves in reporting the Bull Sh**t instead of checking out the story and printing the facts. Ralph, council, Mayor and city management have an agenda. That agenda is to Bull Sh**t you and the local media. Now you may not check out their stories but the media could and should and show these people for what they are. But no anything these guys say gets reported as gospel with no questions. When are people going to realize this whole sordid mess is nothing more than an unsophisticated con game. This charade has nothing to do with wanting to build a MURF for the community. They would build pay toilets or plant cow corn on the site if they thought their objective would be met. The **site** is the most important factor. Why????? Think about it. Why did Ralph tell me he pictured big Box stores along West St. S. once the MURF was built???? That's right he told me that a year and a half ago. How can bringing Big Box stores to West St. S. possibly help the downtown???? Downtowns are dying because the Big Box stores are taking their business. This whole plan is based on raising land values and making profits at the expense of taxpayers. Ralph has said as much with his vision of Big Box stores. Who's land would these business be expected to build on? How can it be anything else???? Picture worthless industrial, contaminated land quadrupling or more in value once the MURF is there regardless of what it cost taxpayers?? Picture their plan had it worked of not having to clean up any of these lands and the environmental nightmare legacy left to taxpayers present and future ???

No one in their right mind would give out a story such as "Murf money from

Ottawa" unless they are desperate and thought people were stupid. The desperation exhibited by Ralph and council is nothing short of "**Pathetic**". So for those of you with a brain go to the links I have provided and see for yourselves. Find the funding. It does not exist. Another example of the Emperor has no clothes. Don't know about you but I am getting tired of seeing their **bare asses**. It ain't a pretty site.
jim tolnai

Sept. 1, 2005

MURF money from Ottawa??

Ralph Cipolla says there maybe money available from Ottawa to **Clean up** the MURF site? This is absolutely fantastic news. Finally we have a councillor who is saying the site needs cleaning and not just covering over. Looks like good sense may have hit, at least Ralph if not other councillors. Here is my favorite quote from the story in yesterdays Orillia Today. "It is still the premier site. It will enhance development, and whether we like it or not, the site has to **be cleaned** up sooner or later". Now those words were spoken by Ralph which is a complete 180 degree about face from previous statements. Ralph you have our support for a cleanup as always. But then Ralph takes a 180 degree back as I turned to page two of the article. My smile turned to a frown as Ralph is quoted "We have too much money invested in it now. I don't think it is even a question". Unless managing the contaminants proves financially unmanageable". Well which is it???? Ralph you have got to be honest?? Have you now realized that the site has to be cleaned or are you still stuck on **cover up**????

There is another problem that needs clearing up. The article begins with "The city maybe eligible for federal funding to help deal with contaminated soil at the future home of Orillia's recreation facility a local councillor has confirmed". I don't get it. Does Ralph not realize that the MURF site problem is not soil which can be treated , removed or left without harming **off site** people and property, at huge cost of course??? The problem is the ground water which has been contaminated by TCE and their sister derivatives? This late in the game and Ralph still does not get it??? Soil can be dealt with on site. Water on the other hand flows. So please some one explain to Ralph and council that by squeezing the water off site they have created a huge mess. Each and every councillor is personally responsible for their decision of last November to damn the torpedo's.

Ralph says "We have too much money invested in it now". First I believe using the word "invest" is misleading. That's like calling a drunken sailor out on the town a financial genius??? Council claimed they knew what they were doing. Then they claimed they didn't know because they are not engineers. Then they claimed they followed the experts advice. Then the experts claimed they gave no such advice. Now we are here and Ralph and council seems to be still there???? So Ralph we applaud a cleanup but please stop misleading people. You state that "Private investment is not going to go in there and pay \$2 or \$3 million to clean it up and put whatever in there". Ralph surely you know that two or three

million isn't even a down payment on the cost of clean up. Why just tippage fees for the 40,000 tons of hazardous soil you moved to the dump was over \$5 million dollars and that was calling it non hazardous. Had the soil been tested **credibly** the cost for removal would have and still will be \$10 million. Your not out of the woods on that one yet Ralph. You paid another \$2 million for trucking in the dirt for old smoky and so far you have spent \$1 million for testing with no end in site. Count the cost of \$20 million that S&P says would be needed to actually clean up the soil and the \$1 plus million they say to pump and treat the water (old estimate contained in the Molson environmental report) which is low by at least \$10 million, Houston we have a problem??? So Ralph you have again managed to disappoint us. I really thought you had opened your eyes but I suppose they are **Super Glued** together after all. Judging by your statements and flip flops you did not leave the bulls back in Spain after all. So!! how did you get them in your suitcase and through customs anyway????

If Ralph says private investors would not pay to clean up the MURF site then why does he and council believe that private investors of 95 Barrie Rd. would clean up there if the property is allowed to be split leaving the contaminated toxic dump side to be cleaned at a later date????? Please explain your rational for that scenario???

jim tolmai