

Nov. 28, 2005

Corporate Media/Old Boys Network

In Saturdays Packet the editorial is again taking "**potshots**" at members of the Citizens Coalition accusing some of using "**outrageous rhetoric in efforts to influence the development of the multi-use recreation facility**". Now I wonder when the Packet employees who are responsible for this false statement are going to start telling the truth. No one associated with the "**Citizens Coalition**" has ever claimed a desire to influence the development of the facility, and the "**Packet Puppets**" know it (whoops I called them a name). We have always been pro development but not without proper testing and then remediation and cleanup where necessary. We have never commented on size, design or any amenities that are planned for. Some may have commented on the huge cost and of course cost of operating but as everyone knows that is an after thought and of no relevance in our concerns. We were and are against the 40,000 tons of improperly tested contaminated hazardous soil being dumped on the shores of Lake Simcoe. We have been critical of the lack of proper testing and of course of the lies and deceit perpetrated on the citizens by council, mayor and city management. With the ample help of the Packet these lies were presented to the citizens via the Packet as if they were facts or not questioned at all therefore implying truth. Everyone knows the Packet's position from day one has been that this is a safe site and no testing was necessary. Everyone also knows that from day one any person who asked questions and demanded answers was "**marginalized**" by council, mayor and the Packet.

For the Packet "**editors**" to now falsely accuse any of us of trying to influence anything to do with the facility is just plain not true. So we challenge the Packet to publish their evidence to back up their accusation. I quite frankly don't care what facility is built or even how much it costs and have never cared as long as the citizens of Orillia can afford it and it is needed, which this facility is. But I do care that if this site is going to be used then it must be properly tested and remediated. I do care that "**barrels of toxic**" materials are removed. I care that the "**VC Plume**" that the building is being built on top of be removed and made safe. I also care that we find out if the "**aquifer**" has been compromised and area well owners be warned. And I do care that surrounding property owners be at least warned of the leaching off site and even better test their properties instead of waiting for disaster to strike them. So Mr. Packet Editors show us what rhetoric was "**outrageous**" concerning the facility??? Unless of course being concerned for "**health and safety**" and making the public aware of how **toxic** this site is considered "**outrageous rhetoric**"?? Then we are **guilty**. Too bad the Packet and their Editors weren't more interested in the "**health and welfare**" of their readers and had taken up the fight to make sure this site is tested and cleaned properly. Now, that lack of action **is** "**Outrageous**" and shows a lack of civic responsibility. Remember folks the Packet was given all our information as we got it yet they failed to act on most of it until forced by events and MoE involvement. As for the Packet saying we have made personal attacks of course that is "**true**" as are the Packets and councils attempt to label us with names and

falsley accusing us of an "**Outrageous**" agenda like Saturday's editorial did. But unlike the Packet we put names to the people who lied and our facts are accurate. The Packet uses words like "some of" and failing to name individuals thereby tainting all, as their strategy is to discredit all opposition. Who does the Packet suggest we hold responsible for lying and covering up if not the parties who are responsible? Count the lies Mr. Editor. So tagging the mayor with "**Pinocchio**" was and is justified . Tagging councillors as "**Puppets**" is justifiable if only you observe their lack of questions and debate at council meetings as they rubber stamp without questions. So Mr. Editor if lies are spoken then we have no choice but to identify those who lied . You see Mr. Editor we are not constrained by "**self interest**" of revenue so we can call a "**spade a spade**". Very simply if people stop lying there is no reason to be called one is there? We can also hold you and your paper responsible for your actions or lack of and do so honestly and publicly. If you and council don't agree with our view you can always send us a letter, letting us know where we have been wrong with our facts and we will post it unedited and even apologize if indeed we made an error. You see the truth and accuracy is very important to us.

Here is an interesting site http://www.medialens.org/about/the_point.php . Media Lens is an informative site which newspapers like the Packet love to hate. Have a look and as you surf the site see how other newspapers around the world act the same way in trying to protect their self interest. Is the Packet any different??? Hey! Mr. Editor why don't you publish the amount of revenue the Packet receives from the city annually? We gave our estimate in a past story and there was no denial forth coming from you was there??? Were we too low??? Anyway folks go to Media Lens it's very interesting.

jim tolnai

Nov. 27, 2005

Election Thoughts

Well it looks like a winter election is imminent brought on unnecessarily by Harper and Layton along with their "**separatist**" ally's. I certainly don't understand the reason except that these two leaders think they will somehow gain a political advantage. Claiming the people are wanting an election which is far from the truth and polls taken neither one of these two or their caucus gives a "**rats ass**" about what you want. They smelled blood and we now have to have a winter election even though Martin has said he would call an election in March. Our local Conservative (**Reform**) candidate Bruce Stanton wrote a letter to the editor to try and get some "free press" claiming the coming election is the fault of the Liberals because they (Liberals) would not be blackmailed. You see the spin they want you to believe is that because Martin wouldn't agree to call an election for a date chosen by the "unholy" three they were then forced into calling for a non confidence vote to force the election. If this behaviour is an example of Bruce Stanton's and the Conservative (**Reforms**) honesty then do they really deserve our trust???

The coming election has now prompted me to take a closer look and write on issues that have bothered me for a long time. Today I will call to your attention an

issue that affects every man woman and child in this riding. I am talking about prescription drugs. You see the cost of prescription drugs here in Canada is a disgrace. I have been doing some investigating because the Conservatives (**Reform**) want your support and I believe that it was the Conservatives under Brian Mulroney and their ministers like Doug Lewis who are responsible for these outrageous costs. Of course Bruce Stanton was a supporter of the Mulroney government so the following is his shame as well.

You may remember Mulroney and his government changed the generic medicine laws and gave drug manufacturers extended years to protect their patents. This has added billions of dollars worth of profits to these companies. No generic knock offs and they can charge whatever they want. In many cases people who can not afford these outrageous prices either go without doing more harm to themselves or in some cases even dying prematurely thanks to the former Conservatives. Of course other parties have plenty of blame to share as well but Mulroney's government was the leader.

What many people don't realize is that pharmacies also share the blame for high prices. You see pharmacies work on several hundreds of percent markups and in some cases even thousands of percent. This past week there was a CBS news item about a pharmacy that refused to sell drugs at list prices. Instead the owner marked the products up a reasonable amount. He showed an example of a drug who's list price was \$185 for the bottle. His cost was \$10 and he sold it for \$15. Now that is reasonable. I will give links for you to see this story and other information that I guarantee will "**shock**" you. The following is an example of active ingredients cost for some popular drugs prescribed by the millions monthly.

Brand Name of Drug	Consumer Price/100 tabs	Cost of General Active Ingredients	Percent Markup
Celebrex 100 mg	\$130.27	\$0.60	21,712%
Claritin 10 mg	\$215.17	\$0.71	30,306%
Keflex 250 mg	\$157.39	\$1.88	8,372%
Lipitor 20 mg	\$272.37	\$5.80	4,696%
Norvasc 10 mg	\$188.29	\$0.14	134,493%
Paxil 20 mg	\$220.27	\$7.60	2,898%
Prevacid 30 mg	\$44.77	\$1.01	34,136%
Prilosec 20 mg	\$360.97	\$0.52	69,417%
Prozac 20 mg	\$247.47	\$0.11	224,973%
Tenormin 50	\$104.47	\$0.13	80,362%

mg			
Vasotec 10 mg	\$102.37	\$0.20	51,185%
Xanax 1mg	\$136.79	\$0.024	569,958%
Zestril 20 mg	\$89.89	\$3.20	2,809%
Zithromax 600mg	\$1,482.19	\$18.78	7,892%
Zocor 40mg	\$350.27	\$8.63	4,059%
Zoloft 50mg	\$206.87	\$1.75	11,821

Of course these costs reflect only the active ingredients but how can anyone justify a 569,958 % markup for manufacturing and distributing any product. If the oil industry worked with the smallest markup (**2,809%**) on the above list a \$60 barrel of oil after being refined into it's different products would sell for \$1,685.40. Now a barrel of oil is 157 liters. If there was one hundred percent recovery that would put the cost of 1 liter of gasoline at \$10.73 US. So do you get the idea???? At the Xanax markup a liter would cost \$2177.96. WOW!!!

Now these are US prices so I will give you an example of one drug, Lipitor which I take to give you an example of what is going on right here in Orillia. The US Lipitor is as follows

Lipitor 20 mg \$272.37 \$5.80 4,696%

My 90 tablets of Lipitor last week cost me \$230.00 dollars not really much cheaper than the US. Costs of manufacture here would be comparable so we may think that we are some how superior to the US but not by much. Of course our pharmacy also charges a dispensing fee. Incredible isn't it. For those of you who are on prescriptions do a bit of research on your drugs and you will find basically the same. So what I am saying is, it is time to **Speak Out** about this atrocity. I wonder what Bruce Stanton has to say on this subject??? Here is a link for you <http://www.snopes.com/medical/drugs/generic.asp> and from there you can certainly follow other links. If this doesn't get your bile going when you read it then I am afraid you don't need drugs as you must be dead?? This election be sure to thank Bruce and of course Doug Lewis for all this prosperity for Pharmacies and Drug companies. Even if you have a drug plan, in the end you are the one who really pays so don't be too smug.

Check out chart below and note the last four stores are Canadian. Just look at their markups.

Generic Prescription Drug Price Comparison Chart

This chart accompanies Steve Wilson's 7 On Your Side Investigation available at: http://www.wxyz.com/wxyz/ys_investigations

BRAND NAME IS>>>> GENERIC NAME IS >>>> DOSE/NUMBER OF PILLS IS >>>>	VASOTEC Enalapril Maleate 10	% Mar kup	PROZA C Fluoxet ine HCL	% Mar kup	XANAX Alprazola m .5mg/60	% Mar kup	V IU Di o
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	mg/60		20mg/ 30			5m /
WHOLESALE COST /1 mo supply/Wholesaler 1	\$2.99		\$1.16		\$2.28	\$1

<p>WHOLESALE COST /1 mo supply/Wholesaler 2</p>	<p>\$3.34</p>		<p>\$0.82</p>		<p>\$2.40</p>	<p>\$1</p>
<p>Beacon Hill Pharmacy, (248) 645-2242</p>	<p>\$15.34</p>	<p>413 %</p>	<p>\$8.82</p>	<p>976 %</p>	<p>\$14.39</p>	<p>531 % \$9</p>

Clarkston Pharmacy, (248) 625-8030	\$27.89	833 %	\$29.59	350 9%	\$29.99	121 5%	\$2

Ehardt #1 (Lexington), 810-359-5322	\$34.00	103 7%	\$35.00	416 8%	\$14.68	544 %	\$1

Ehardt #2 (Crowell), 810-679-3900	\$28.47	852 %	\$21.62	253 7%	\$17.01	646 %	\$1

Ehardt #3 (Port Sanilac), 810-622-9631	\$25.63	757 %	\$36.72	437 8%		\$1
Ehardt #4 (Brown City), 810-346-2637	\$28.47	852 %	\$40.80	487 6%	\$15.64	586 % \$1

Independent 1: Heritage Pharmacy 313-386-1200	\$34.99	1070%	\$29.99	3557%	\$20.63	805%	\$1

Independent 2: Blmfld Phar B-H 248-333-1130	\$23.57	688 %			\$23.50	931 %	\$1

Independent 3: Birm'ham Drug 248-644-3214	\$48.10	150 9%	\$11.90	135 1%	\$15.59	584 %	\$1

Independent 4: Mills Ph 248-644-5060 Sr Discount -10%	\$43.29	134 8%	\$22.90	269 3%	24.75/22.2 7		\$1

Sav-More Warren, (586) 751-	\$14.99	401	\$15.99	185	\$19.99		\$2

7979		%		0%			
Sav-Mor Trenton, (734) 676-6622	\$26.99	803 %	\$29.99	355 7%	\$15.99	601 %	\$1

Sav-Mor Northline, Southgate (734) 285-9496	\$48.89	153 5%			won't give		

Loveland Drug Store & Pharmacy (313) 928-5678	20	569 %	\$24.00	282 7%	\$23.99	952 %	\$2

Canton Sav-Mor (734) 737-9040	14.99	401 %	\$9.99	111 8%	\$44.99	187 3%	\$1

Phils Pharmacy Mt Clemens (586) 468-0597	\$33.90	103 4%	\$21.00	246 1%	\$10.00	339 %	\$1

Walgreens/W Blmfld 248-538-8373	\$45.99	143 8%	\$44.99	538 7%	\$15.99	601 %	\$1
Walgreens 2/Oak Park 248-548-4236	\$45.99	143 8%	\$44.99	538 7%	\$16.39	619 %	\$1

CVS/Sterling Hgts 586-983-4210	\$52.59	165 9%	\$46.69	559 4%	\$16.59	628 %	\$1

CVS 2/Dearborn 313-274-7651	\$52.59	165 9%	\$46.69	559 4%	\$16.59	628 %
Rite Aid/Taylor 734-946-6887	\$52.00	163 9%	\$25.00	294 9%	\$18.99	733 %

Rite Aid 2/Rochester 248-652-0900	\$59.99	190 6%	\$25.00	294 9%	\$18.99	733 %	\$1

Costco Website	\$14.84	396 %	\$7.09	765 %	\$7.67	236 %	\$8
Meijer/Royal Oak 248-280-1800	\$29.75	895 %	\$19.36	226 1%	\$17.92	686 %	\$1

Meijer 2/Waterford 248-682-7200	\$29.75	895 %	\$19.36	226 1%	\$17.92	686 %
WalMart/Center Line 586-582-0967	\$17.40	482 %	\$18.72	218 3%	\$12.62	454 %

WalMart2/Ypsilanti 734-434-7950	\$26.46	785 %	\$19.36	226 1%	\$12.88	465 %	\$1

Kmart/Mt. Clemens 586-949-6150	\$22.60	656 %	\$28.99	343 5%	\$19.99	777 %

Kmart2/Livonia 248-474-8813	\$18.69	525 %	\$28.99	343 5%	\$16.49	623 %	\$1
Kroger/Livonia 734-422-3784	\$39.79	123 1%	\$39.69	474 0%	\$18.59	715 %	\$1

Kroger2/Lake Orion 248-393-0765	\$39.79	123 1%	\$39.69	474 0%	\$18.59	715 %	\$1

<p>Farmer Jack/Rochester 248-853-0106</p>	<p>\$16.01</p>	<p>435 %</p>	<p>\$11.29</p>	<p>127 7%</p>	<p>\$16.79</p>	<p>636 %</p>	<p>\$1</p>
<p>Farmer Jack 2/Linc Park 313-381-1158</p>	<p>\$16.01</p>	<p>435 %</p>	<p>\$11.29</p>	<p>127 7%</p>	<p>\$16.79</p>	<p>636 %</p>	<p>\$1</p>

Canada 1/Name-Brand drug/Drug Basics, Windsor,519-948-2121	\$55.52	175 7%	\$47.10	564 4%	\$15.06	561 %	\$1

Canada 1/Generic Price (Both prices are in U.S. Dollars	n/a		\$30.12	357 3%	\$7.92	247 %	\$9

Canada 2/Name-Brand drug/Hunters, Windsor, 519- 945-4333	\$55.74	176 4%	\$47.90	574 1%	\$16.00	602 %	\$1

Canada 2/Generic Price (Both prices are in U.S. Dollars)	n/a		\$33.11	3938%	\$11.00	382%	\$8

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jim tolnai

Nov. 22, 2005

40% for Council 3% for Everyone Else??

It is disturbing that council approved a report from city manager Ian Brown at the November 21st, 2005 council meeting. The report states: "that after reviewing current trends in wage settlements and salary adjustments for 2006,

I am proposing that the non-union salary grid be adjusted upwards by 3% for next year."

Wow! What a magnanimous gesture!

Good grief, if a 3% increase is a trend, then it is definitely a trend that needs rethinking by city administration. Three percent is not enough to cover the rising cost of gas, property taxes, food, electricity, heating, school supplies, clothing, to name but a few expenses our city employees struggle with in an effort to keep their head above water.

Oh well, some employees using their vehicles for city business will benefit from an additional 0.02 cents per kilometre effective January 1, 2006.

The City of Orillia prides itself on trying to keep their non-union employees' salaries in line with other sectors (meaning unionized city employees no doubt). This pride is commendable, but let's be fair to the workers

who work hard to keep the city functioning for peanuts and having to work for a few of our

not-so-bright monkey department heads!

Wonder if the city manager and department managers get that 3% raise too? If so, that percentage is much too high for some of them, considering the determined evasion of cooperation with the public (their real bosses), the obvious lack of judgment in several decisions, and unwarranted, mean-spirited, unjustified actions against certain citizens - all an embarrassment to the honour of the City of Orillia.

Council approved this miserly increase to its non-union employees. But it is outrageous that short-sighted council members didn't keep the "worker bees" of city centre in mind when it came to approving their own self-serving 40% increase.

Let's not forget that salary discrepancy next election day - November 13th, 2006.

Lillian M. Marsden

Orillia taxpayer

Editors Note: It will be interesting to see how big a raise city managers will be getting???

Nov. 21, 2005

Housekeeping Issues

Last Wednesday's Orillia Today's article on Doug Peddle's water problems led a few to contact Doug and myself about their own experiences. You may recall in the article claims they found nothing unusual in the water supply in the neighborhood. Peter Dance says tap water was tested elsewhere in the neighborhood so "testing of Peddle's water specifically was unnecessary". Now doesn't that sound like the non testing of the drums of chemicals found on the MURF site???? Remember the story where drums of chemicals were dug up and instead of testing the contents S&P and Peter Dance I suppose decided the best way to find out what was in the sealed drums which were not leaking was to take soil samples from around the sealed drums and test it instead. They then claimed to know what was in the drums?????

So we weren't surprised when one of Doug's neighbors contacted him that she too had been having problems. Then I received a call from a lady living on Sundial who was unable to use her water for five weeks. She had contacted the city and her water was not tested either. She was told that they would flush the pipes at the nearest fire hydrant and things would clear up. It took five weeks and three flushing's to clear up the water to at least look clean. Oh! the city also suggested that the lady keep her taps running to help clear the contaminant. Her concern now is the water bill this will generate as she had her taps running for weeks. Then we have the lady on Collins Dr. who is experiencing the same problem as Doug. She too did not have her water tested??? Then of course we have the problem on Maple Dr. To date the city has not contacted my friend Doug Sinclair of Hydratek about his experience. So are we surprised about the way Dance and the waterworks management are behaving??? Of course not. They seem to be following the policy of "if we don't test, we don't find therefore it does not exist". Unbelievable but true.

What is happening in Toronto? Last week an eighteen year old was gunned down at a funeral for his friend who was murdered the week before. To today gun deaths in Toronto have doubled last years number and we still have over a month to go before years end. The Prime Minister is meeting with city and provincial officials to figure out what has gone wrong. Does one need to be an expert to figure this out??? A couple of weeks ago I wrote about my own experience with Canada's melting pot. To begin with immigrants start their new lives in Canada by locating in close knit neighborhoods. As children and families acclimatize the idea is for people to disperse over a wider area and mix into rainbow neighborhoods. This is just not happening in a number of areas in Toronto. The area of shootings and gang violence that is out of control has a huge population of Jamaicans and other West Indies peoples. While most immigrants from Europe move on to other neighborhoods and communities

throughout Ontario as they become more affluent it seems that people from the West Indies have stayed put. Now there is nothing wrong with people wanting to live together but a large concentration of any peoples makes it much easier for the undesirable element of any society to take advantage of them.

Instead of the community asking for special status or special considerations the fastest and easiest way to protect their children is to move into the melting pot and stop being a target. You know the East Indian community in British Columbia is having the same problems as the young feed off of each other. This is true of any community of immigrants. Somehow when it is one of their own doing wrong to them there is a different attitude about reporting crime to the authorities. Not to mention that most immigrants have come from countries where the last people you would call are the police. So folks the answer is simple. Integrate your families into the melting pot. Whether you are black, white, yellow, Christian, Muslim, Hebrew or any combination become part of the larger community and you and your kids will become harder targets for abuse.

Looks like Wayne Gardy has started his re-election campaign. Here it is November and Wayne is starting to spend his 40% raise on advertising in the Packet. Now Wayne will claim he only wants to wish people Seasons Greetings but I have my doubts. So Wayne "Seasons Greetings" to you too. Let's hope people will remember next fall the 40% raise you gave yourself as well as the millions of dollars you have wasted of our hard earned money.
jim tolnai

Nov. 17, 2005

Is the Smell Cheese or Sleeze????

by: Allan Millard

There is an odour hanging around Orillia's administration, and it is not all coming from the contaminated soil, water, and air around us. Whether it was the deal with Molson, the convenient hand-over of wetland designation to the City, consultants' conflicts of interest, a million dollars in untendered contracts, suppression of information, avoidance of answers, or a dozen other highly questionable moves, they can not be explained by incompetence, stupidity, or plain bad luck.

Sections 274 (1) and (2) of the Municipal Act state:

"If a municipality so requests by resolution, a judge of the Superior Court of Justice shall,

- (a) investigate any supposed breach of trust or other misconduct of a member of council, an employee of the municipality or a person having a contract with municipality in relation to the duties and obligations of that person to the municipality;
- (b) inquire into any matter connected with the good government

of the municipality; or

(c) inquire into the conduct of any part of the public business of the municipality, including business conducted by a commission appointed by council or elected by the electors.

"In making the investigation or inquiry, the judge has the powers of a commission under Part II of the Public Inquiries Act, which Part applies to the investigation or inquiry as if were an inquiry under that Act."

I propose that we draw up a "bill of indictment", so to speak, with list of all the major questions suspiciously left unanswered, and ask the Council to pass the necessary resolution for an investigation. If they have nothing to hide and no one to protect, they should be anxious to clear the air. Realistically, however, we can't expect our current council to take such a principled position in the public interest.

But we should ask anyway. The real point is to keep them on their toes because the need for a judicial investigation will be an issue in the next municipal election. They may not want to take the chance that a new council won't pass such a resolution.

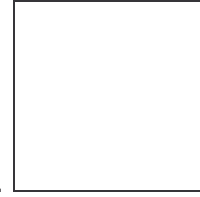
In the meantime, we will follow Doug Lewis' advice and work hard to replace the current councillors.

Editors Note:

We need a "**Forensic Audit**" of city business dealings as well. Truth will prevail, it only takes a bit longer than lies.

Port Hope A Question of Power

Last night's Nature of Things program was on the town of Port Hope. There like in Orillia concerned citizens took up the fight to save their community from further Nuclear contamination. Like in Orillia senior levels of government, paid consultants, a rich corporation and their own town council had to be fought in a sometimes bitter battle. The dedicated people of Port Hope fought and won because they were smart, accurate, persevered and were right about the dangers and consequences of allowing Cameco to produce SEU on their site. In the end Cameco abandoned their effort when town council finally saw that information and questions had not been answered honestly and thoroughly enough. Council had originally ignored (sound familiar) their own "Environmental Advisory Committee's" recommendation and voted instead to allow the project. The dedicated people of Port Hope kept up the fight and continued to inform councillors and the public about the truth. Congratulations to the people of Port

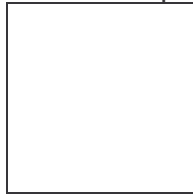


Hope who have shown that doing the right thing is worth while. We in Orillia who know and have proven over and over again that the West St. site must be investigated properly and only then can we know how to handle the toxins must continue to convince a council who so far has just not got it. Our hope is that like Port Hope councillors ours will open their eyes and do the right things that are prudent and necessary. Interestingly enough Comenco stated that they failed to get their project through because the public was not invited to be part of the decision and not informing the public adequately. Wonderful excuse for their failure but the truth is their project was bad for the community as a whole not unlike the West St. site must be tested thoroughly and openly.
jim tolnai

Nov. 16, 2005

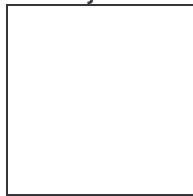
Another Fine Mess

So we now have news that ship loads of poisons and munitions were dumped



into the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Vancouver Island. The Canadian Government, our Government dumped "Mustard Gas" chemicals which was no longer needed at the end of WW 2. Even though military archives identify the dumping and location the military claim they don't know how much was actually dumped. Can we believe that??? I sure don't. If the archives have information on the dumping itself there has to be a manifest of what was dumped. Everyone knows that if nothing else the military numbers everything and keeps impeccable records until there is the possibility of embarrassment. Then records are not complete or are mistakenly destroyed. Is this any different??? I doubt it.

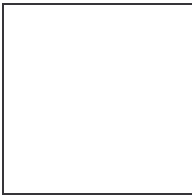
What really makes me wonder about the "**experts**" who are studying this mess is that they want to do a "risk assessment". That's right they want to study what the risk of these corroding barrels might have if they discharge their cargo. Does one need to be an expert to understand that if left these barrels will eventually discharge their cargo and will end up affecting life in the Ocean. No matter how diluted this stuff becomes it joins all the other toxins already there



adding to our collective "**toxicity**". It's too bad that some people do

not take these things seriously enough to do the right thing from the start. Not unlike our own council and mayor who would rather cover up than cleanup. This ocean dump is not new. There have been discoveries of two other dump sites off the East Coast as well. If we don't smarten up and start taking these threats seriously and cleanup whether this generation or the next it will have to be dealt with. Our generation did the deed so it is our responsibility to make it right. Will we do it??? Of course not. **"It will cost too much"???** Not unlike George Bush and his government refusing to upgrade the levees around New Orleans which would have cost maybe a **"billion dollars"**. Now the US government is not only having to repair and upgrade the levees at **"several billions"** but is spending an additional **"200 Billion Dollars"** on ruined infrastructure and victims, not to mention what the state and city will pay out. Another **"25 Billion Dollars"** spent by insurance companies and **"hundreds of more billions"** more paid for by the victims if they move back, for rebuilding and not to mention the **"hundreds of billions"** still owed on mortgages that have to be paid back to lenders or face bankruptcy on a huge scale which will affect the entire US economy. All because they **"assumed"** there would be no **"category 4"** hurricane that would come through that area and the upgrade was too expensive. Is this really any different than the decision by this council to **"assume"** about the Molson property because to do otherwise would **"cost too much"???** How come some among us never learn from history??? Are they really as stupid as they seem??? Or are they just people who live for today and they believe all life will end when they die and anything or anyone after them don't matter??? I don't think they are stupid at all only **"selfish"**. Remember Mayor Pinocchio's words that some other council will have to deal with future problems.

The following is for mayor and councillors, especially Wayne Gardy. You see Wayne has been saying there is no proof that vinyl chloride is harmful because people are not dropping dead on the spot. So Wayne and anyone else here is some information you may want to review. Clearly the information sent to me by Colleen Cooney in this pdf file shows just how dangerous this stuff is.



As she says there is no known safe level so people beware.

jim tolnai

Nov. 15, 2005

Christmas Election

Can anyone actually believe how stupid the three dummies running the **?Opposition?** in Ottawa have proved to be. Do these people have a deathwish or are they indeed working for the Liberal party? It seems Christmas has come early for the Liberals and Santa was the three "dolts" pretending to run the opposition. Are the Liberals "Scoundrels"? You bet. Do they deserve to be sent to the political wilderness for some years to come?? You bet. There is only one problem. Who will replace them?? The BQ runs only in Quebec so that choice is

out for the rest of Canada not to mention the obvious reason. Then we have Layton who had his fifteen minutes of fame last year when he actually had a wee bit of power and failed to exercise it prudently. Then we have Steven Harper. What can one say. Can we trust a "**right wing**" "ultra religious conservative group to govern us???" I don't think so. This election if it happens will be the direct result of the unholy alliance of the "**darkside**". These guys are saying that Canadians want an election but is that true for the Christmas season? Of course not. The Liberals have said they will call an election within 30 days of the Gomery Report part two being released. That would mean an election in March. So what's the big hurry???" We will have another minority government whether Liberal or Conservative and the comedy will just continue. All sides are guilty of holding the public hostage for their personal ambitions and they couldn't give a "**rats ass**" about any of us except to hold or gain the key to the "**cookie jar**". I for one will change my vote if these "**dummies**" actually go through with their "**unholy pact**".
jim tolnai

Nov. 14, 2005

LET'S GET PRIDE IN ORILLIA BACK THE IMPORTANCE OF SPEAKING OUT

by Lillian M. Marsden

Have you ever wondered about "SpeakingOut.biz" and the importance of having such a valuable website available for anyone, friend or foe, to Speak Out? It has crossed my mind occasionally, knowing I can read the astute observations of Jim Tolnai and others who take time to contribute their comments to Speaking Out whether I agree with them or not. Unfortunately not everyone has access to a computer, so other ways to speak our mind must be encouraged and acted upon.

As a fairly new arrival to this city, I soon became aware that all is not well in Orillia, not just through issues raised on Speaking Out, but clearly from the lack of public participation and the confusion caused by a seeming lack of biased newspaper reporting. Absent when you walk down the street is a level of pride which should be felt by every Orillian. Just take a look at the junk indifferently thrown on sidewalks and in our parks. And pride is especially absent at the city administration level where so many recent decisions have been misguided and are still going wrong.

Why do Orillians take their Freedom of Speech for granted? Our fathers, sons and brothers fought to protect that right; it is one of our most important rights and protections against wrong-doing. Yet so few of us take the time to really speak our minds. Oh yes, we complain to our family and friends, but never "publicly" where our views can make the greatest change.

Our complacency as Orillians is doing a great disservice to future generations. Do we really not want to know what is happening to downgrade this once pretty Sunshine City? Perhaps it is easier and safer to ignore the uphill struggle of those few volunteer citizens among our 30,000 souls who are trying to make a positive difference. So why do we lean on negative terms like whiner, complainer, moaners and groaners, and 'oh no, not another donation demand'. Is it easier to hide behind our own family issues than to fulfill our moral obligation to fellow workers, neighbours and those less fortunate?

Not speaking out or getting actively involved is easier than taking time to become fully informed about what is taking place in Orillia that will have a very long-term effect on this city and our bank account. If you think life and taxes in Orillia are tough now, think twice! Here are a few decisions made on your behalf for the supposed betterment of Orillia:

- The effect of Big Box stores on the vibrancy of downtown and tourism;**
- Lack of financial support to the downtown businesses to clean up ugly storefronts and to encourage essential new business to the area;**
- Buying a highly contaminated property for \$1.00 before thoroughly testing its toxicity to avoid future serious health and safety issues to users of the needed sports complex;**
- Not getting a second expert opinion before allowing digging and off-site migration of very toxic chemicals to occur, creating the possibility of legal liability to future Orillia taxpayers;**
- City administration indifference which allowed contaminated soil to be put onto a landfill located in a wetland on the shore of Lake Simcoe;**
- The recent destruction of two Orillia wetlands that are highly important in the chain of nature right up to the "human" level;**
- The lack of genuine support for affordable housing in Orillia, a low-income community with 800 families now on the Sharing Place food bank list.**
- \$50,000,000+ allocated in part from Orillia Power Corporation profits to build an elaborate sports complex, without any financial Operational Plan in place to support it;**
- No allocation of \$50,000,000 to repair the declining state of roads to improve Orillia's image and safe driving, or even for old sewer replacement;**
- A lack of transparency in holding Town Hall Meetings where the public can be involved and kept up-to-date as is their right as taxpayers, in a timely fashion and not after the fact.**

The list goes on, but if you didn't agree with these decisions on your behalf, perhaps you should ask, "Did I ever speak out on that issue? Did I even get the chance?". As taxpayers your monthly income is being stretched to the limit, but is pushing growth of Orillia for the sake of growth

really progress?

No, not when the pride and charm of the Sunshine City is being lost. Perhaps we taxpayers should speak out for a "No-Growth Policy" (which doesn't mean low-paying retail jobs), but has worked so well elsewhere? It would take pride in Orillia, a commitment and speaking out. It is foolhardy to blindly trust what goes on at City Council. The old saying "if you're not part of the solution, then you're part of the problem" rings very true in Orillia when you don't speak your mind. What can you lose?

If you speak out now, openly exchange ideas with neighbours and fellow workers, write often to your mayor and councillors, newspaper, get angry if you must, then we'll get pride in Orillia back. Try getting involved in your community, even in small ways, for your family's sake and taxes. Speak up about what you like and don't like about this community and how it is being run. When you exercise your priceless right to Freedom of Speech, and make yourself heard by all of Orillia, no matter what your age, you will honour the memory of those who fought and died for that privilege.

Nov. 13, 2005

Milestone Reached

The Speaking Out website has reached a milestone as of yesterday. Back in April 2004 I decided to put Speaking Out on the web. You see out of frustration I decided to publish a newsletter and the first issue was distributed Nov. 2002. I printed and distributed several thousand copies every month. I guess I had reached a point in my life where the smoke and mirrors were finally visible in the clear light of day. I like many others had faith that people we elected would look after our interests efficiently and honestly. But as I grew older it became clearer and clearer that my beliefs were pie in the sky. I suppose my doubts began with the Mulrooney government which in my eyes was the most corrupt administration in my voting history to that point (read the book "On the Take"). They were replaced by no less corrupt people. Since Confederation this country has been governed by either Conservative or Liberal parties. It seems no matter which is in power the other always claims if elected they will put an end to "corruption" but then continues the same behavior. So it is not hard to see that the problem is with the party system that allows backroom boys to actually control our collective political fate. Since Confederation we have had 22 Prime Ministers. Would you believe that 18 of these were lawyers??? Do you suppose this is a coincidence??? Read in Previous Issues #17 the story Scandal. Anyway I believe local councillors are groomed and controlled the same way. Sure once in a while we have a Ken McCann but he was an aberration and not the rule.

So what is my point? Well control of the local paper was all important in the past. You see unless you could afford to start your own newspaper there was no way of winning public opinion or getting the truth out. But technology has made such strides that the playing field is now even. With the advent of the "**Internet**" anyone can now get out their message and of course the truth. We launched

Speaking Out .biz in April 2004. Our first month saw just over 800 visitors. This grew steadily until last month we had over 172,000 visits. Yesterday we reached a new milestone by passing the **1,000,000th** visit since launch. That's right we have had **1,004,670** people visit our site. For those who dismiss what we do these numbers are a message. To outfits like the Packet the message is simple. Do your job and do it honestly or when found out you will be exposed and held accountable. Last month we averaged **5,560** visits per day. This month we are averaging **6,248** visits a **12.3%** increase from Oct. Obviously we are making a difference as our readership just keeps growing. In Orillia the only higher percentage growth is the controversial **40%** council salary increase. So keep reading but more important get involved. It is your community and you will get the government you allow to be elected. Send us your letters and even your stories. Together we can make the political insiders accountable. We can and have made a difference. Yes the powerful hates what we do but they are in control and are terrified of losing it. Do the right thing for the community and watch how quickly we will support your action. Do the wrong thing and watch how fast we will let the community know. It is your choice. And please stop calling us whiners and malcontents. All we want is change for the better. And for Doug Lewis who thinks that if you complain about how the country, province or community is being run you should be given a one way ticket and leave, all we can say is "**ditto**". It is time you and the backroom boys left.

jim tolnai

Nov. 12, 2005

Another Example of Hypocrisy

Thursdays editorial in the Packet is another example of the editorial hypocrisy of these people. The cases that they use in the editorial are little more than the tip of the iceberg of what happens in this town. It makes one wonder about the Packets' sincerity. Case one I do not have first hand knowledge of and case three is still in play so I will deal with case two and add two more cases that they failed to address for I suppose their own reasons.

I along with members of the Citizens Coalition were made aware of the Wetland filling on James St. by Bob Bowles and attended one Sunday afternoon to take pictures and witness the destruction. We all knew instinctively that what was happening at this property was a crime being perpetrated on the environment. The decision was made to pursue this outrage. So we contacted the MoE, Orillia Environmental Services and DFO. To non of our surprise Andrew Schell of the city said it was private property and the owner could do whatever. The MoE on the day they inspected claimed that nothing was being dumped that was of concern to them? Now clearly illegal materials were being dumped as our pictures showed. Concrete with rebar, sewer pipes and asphalt are just some of the illegal contaminants that were clearly visible. Once we made an issue the MoE changed their tune and suggested that indeed there were these items and that an "Order" would be made for the owner to remove the material. To date no action that we can see has taken place. So much for the MoE effectiveness. Andrew Schell after some prodding finally admitted that dumping of materials on

city property along the trail right of way was indeed happening and the property owner would be "Ordered" to remove it. To date we have seen none of this happening. Seems our last hope to save the remaining wetland and pond depended on the DFO if only we could get them to move quickly. What the Packet also fails to tell you is that the lions share of the fill which had been dumped came from the "City of Orillia". That's right, the guilty party was the City. It is their own fill trucked from city projects that is the offending material???? Any wonder why they have not acted on their own "Order"??

To the credit of the DFO and especially Doug Peddle of our group who became a burr under their saddle the DFO attended in record time. With no one else available to attend with Brian Round I met him at the site. You see the Packet wants you to think that the DFO just stepped in out of the blue. Heaven help us if some really fine concerned people were actually involved and the public were to be informed of their dedication and efforts??? Let me tell you our entire group was involved. Because of others not able to attend with the DFO on that hot August day it was left to me. I had just had bypass surgery three weeks earlier and the last place I wanted to be was out under the hot sun for 4 1/2 hours tramping through the bush and wetland. But who else but our group members would have done it??? The City, the MoE??? Not bloody likely. Doug Peddle was barely able to get out of bed as his back had gone out. But you know what?? I called him as we needed to give Brian Round a map I did not possess. Doug struggled out of bed and drove down to James St. with it. That is dedication.

Where was the Packet???? Well they were called and informed of what was going to take place. Did they send out a reporter to cover "Case #2"??? Nope it seems they had no interest in the story. Why??? Could it be it was because the Citizens Coalition was involved??? Frank Matys of Orillia Today attended and did a good story. But where was "Orillia's leading newspaper for over 135 years". Where was their outrage back then??? Was it not their duty to report this attack on the health of Lake Simcoe??

I promised two more examples. Ninety-Five Barrie Road is the first one. This former factory site was acquired by the city for unpaid taxes. They then sold off the site for \$two dollars\$ plus a \$900,000 development charge credit to the developer. The new owner then tore down the building. Contaminated materials were being trucked and being curious I followed one of them. To my surprise the truck ended up dumping its load into wetland at the concrete plant that borders Scout Valley. Here was contaminated materials being dumped and no one seemed to care. I phoned the MoE, nope not interested. Doug Peddle phoned the city. Nope not interested. I finally got a hold of the MNR and they shut it down. You see there is a beautiful little pond there that they were concerned about. Next day crushing equipment was brought in and the remainder concrete was crushed as can be witnessed by the piles still there and actually had been part of the destruction plan presented to the city, but it was much cheaper to dump it Eh!! The city allowed this wetland destruction and has still not acted to have the material removed. Why??? But did the Packet do a story on this outrage??? Of course not. "Orillia's leading newspaper for over 135 years" obviously doesn't think that this wetland was worth a **"rats ass"** do they???? But

what is even worse is council allowing the owners of 95 Barrie Rd. to dig contaminated soil from the west side of the property and stockpiling it on the east side. Then they allowed the property to be severed creating an "**Industrial Dump**" in the heart of the city once again. Seems having two "**Industrial Dumps**" (MURF site) is better than one in the heart of any city Eh!!??? Then they allowed the developer who now technically has a clean piece of property to start construction with no guarantees of the removal of the contaminated mountain of soil. How come "Orillia's leading newspaper for over 135 years" hasn't made an issue of this????

Then there is the "Foxfell" story. Back in 1985 a 20 acre piece of farm land with a condemned house on it was purchased by the local Quakers. Ed Abbott now 88 and a retired doctor and his wife Vivien also a retired doctor had a vision for this property. Their vision was to rehabilitate the old "Mill" house as a meeting place and do an affordable housing project on the rest of the property. As this property which is at the end of Westmount Dr. had been abandoned people would drop off items that they weren't fond of having on their own property. Tires, car parts, furniture, wood etc. were dumped throughout the 20 acres illegally. The new owners rolled up their shirt sleeves and cleaned the property not unlike Bob Bowles group cleaned up along Mill Creek and the city owned Scout Valley Park. The groups ambition of using the entire property was some what rich and they decided to sell off 15 acres to a local developer who put in roads and services and built a subdivision under the supervision of the city with all testing and environmental concerns met. The group kept the Mill house which was restored and 5 acres of which .9 acres located on Rachel Rd. was to build their dream of an energy efficient, affordable housing complex with all units being handicapped accessible. After years of planning Allan Millard became President of the Foxfell Non Profit Housing Corporation. For ten years this group had worked with a number of city planners who never once had any concerns. Finally this summer the building permit was applied for as funding was in place. About six weeks after the application Allan was notified that the city (**Cannon**) had found a problem with their plans. You see the new city planner Carl Cannon took the position that even though each unit has it's own doors to the outside yard the handicapped main entrance where the elevator is was actually a main entrance making the complex an "apartment building" and no building permit would be issued. Of course this is the same guy who says there is no problem with destroying "**wetland**" contrary to city policy or allowing an apartment building to be built beside an "**Industrial Dump**". Allan stared them down and after these people spent who knows how much with the city solicitor to save face they agreed to proceed with the permit. Mayor Pinocchio, Cipolla and Gardy attended the sod turning last Saturday. Why even the Packet actually showed up and had a colour picture on the front page of Mondays issue.

Now here is the interesting part. Allan receives an e-mail on Monday from a Cathy Suggit in the planning department that the project will be held up because they have now decided that because this property had strewn garbage on it they claim it had an industrial use and therefore had to have a "Record of Site Conditions". This is again clearly a further attempt of these people to thwart

"Affordable Housing" thwart " Handicapped Accessible Housing" from being built and **"stinks"** of political vendetta against Allan Millard using the less advantaged as **"Canon"** fodder. Allan Millard has no financial interest in this property. It is **"Non Profit"**. The **"Friends"** have donated the land and the \$400,000 they made from the sale of the 15 acres to this project. Federal funding is \$300,000 and Provincial is \$48,000. Rents are controlled and set by CMHC with no increase allowed for 15 years. There is no profit to be made by the corporation but shortfalls are their responsibility. So why has "Orillia's leading newspaper for over 135 years" not jumped on this story????? One can only wonder????? Let's hope that Orillia Today will follow it up. As I said at the beginning this is only the tip of the iceberg there is more and the Packet knows most of them.

jim tolnai

Nov. 11, 2005 "Lest We Forget" Please remember the sacrifice

The Pot Calling the Kettle Black

Thursdays editorial in the Packet is another example of the editorial hypocrisy of these people.

The November 9th Packet Editorial is a prime example of what is wrong with Orillia's politicians and the Packet. **"Council now acting with prudence"** is the headline of the editorial and makes one wonder. Makes one wonder where the Packet editors get the nerve to have written this piece which in the end lays blame at the foot of council and covers over the Packets own involvement?? Questions must be answered and blame placed not only on council but city management, experts and the Packet, as well as a small number of individuals who are political insiders. As the eyes, ears and voice of Orillia, the Packet has done a dis-service not only to it's readers but to "Freedom of the Press". This editorial is nothing more than covering up the Packet's and city managements behavior on the West St. **"Industrial Dump Site"**. The days of a few people controlling what news gets out to the people are gone. Never will papers like the Packet ever be able to control public opinion. The Packet and the people running it are no longer immune to the very treatment they have put people to who opposed their thinking. People who were forced to take abuse in the past now can return fire. Sort of evens the playing field doesn't it????

I can see eyebrows rising and blood pressures moving higher as some people read this. One year ago today trucks started to roll down West St. loaded with their contaminated, hazardous cargo to be dumped on the shores of Lake Simcoe. Council, city management and the Packet all sang from the same hymn book. **"Don't worry we know what we are doing"**. **"These radicals aren't experts and just do not understand"**. **"Our experts know exactly what has to be done"**. **"There is no danger"**. **"There is no leaching"**. **"There are no drums"** etc. etc. The Packet reported all this and more without batting an eye. The truth be known they knew how badly this site is contaminated and lied or abrogated their responsibility as "Orillia's leading newspaper for over 135 years" (their words) to research and report the truth. They abrogated their responsibility by coming out 100% for this site and misleading the public despite they being given competent

and correct information on site conditions but refused to report these facts plain and simple.

Wednesday's Editorial continues in the Packet's tradition of covering up and misleading. Take the Packet's statement "**The treatment of the vinyl chloride represents a significant extra step by the city to allay public fears about the site**". What a load of rubbish. Does anyone actually believe that these people are responding to the public's concerns??? The truth is, because the **Citizens Coalition** supplied evidence to the MOE (the same evidence supplied to the Packet) they have now taken a pro active position. It is the horrendous levels of contamination that the Packet dismissed which is the reason for the limited cleaning that is proposed. This is not an "**extra step**" it is a step that should have been taken from day one. Then the Packet claims there are still "**unknowns about the site**". Well isn't it about time the Packet and council found out the whole story and then acted appropriately?? But no the Packet still won't call for comprehensive testing so that we can deal with this site safely and honestly. So nothing has changed at the Packet or City Hall, has it?? Our efforts to go to court for an "**Environmental Assessment**" is as valid today as it was a year ago.

Then the Editorial goes to such an obscene length to mislead that my own blood pressure is rising. "**Council clearly did not know what it was getting into when it obtained the site from Molson**". How on earth could they not have known??? First there was an extensive **Appraisal** done which explicitly warned the reader that buying this property was really not a good idea even for a **dollar**. In a dozen places at least, the author warned about known contaminants and unknown ones as well. Then there was the "**Transfer Agreement**" which clearly states there was an "**Environmental Report**" which formed a part of the agreement. Then of course there is "**the purchaser assumes all past, present and future environmental liability**" clause in the agreement which should have sent "**Rockets**" flying. So for the Packet to mislead so brazenly just shows their journalistic ethics for what it really is. Then they make the misleading even worse when they write "**Nor was it (council) aware that a portion of the Molson property was under a development prohibition due to the existence of an industrial dump**". Now the Packet knows better than that?? First how could council not know?? The "**Prohibition**" is in the "**Appraisal**". The "**Prohibition**" is in the "**Transfer Agreement**" and the "**Prohibition**" is registered on title for God's sake. So for the Packet to tell you that council didn't know is an out and out load of (**Bullsh*t**). But do they leave it there? Nope, they continue to mislead by claiming council "**bought a pig in a poke**". How can this purchase be a "**pig in a poke**" when council had the information and yet dismissed it along with, of course the Packet who supported their contention that "**we know everything about this site**". The litmus test is very simple. If council was so misled by city management and the experts then why are these people (experts) and city management still on the job???? Wouldn't a "**prudent**" person once finding that they have been misled on many matters replace the people who were responsible???

The Editorial then goes on to make light of city staff and the experts role in councils decisions. We have said all along that council had and is being misled

even today by "**staff and the experts**" but only because they want to be misled so they can say "**we didn't know**" when the "**sh*t**" hits the fan. The Packet knew and knows and yet never questioned these misrepresentations. In fact they dismissed the "**radicals**" evidence. The Packet is no less responsible when they supported council, staff and the experts without question and tried very hard to discredit the "**Citizens Coalition**". To now try to distance themselves from responsibility is nothing more than "**cowardly**". Then they finish off their Editorial with a classic sentence. "It is not a picture that promotes confidence". Oh! so true. How can anyone have confidence in council, mayor, city management, experts or the Packet??? We need a "**Forensic Audit**".
jim tolnai

Nov. 10, 2005

Filling In Wetlands

by Bob Bowles

The ultimate test of a moral society is the kind of world that it leaves to its children.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian (1906-1945)

Just about one year ago (December 8-10, 2004) the City of Orillia filled in a highly diverse wetland swamp once classed as a part of a significant wetland located on the southern boundary of the proposed Multi-Use Recreational Facility (MURF) site but not before 50 Midland Painted Turtles were rescued (November 13-14, 2005).

On April 20, 2005 the owner of 196 and 200 James Street, Mr. Robert Keech, approached the City of Orillia to obtain a fill permit to allow filling of a wetland area along Ben's Ditch at the back of his property. The city issued the permit with no questions asked on a hand-drawn sketch by the applicant. Wetlands are protected under the Official Plan of the City of Orillia, November 8, 1999 but this area is Employment Area (Schedule A - Land Use) and Environmentally Sensitive (Schedule B - Overlay Designations) and zoned General Industrial M3 (Zoning Bylaw 1973-100 and 2005-72). The Official Plan clearly states that development in an environmentally sensitive overlay shall only be permitted where it is established to the satisfaction of Council, in consultation with the appropriate authorities, that development can proceed without constraint and/or without having a negative impact on any identified natural features. This was not considered and the permit issued.

The landowner began infilling of the wetland in July, 2005 and at the second Public Liaison Committee Meeting on the MURF on August 4, 2005 when I presented my paper on wetlands I expressed concern at the large area of wetland that was being destroyed. Three City Councilors attended throughout the meeting. A Department Of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) officer visited the site the following week to check if fish habitat was being destroyed and put a stop work order on the infilling. The City's planning department made a site visit after being

informed by several concerned citizen and an article in the Packet and Times and determined that a much greater area had been filled than was shown on the application and issued a stop filling operation notice on August 31, 2005. The author obtained a GPS map of the area that had been filled (6042 square meters) and the landowner did not do any more filling but continued to stock pile fill on the area filled. The wetland had been filled with painted concrete, bricks, tile, rebar, and wood debris as well as earth removed from some City construction operations that may have been contaminated.

On October 21, 2005 it was announced that the DFO had determined that 2400 square meters of fish habitat had been destroyed and ordered the habitat restored by the owner. Anyone found guilty of impacting on fish habitat can face fines of up to \$300,000 so in this case the guilty party got off easy since they really filled in 6042 square meters of wetland. Mr. Brian Round of DFO should be congratulated for doing his job in protecting fish habitat. Now the City of Orillia's Environment and Planning Departments should investigate the other 3642 square meters since there has been a negative impact on an identified natural feature in an environmentally sensitive area without approval by Council in consultation with the appropriate authorities. In fact Council claimed to know nothing about the infilling and attacked the Chairman of the Environmental Advisory Committee when he brought it to their attention during a deputation on September 26, 2005.

Wetlands are one of our greatest natural features protecting lakes from contaminates, providing flood control, and a healthy ecosystem of many forms of life, some rare and endangered. City Council has put out a clear message to developers that they value development at the expense of the environment. Development pressure on Orillia has greatly increased in the last year with the new Green Belt Legislation. Residents should expect to see more trees cut down, wetlands filled, and marinas and docks on the lake until either the attitude of council is changed this year or council changed next year. If we are to pass on a healthy world with clean air and water to our children we must start protecting wetlands and headwaters and by doing so protect our lakes.

See attached map and photos by Bob Bowles of infilling.

Editors Note:

Isn't it odd that councillor Cipolla has seemed to be so obsessed by the docks at Sophies Landing yet has been invisible and silent on this infilling of wetland contrary to city policy. He has asked council to order the removal of the floating docks which have been approved by DFO yet Mr. Keach has yet to be even approached by the city or councillor Cipolla and ordered to remove the illegal contaminated fill and to remediate. Seems odd for Cipolla to have such concern for the docks and nothing for wetland. Maybe Ralph has Dockphobia (fear of docks).

Nov. 9, 2005

???Council Finally Makes Right Decision???

Monday night has finally seen council make the right and only decision to start the cleanup process at the West St. site. The vote to spend \$750,000 is money well spent. We have been urging council to take this action as it is the only way this "industrial dump site" can ever be used for their proposed purpose. So good for all of you to have finally seen the light and admit the site needs cleaning.

There are some concerns for us, not about the technology but the actual amount of money being spent. It seems awful low for an effective cleanup to be successful. You see we have done some homework on this process and while it is very effective in many cases, it just doesn't work well or at all on others. That is why there will have to be some pretty intense testing to decide on the proper approach and which oxidant to use. That testing is again what we have been asking for so we are batting one hundred so far. As far as cost estimates the way we read this it does not make sense. The \$750,000 does not include consulting and management fees from Gartner Lee. Nor does it include the cost of testing. No matter how I have tried to read the report by the Design Committee I can't make it even remotely look like these costs are included. So it seems Gartner Lee has now been given a blank cheque as there has been no competitive process in hiring them nor an estimate of cost. Funny way to do business I would think don't you.

Then there is the \$750,000 cost for injecting the oxidants. In our research we have found a cost estimate for this type of process. Costs can range from a low of \$190 to \$660 US per cubic meter. Now the area to be targeted has been announced as 3,400 sq. meters. We know that the depth is at least 30 meters giving us a total of 102,000 cubic meters. If we are lucky and it will cost us the lowest price of \$190 US per cu. m. the cost for injection alone will be \$19,380,000 US. Should we not be lucky and conditions are not ideal costs could go as high as \$67,320,000 US for an area of 3,400 sq. m. My question is simple. How much area are these people actually intending on cleaning up??? Here are two links I have found. The first has the cost estimates per cu. m. the other does not have estimates. There is good information on the effectiveness but I am afraid the money budgeted won't even make a dent in the plume according to information on these sites. Please pay particular attention to the cost section on the first link http://www.frtr.gov/matrix2/section4/4_18.html or go to http://www.frtr.gov/matrix2/section4/4_4.html,

So is this nothing more than smoke and mirrors again. Have councillors been given proper information. If they have known the true cost of this process then their decision is true to form and they have not changed their mind of doing this right, and actually think we are stupid. If the information has been withheld from them, then it is time they started looking at who they are dealing with. So it would be nice to get an answer from council and their "experts" as to how they propose to clean up anything under this footprint spending only \$750,000???

jim tolnai

Nov. 6, 2005

Orillia's First Affordable Housing Project

Saturday afternoon people gathered for the symbolic sod turning for the Foxfell Community of Friends Affordable Housing Project on Rachel Rd. This unique project is being developed by Orillia's Quaker Community. For 18 years it has been the dream of Ed and Edith Abbott to build affordable, energy efficient housing. This group of friends as their known have supplied the land and almost \$400,000 to kick start the project. With Federal funds totaling \$300,000 and provincial contribution of \$48,000 the Foxfell Non Profit Corporation has now brought a dream to fulfillment.

Rents for the 12 units will be set by CMHC and not increase for 15 years. Each unit is energy efficient and will be a wonderful example and template for future projects. But even more astounding is the fact of each unit being handicapped friendly. Unlike other projects where only a small percentage of units are built for handicapped living all units in this project are accessible for handicapped use. What an unselfish group to be so thoughtful and generous to the less advantaged.

Mayor Stevens, councillors Cipolla and Gardy joined group members and supporters for the sod turning ceremony. Edwin Abbott the driving force behind this project for the past 18 years and senior group member at 88 years was joined by two of the youngest of the group to turn the sod. Edwin and Mayor Stevens planted an acorn as a symbol and hope that a tree will bloom as these much needed housing unit have finally bloomed. I must say I thoroughly enjoyed the event and am proud and pleased that our society has such caring and kind people. With people like these in our community the world will always have hope. Hip, Hip Hooray.

Long dreamed project is now a reality
of the project was displayed

Architectual drawings

Ed Aboott and kids turning the sod as Mayor Stevens looks on
with Allan Millard & Ed Abbott

Councillors Cipolla & Gardy

Ed Abbott at 88 used the shovel that belonged to his grandfather
to turn the sod. Wow!!

Ed Abott Shares the property history with dignitaries and guests
Jim Wood came to show support

Gene McBride, Jim Tolnai and

Refreshments and good laughs at the meeting house afterwards
to enjoy the festivities

Doug Peddle came out

jim tolnai

Nov. 5, 2005

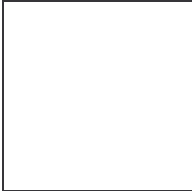
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Here we go again. Looks like there is "skullduggery" afoot. Get ready for another big chunk of cash being flushed down the West St. toilet by council. As we all know council is determined to build on the Molson site at any cost (financial or health). Looks like they now are pulling another funny turn on their quest to use the West St. site despite all common sense. We have said all along that no other sites stood a chance and wondered why???? Could it be so important for the public good to use this site that tens of millions in extra costs actually are beneficial to the public??? We have looked at all logical reasons why this site is more important than the facility itself and "**public interest**" certainly does not play a role as far as can be determined. So we are not surprised at what is being proposed.

Looks like the proposal to move the building footprint has died a gentle death. Despite the admission of S&P that moving the building is a good idea and in fact prudent, looks like that will not prevail. You see new contracts have been awarded and more new contracts are coming all costing millions with no "**guarantees**" of success. The city and Shaheen & Peaker in their quest to fit a square peg into a round hole were forced to have their work "**peer reviewed**". Now a "**peer review**" is supposed to be done by a third party with no interest in the outcome of the work being reviewed. It is important that this simple rule of ethics be adhered to don't you think? Well we learned at the last PLC meeting that the company doing the "**peer review**" (Gartner Lee) had negotiated a contract on the very work they were reviewing transforming themselves into "**Vendors**"? Yes, Gartner Lee was hired to research and recommend ways of dealing with the "**plume**" under the footprint (which they prefer to call a hot spot) to mislead. Now it is interesting to note that Bob Leach Chairman of Gartner Lee said that as far as he was concerned scientifically there was no need to move the footprint and that ventilation of the gas would solve the problem. So it was surprising that in spite of Gartner Lee's insistence that no remediation was or is necessary they were given a contract in (**conflict with their role as reviewers**) from what we understand to actually recommend ways to remediate??? Does this make sense. You hire the mechanic to fix your car when he has already told you there is nothing to fix??? That was bad enough and made absolutely no sense at all until now.

It has now become abundantly clear what these guys have been up to. In the quest to build on this "**Industrial Dump**" site at any cost they had to assemble just the right team seeing that there was growing opposition to their plans. So they hire a company who even before they start the work of review stated that this was OK to build on. Then before the report is finished they say the report was done well. That is "**crystal ball**" reading isn't it??? Even though the Chairman of Gartner Lee stated no other work was required except a ventilation system they are hired to recommend other options??? But what is even more unbelievable is that the Design Committee is recommending to council that Gartner Lee be hired to actually proceed with work they deem unnecessary to the tune of close to \$1,000,000. Now isn't this odd? I kid you not. Here is the 31



page document for your interest. Please note that moving the building is now not recommended and council is requested to approve a budget of \$700,000 plus unknown fees to Gartner Lee to manage work they deemed unnecessary only a short time ago??? If you are interested at all in this new development then read the document. I know it's 31 pages but understanding is the key to this whole mess. What Gartner Lee is proposing sounds too good to be true. In researching other sites around the world I have yet to find sites less than half as contaminated using this technology doing it in such a short time. Usually it takes 8 to 10 years and costs tens of millions of dollars. Also note that the \$700,000 is only an estimate and there is no **guarantee** of success. Gartner Lee also states that more testing must take place before this option can be used at additional cost. Yet a Dec.1 deadline is being proposed for council to act. If Lori Koughan is telling the truth that results from samples taken in Aug. have still not been received then can this new testing be done within a few weeks? Last year council acted in haste and look what happened. The same situation is being foisted on them again. These deadlines being set are "**artificial**". Why just last week Lauer said what was the rush in authorizing the \$25,000 dollar expenditure and why not wait a week for G&L's report. He was out voted because there was a perceived rush. Now the same people who said it was imperative to spend the \$25,000 have now stopped the work at a cost of how much?? They claim not to have off site results yet but want council to authorize this spending blindly. Councillors, think about this. If cleaning this site is as simple as what you are being told today how come this option was never offered before??? How come sites all over the world are not using this method being that it is so effective and relatively inexpensive?? You know the old saying "**if it sounds too good to be true then it must be**". You have the opportunity of a second chance to deal with this site in a proper manner. If you allow yourselves to be pressured by an "**artificial deadline**" it will come back to bite you in the ass again.

One of the more interesting parts of all this of course has to do with ethics. For a truly ethical approach someone hired to review work performed should not be hired to actually do the work without a competitive process nor accept the work. Council will be signing a blank cheque if they accept this "**bums rush**" option. Now here is where it gets interesting. It seems even though Gartner Lee's contract is not being handed out competitively it is claimed that they will seek competitive quotes for the actual injection work of the "**oxidants**" from an "**appropriate firm**". We wish to inform council and the public Gartner Lee as consultants are also principals of a remediation company. It will be interesting to see if this particular company will be a bidder and eventual winner of the contract?? Here is the info.

A comment in the MURF Committee's Building Location reported/Nov. 3rd may be of interest - on Pg. 4 under "Timing" it is stated (re chemical

oxidation): "The City's consultant Gartner Lee would manage the process and retain the appropriate firm through a competitive process for completion of the work." (re the chemical oxidation).

REON, is a brownfield remediation company. It will be interesting to learn which "contractor" Gartner Lee hires. Would it be improper for Gartner Lee to hire REON or to even allow them to submit a bid? The five owners of REON are listed below. Please note Gartner Lee and Cantox Environmental Inc. are both involved with REON as owners and Surprise! Surprise! Surprise! both companies are "Peer Reviewers of S&P??? It will also be interesting who will get the Lab work and will that too be done competitively???

1. McMillan Binch (a legal firm specializing in real estate)
2. Bobot & Yurichuck, (chartered accountants)
3. MAXXAM Analytics Inc. (a large laboratory)
4. Gartner Lee (Peer Reviewer of S&P)
5. Cantox Environmental Inc. (also Peer Reviewer of S&P).

You see folks there is more to this story than meets the eye. Councillors had better ask some hard questions and demand accountability before being foolhardy and hand over a blank cheque once again.

Questions:

1. Please provide examples of locations where this type of remediation has been used successfully and in such a short time frame and such a low cost. We would like 3 verifiable locations.
2. Has Gartner Lee ever done this type of remediation? Where and details of site conditions?
3. Has the venting of VC gas in the huge quantities and under such a large structure ever been successful anywhere in the world? And please don't accept the "bullshit" that all projects in the world are confidential but trust us. Make them give you one example before you accept their word and then check it out.

The buck will stop with you in the long run but paid by all of us. Stay tuned there is more to come. More reason for a "**Forensic Audit**"

jim tolnoi

Nov. 4, 2005

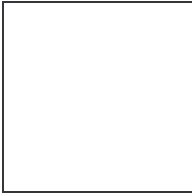
Doug Downey Nominated 2005 Pinocchio Award

I have nominated Doug Downey for the 2005 Pinocchio award. He has joined Mayor Pinocchio Stevens and Cynthia Pinocchio Robins of Shaheen and Peaker as potential winners of the coveted "**Load of Crap**" trophy. Doug's performance with his quotes in yesterdays Packet was priceless. No doubt this guy is an accomplished "bullsh*tter". Yesterdays story and quotes by Doug are prime examples of the moral and ethical bankruptcy of these people.

The "Environment watchdog slams Orillia" headline in the Packet reads real

sweet to those of us who have been fighting to bring forth the truth about these peoples behavior as well as the Molson property and to deal with it in a "safe" and "professional" manner. We now add Gord Miller Ontario Environmental Commissioner to our list of people who upon being furnished the facts have concluded that council, management and their "experts" have been anything but "honest". Gord Miller joins Derek Ford, Judge Stong, Judge Weaks, MoE, Glen Phelps and tens of thousands of Orillians who now know just how contaminated and poor a choice the Molson property is for the MURF. The truth which council and mayor have worked hard to cover up is bubbling to the surface like the VC gas on the Molson property and under those disappearing buildings across the road. Yet even today the cover up continues as these desperate individuals are still trying to develop this site without cleaning it up or even test it properly while wasting millions.

Gord Miller has confirmed that our complaints of cover up was and is true.



From the refusal of releasing the Molson Environmental Report back in 2002 to the refusal today to release test results from off site monitoring well samples, these people still try to make a silk purse from a sow's ear. When Doug Peddle and I began asking questions about the Molson deal we were spoon fed "bullsh*t". When we asked to see documentation we were given stories like "we can't release the environmental report because of a privacy agreement and we will be sued by Molson". When we asked to see the confidentiality agreement we were told it was "confidential"???. As we shared this information with other intelligent caring citizens they realized there was something just not right. We formed the **Citizens Coalition of Orillia and Area** so that as a group we could tackle the lies and deceit. We were concerned that council, city management and their experts were willing to proceed without proper planning and testing leading to a possible environmental disaster for Orillia and area. We warned them to not start digging before they knew what was there. We urged them not to move the 40,000 tons of hazardous soil to the shores of Lake Simcoe. We warned them of buried drums. We warned of asbestos and silica sand. We warned them that de-watering would cause contamination to be squeezed off site. Then we warned of the back half having a prohibition order. Through all this and even today Mayor Pinocchio and councillors keep plodding ahead going nowhere wasting huge amounts of money. To date they have wasted over **\$8,000,000** and don't even have a hole in the ground to show for it. Let's compare just how much council has wasted compared to the "**Ottawa Ad Scam**". Basing the Ottawa scandal on **\$250,000,000** that represents **\$8.33** for every man woman and child in Canada. Council's waste so far of **\$8,000,000** represents **\$266.00** for every man, woman and child in Orillia. Ottawa's scandal which is horrible is "**chump change**" in comparison to what these guys have wasted so far per person with "**tens of**

millions" more to come. If you think your taxes are high now just wait, you ain't seen nothing yet if you allow these guys to continue. Had people listened to our concerns last year and proceeded with caution and properly tested we would have saved as much as **\$7,000,000** and not have "**squeezed**" the contaminants off site which will cost tens of millions more in clean up and legal fees.

In yesterday's Packet story Doug (Pinocchio) Downey says "**The city did not intend to keep information from the public, but was unsure how to release highly technical reports and other complex documents. The city was trying to figure out how to manage the information and communicate effectively.**" What a bold faced "**lie**". What is it called when you say there is a confidentiality agreement and use that as the reason to not release documents and then admit there was no agreement??? Would one call that keeping information from the public intentionally and lying?? Of course. What about forcing concerned citizens to file Freedom of Information requests for everything asked for regardless? What do you call it when city staff are told there is to be no questions answered from these concerned citizens?? What do you call it when these concerned citizens are told that all requests regardless must be submitted in written form to Cathy Cotton city FOI officer and pay \$5 even if we asked the time of day??? What do you call it when the FOI officer refuses the citizens legitimate request and forces an appeal with no grounds to support her denial??? What about holding a public meeting but denying the public the right to ask questions? What do you call informing the public not to bother showing up for the public meeting because they are not welcome?? What do you call denying Allan Millard the right to speak at the "**Public Forum**" of council???? What do you call Wayne Gardy being warned by Glen Phelps of the severe contamination and then withholding it from the public? No reasonable person could believe it to be anything less than intentionally keeping information from the public. Then Pinocchio Downey claims that the "city (**council**) was trying to figure out how to manage the information and communicate effectively". Actually they were trying to figure out how they could cover up even more. Their answer even today is to refuse the release of information and just basically spout "**Bullsh*t**" in the hope that these pesky "**Activists**" will just go away?? This is the type of explanation one would expect from a "**midnight runner**" not from an officer of the courts.

Then we have Pinocchio Downey saying that the "**Public Liaison Committee has helped relieve suspicion and bring information forward in a logical way**". Another load of crap. From day one Ian Brown and council has tried to control the PLC. The public was not allowed to ask direct questions but were forced to submit written ones. Answers to these written questions have been either non-existent or weren't satisfactory with most answers being mostly "gobbly gook". Not only the public but members of the PLC have sent complaints to the Minister of the Environment directly about the lack of "**transparency**" that this process has. In an effort to change history the city demanded the right to take the minutes. Their pitiful effort was challenged as inaccuracies were brought to the chairman's attention. In fact there were statements inserted into the minutes which were never spoken. You see we the unwashed video taped the entire meetings and produced transcripts and with this proof the chairman and city had

no choice but to rewrite them. So for everyone's information the PLC process has not resulted in bringing important information forward which council and their **"experts"** don't want us to know. The people and a number of PLC members are even more suspicious of the process than they were before this **"charade"** was started. So folks watch the noses grow as more and more of the truth comes out and these guys attempt to explain their guilt away. There isn't one councillor or city manager who can claim innocence. Their efforts to **"screw"** us has been unanimous, so don't believe half of what they say and of course the other half is clearly a lie.

This war continues even as we win battle after battle after battle. You see these guys don't care as it is your money they are wasting. Obviously they don't give a **"rat's ass"** about anything or anyone and are not bright enough to figure a way out of the corner they painted themselves into. We need an election and we need a **"Forensic"** audit to clear the air. We will have both.

Be sure to read PLC member Mary Lou Kirby's letter on the "We Get Letters" page.

jim tolnai

Nov. 3, 2005

Media Release and Invitation by the
FOXFELL FRIENDS CO-OPERATIVE COMMUNITY
CORPORATION
(FFCCC)

c/o Friends Meeting House
231 Westmount Drive South
Orillia ON L3V 6E5
Tel. 705-326-0433
Fax 705-326-0599

Sod-Turning for: **Orillia's First Affordable Housing**

When: Saturday, November 5, 2005 at 2:00 p.m.

Where: 15 Rachael Road (near south end of Westmount Drive)

The FFCCC is pleased to announce that it will have a symbolic sod-turning ceremony to mark the transition from a long-standing vision to reality of the Foxfell Friends Community intergenerational affordable housing project.

The project will see the construction of 12 units in a multiple residential dwelling. The FFCCC is setting a new and higher standard for 'affordability' in the wider community: The project will be energy-efficient as part of a co-ordinated effort to provide comfortable, spacious accommodation while making the smallest possible demands on the resources of our planet.

Foxfell, named after George Fox and Margaret Fell, two of the 'founders' of the Society of Friends (now known as Quakers) in the second half of the 17th Century in England, will have wheelchair accessibility to and within each unit. In addition to R40 insulation provided by foam-block construction the project will make use of passive solar energy, radiant floor heating, and very high-efficiency natural gas boilers.

The FFCCC, a non-profit body incorporated in 1988, is making a major donation

of funds towards the design and construction of the project. Through the Community Rental Housing Program the Federal Government is contributing \$300,000 and the Provincial Government \$48,000. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation will insure the rest of the building loan/mortgage, expected to be provided by the Bank of Montreal, and will also provide certain lending 'enhancements'. The County of Simcoe is the local "service manager" for the Federal-Provincial program and is working with the FFCCC to bring this 'pilot project' into being.

Rent ceilings, deemed to be 'affordable', will be set by CMHC for a minimum of 15 years.

Editors Notes:

So folks come on out and help celebrate Orillia's first affordable housing project. Imagine every unit with handicapped access and super energy efficient at affordable rents. Wonderful project. Come and show your support.

Readers will note that no mention is made of support by the City of Orillia, even though the politicians have always given lip-service to affordable housing. I have it on good authority that far from helping with affordable housing the City is in fact obstructing the Foxfell project. The bulding permit application was submitted months ago and the site plan was submitted many weeks ago. So far, Planning and Development has done nothing but raise phoney objections. How much do you want to bet that Foxfell would have no problem if it was close to the MURF site, like 95 Barrie Road?

My Aren't we Getting Nasty???

Back on Oct. 31 I wrote about someone who had been corresponding with me in regards to the plugged filters story. I promised then that time permitting I would share these with you. Of course other juicy subjects come up daily like Doug Lewis' column and of course yesterday Cipolla the wannabe environmentalist which need immediate comment so I had set aside today's article in order to deal with "Hondo" the invisible. But then I received a final letter from some one else who is/was corresponding with me in regards to Hondo. Being a shorter correspondence I will share this with you today and want to assure you and especially Hondo who claims he can hardly wait for me to make his communication public I will get to it. So what I will do is post each piece of communication as it happened starting with Robert D'Obolina's initial letter and then make some points that are relevant and title them comments. I will then follow that with my reply and so on. Hope everyone can follow.

To: Sent: Monday, October 31, 2005 8:04 AM Subject: Plugged Water Filters

>

>

>>Mr. Tolnai

>>

>>I visit your speaking out web site on a regular basis and find it to be

>>engaging and informative. I read, with particular interest, the
>>correspondence from Honda Degas regarding possible causes of the plugged
>>filters. I am surprised by your vitriolic attack on Mr. Degas,
>>particularly in light of the fact that you did not answer any of the
>>questions raised by him. His suggestions seemed reasonable - did you
>>follow up and check to see if they had merit?
>>
>>Robert D'Obolina

Comment:

I would ask you to pay particular attention to Robert's sentence. He says "**I visit your speaking out web site on a regular basis and find it to be engaging and informative**". At this point I was feeling pretty smug. Imagine getting "schmoosed" from the opening sentence??? But as usual that doesn't last long in my life. He then says he is surprised by my "vitriolic" attack on Hondo Degas. Now here is what dictionary.com says "vitriolic".

1: harsh or corrosive in tone; "an acerbic tone piercing otherwise flowery prose"; "a barrage of acid comments"; "her acrid remarks make her many enemies"; "bitter words"; "blistering criticism"; "caustic jokes about political assassination, talk-show hosts and medical ethics"; "a sulfurous denunciation" [syn:

So here is my reply to to him.

But I did answer his questions in point form. How can you say I didn't.
>Have you seen the e-mail correspondence between us?? If yes then you have
>to know I have answered his questions. If you haven't seen it then you
>really can't honestly make the statement " I am surprised by your vitriolic
>attack on Mr. Degas, particularly in light of the fact that you did not
>answer any of the questions raised by him". I appreciate your visiting
>Speaking Out and hope you will continue. I also hope you can add your
>opinion pro or con based on solid information. If you want to argue that
>the slime is iron bacteria I have no problem with that. But if you are not
>interested in the opinion that this stuff is not acting like iron bacteria
>then that is fine too. I can only tell you what I believe, what Doug
>Sinclair believes and what the city through Ralph Cipolla has stated. No
>one but Hondo thinks it is iron bacteria from the three parties involved.
>My request has always been to test the substance nothing more. Remember
>before this was written up on Speaking Out I and my customers were trying
>to resolve it privately. The cities refusal to do it's due diligence caused
>it to be a public matter. As for Hondo claiming that the city is not
>responsible for water quality once it leaves their system, well that is
>just ludicrous. So Robert or whoever you may be you will be able to see my
>correspondence when the article is finished. Please do come back often to
>Speaking Out and enjoy. We believe that we have been an asset to the
>community at large and hope to be of service in the future. Our policy is
>very simple. Work with facts and tell the truth out in the open. Call a

>Spade a Spade regardless of who it is. No pussyfooting or weasel words
>here. Those who don't like it don't have to read us but are welcome to give
>their opinion. We will as in Hondo's case print what he wrote word for
>word. Our readers will make up their own minds up to who they believe is
credible.

>jim tolmai ----- Original Message ----- From: "robert D'Obolina"

Pretty straight forward and honest I thought. but then I thought why not check this
guy out. He seemed way too sensitive so I did a quick check for the surname
D'Obolina and was unable to find even one, but wait why don't you read what I
sent him.

Hey! Robert I did a quick search across Canada and do you know what I
>found? There is not one listing for the sir name D'Obolina anywhere in
>Canada?? Does that mean you are the last of your line?? I then did a world
>wide web search through two search engines there is no trace of that
>particular sir name anywhere in the world either. Hmmmm who would have
>thought it???? You guys are great. So much material supplied so little time
>to take advantage of them. Could be another story here so let's keep
>communicating. jim tolmai jim tolmai From: "Jim Tolmai" To: "robert
>D'Obolina" Subject: Re: Plugged Water Filters Date: Mon, 31 Oct 2005

Now remember, Robert started corresponding with me and clearly identified
himself as Robert D'Obolina which is a conscious effort to deceive right from the
start. Not a good way of starting a relationship especially when he praises me in
his first sentence. Makes me wonder if he was sincere. Well Robert in his answer
to my questioning his "Surname" has shown his true colours. He doesn't like me
at all nor my "**cronies**". So here is last night's letter.

Jim

My response to the points you raised in the order they were presented:

1. Based on the correspondence posted on your website, you did not fully
answer Hondo's questions or act on his suggestions. You did check to see if
there was flushing of water mains in the areas affected. Good for you. You
did not provide a definitive response to the suggestion that the continued
discolouration of water may be a result of precipitate breaking through the
filter nor confirmation that the slime was or was not iron bacteria. Based
on your website postings, I understand that you did ask various people if
the slime was iron bacteria; however, they only confirmed that they did not
know what it was. Perhaps you did answer Hondo's questions in
correspondence that I am not privy to, but based on the postings on your
website it appears that you are making an unnecessary and quite nasty attack
on Hondo.

Comment:

You know it doesn't seem to matter what the issue is these guys just don't get it. In his first point it is obvious he has way too much information and is either Hondo or connected to him. I challenged his knowledge of my correspondence with Hondo which I have not published as yet so he gets caught in his own trap and tries to claim I had attacked Hondo. The only communication made public is on the We Get Letters page. For anyone interested please have a look at How I treated Hondo. Yes after many private communications I determined that Hondo was a fake and have stated his correspondence would be made public and will be and called him a coward. But he is so what's wrong with that???

2. As far as I know the City is completing testing of the water as per government requirements and satisfying their due diligence obligations. If you want to look at the water analysis it is available at City Hall. Based on your comments, I understand that the only complaints directed to the City about adverse water quality are coming from your clients. Is this a problem with the City's water quality or a problem with your system? You claim to be a water expert - get the analysis and figure it out. I don't think the City, or more importantly me as a tax payer, should be obliged to solve problems with the products you sell.

Comment:

His point two then tries to turn the cities problem into my fault and how he as a taxpayer does not want to pay for problems with my equipment. There are no problems with my or my competitors equipment. They are filters that are being plugged up in a couple of weeks with dirt and crap coming from the city system. Nothing fancy or hi-tech. As my customer on Fittons Heights had gone a whole year without plugging his filter which as regular maintenance was replaced how does one explain the plugging within two weeks of the new filter??? They can but won't explain and try to shift the blame. Always the same "sh*t" just a different day. By the way my customer has a sample of unfiltered water collect at the point of entry into the house. The jell that has formed and is floating is what was asked be analyzed. City says no?????

3. My surname, as opposed to my sir name, is not of importance. What is important is that I have tried to politely tell you that you are treating Hondo, and for that matter a variety of other people quite badly. Participating in your community, and trying to be a part of solutions to problems encountered by your community is an honourable thing. I commend you for it.

Comment:

Roberts point 3 is interesting. You see I dashed off an e-mail with a number of spelling errors to Hondo and he came back with some pretty "vitriolic" words about my errors. Or were they really errors. Then Robert wastes a whole paragraph in pointing out that I misspelled "Surname" and confirming he lied about his identity, making anything else said by him suspect from then on.

Honest people don't need to hide now do they???? Oddly enough Robert misspelled a word in his first letter "particularly"???????

Now the fireworks begin hold on to your seats.

What I will now impolitely tell you is that you seem to think it is your god given right to treat everyone who does not share your opinion like a piece of shit. You take pleasure in publicly ridiculing those who do not share your opinion or do not complete things in the fashion you deem appropriate. Case in point, city councilors, city staff, various consultants, MOE staff, Colin Morton, Hondo, etc, etc. People post their correspondence on your site in an effort to engage in sensible debate about issues that matter. Many get publicly ridiculed and browbeat for trying to do what you are doing - actively participate in their community. Perhaps you could advance your various causes in a more efficient manner if you were not such an asshole.

Comment:

So tell me what you really think Robert??? Could it be that Robert didn't mean those sweet words he spoke of me and Speaking Out all along??? It certainly sounds like it. I guess councilors are not to be challenged for lies and deceit and greed. City staff who lie for their political masters and indeed mislead their political masters are not to be challenged either??? Consultants who are entrusted to deal with this site and then can't answer a simple question like "is VC gas lighter or heavier than air" or who claim more testing is not needed because all is known then say "we didn't know". Then claim they were just following orders from the city and their advice was ignored but kept billing. Are those the consultants your talking about??? The MoE?? Although now the MoE is taking their responsibilities seriously a year ago they were the "see nothing, hear nothing, and speak nothing" monkey dancing to city hall's organ grinder. As for Colin Morton, just read what he said. Even embarrassed Ian Brown and councilors I bet. With those kinds of outrageous statements and having family interests on West St. I don't believe I was too harsh. If anything he should be investigated as a scientist with credentials for his irresponsible comments. As for your feeling that I am now an "asshole" even my wife, children or closest friends will agree with you from time to time. What is that saying? Oh! yes "**Let anyone who has never been an "asshole" throw the first turd or something like that**".

It should be pointed out that as a displaced person from Hungary, you have enjoyed the benefits of growing up in a free and open society as opposed to the brutal dictatorship that existed prior to the early 1990's. Before you open your big mouth to hurl abuse at others, you should consider showing some courtesy to your fellow citizens who allowed your family to come to Canada and participate in our free and open society. If you had exhibited your current behavior in your country of birth you would have likely been

imprisoned or shot. Some points to ponder before performing your next act of unmitigated assholery.

Comment:

Then we come to my being a DP. People like Robert don't understand that we are all immigrants and deserve the same rights whether Pakistani, Jew, Christian, German, Spanish, French or Anglo Saxon. Enough examples for you Robert as there are more and I am afraid of making a spelling mistake if I go on. Where did you or your family come from Robert??? I unlike you am not ashamed of my heritage nor my identity and certainly would never tell anyone to "shut their big mouth". Oh! technically you said "open" but in transferring it to Hungarian it comes out "shut". As for courtesy to my fellow citizens maybe you don't know but I always greet people with a smile and open doors for ladies and gentlemen. I help little old ladies across the street and care very much for the health and welfare of all including you and Hondo. Now if you are saying I should roll over and play dead when politicians, bureaucrats, hired experts step over the line and don't do their jobs then sorry "**No**". I don't owe these people anything. It is they who squander our money and resources who owe me and every other hardworking, honest citizen an honest and efficient government. When that day comes I will "Shut my big mouth". As promised I will now point out Roberts grammatical error. Although there is the word "**asshole**" in the dictionary "**assholery**" is not. Wash your mouth out with soap and say 10 "Hail Mary's" Robert.

Don't feel obligated to respond to my correspondence, because I won't respond to yours. I have said what I need to say.

Comment:

So here I thought was "The End" abida,abida, abidaa That's All Folks. But that was not to be as there is a PS

Lots of Love

R. D'Obolina

P.S.

You take great pleasure in the number of hits your website gets. Don't. An informal survey of friends and family has shown that initial visits to your site were made to obtain information about local issues. The intent of the visits soon turned to checking up on the latest boneheaded bullshit contributed by you and your cronies. Many people visit your site for the same reason they attend midget wrestling matches and gawk at car wrecks - guilty pleasure derived from the knowledge that they are not the person involved in such a spectacle.

Comment:

Why yes indeed I am taken aback by the number of people who keep coming back to my "midget wrestling" or "car wreck". Does this mean that you no longer think that? Will you no longer come to the web-site nor think it is informative??? What about your friends who keep coming back to Speaking Out?? Are they fans of "Midget Wrestling and car wrecks"? You seem to demean these types of people but you keep coming back along with family and friends. Why???? Obviously you derive some pleasure don't you??? Here is how we see it. About 10% who visit us are people like you and Hondo with an agenda to protect the status quo. That of course includes the politicians and bureaucrats. The rest come for the information and critique knowing that both are honest. Definitely not everyone agrees with what we write all the time and some never but that is what "**Freedom**" is all about. So Robert please keep coming back and getting your "midget wrestling" fix and do write soon.

jim tolnai

Nov. 2, 2005

Concerns for Lake Simcoe

There are many people in this area who are concerned with the health of Lake Simcoe. People who question the wisdom of continuous development that eats up the shoreline and natural filtration. Here in Orillia we have had zoning changes from Provincially Significant wetland downgraded to Municipally significant to Employment. We have, city hall issuing fill permits for wetland which has destroyed acres and acres of free natural filtration of water leading into Simcoe. All this with the knowledge and indeed approval of council. You see council past and present have written off a huge area called the Orillia Filtration and are actually encouraging development of the land.

Then we have this council ordering the dumping of over 40,000 tons of, at best contaminated, at worst hazardous material to be placed on the shores of Lake Simcoe. We have example after example of other pollutants being diverted there including the fill from OPP Headquarters construction containing Arsenic. For years city councils and city administration have laid siege to Lake Simcoe along with other communities around the Lake. Past and present councils have said "trust us" we know what we are doing. You know what? Most people did trust. Then along comes these awful "**Activists**" who do nothing but stir up trouble. They persist and even have the nerve to ask for information, documents, test results and a "**public**" venue so the "**public**" could have an opportunity to discuss the issues. What do they get? No one seems to have information even today on cost of construction, environmental costs, or any idea of operational costs once the MURF is built. Then of course there are the documents. Getting

documents from city hall is as difficult as pulling chicken teeth. They claim there are deals with Molson so the environmental report which was part of the purchase agreement can not be released. Test results even months after samples were taken are not available. When information is published whether on paper or web-site it is buried in an attempt to hide it. Then of course we have the issue of public discussion. The city has a public meeting at Swanmore Hall. We are told that technically this is a public meeting but we are not welcome. We will not be allowed to speak or ask questions and the seating is setup in a way that the public has room for maybe 20 people. Then just recently at the MURF Design Committee meeting again the public was not permitted to participate and Derek Ford who obviously had a point to make was asked to be quiet by Chaiman Cipolla. No opportunity to ask questions or to rebut facts spoken by them. Now that great bastion of democracy the "Council Chamber" has been gagged. You may recall the mayor during "Public Forum?????" denying Allan Millard the right to speak. You see these guys have the same idea on public input as they have had on doing proper investigation and testing of the Molson site. If we don't test we will not find, therefore the property is clean. If we forbid someone from speaking, then we have not heard, therefore no opposition to our plans exist. Does this make sense to anyone except to the "**elite**" nine????

Come on Tolnai get to the point you are trying to make. Well it was with interest I read the following in yesterdays Packet. "By relenting in this case, council is abdicating it's responsibility to allow full public participation in planning decisions. The public didn't get an opportunity to discuss this. Because Lake Simcoe is environmentally sensitive, the city should err on the side of caution when considering requests that could have a negative effect on water quality". Noble words worthy of a true "**Activist**". But wait what horrendous environmental tragedy is happening that we the public should be consulted?? Is it the dumping of toxic soil?? Is it the destruction of a perfectly healthy eco-system like the one on the Molson property??? Is it the filling of acres upon acres of wetland??? Is it the squeezing contaminants off the Molson site and possibly even into the aquifer??? No there has been no need for public input for any of this as council is responsible for doing that and of course that makes it right. But what is it then???? Well it is the construction of some floating docks at the Sophie's Landing development on Atherly Rd.. Yup!! Ralph Cipolla is responsible for those words of concern for the publics right to be consulted and to be informed. They are also his words of concern for the sensitivity of Lake Simcoe's ecology. What a true environmentalist Ralph has turned out to be. He really cares that docks are harming the water quality of Lake Simcoe. In particular floating docks. What a guy? What an environmentalist? I'm surprised he hasn't brought a bylaw forward yet, making people put up "No Pissing Off Dock" signs. But wait that would really be the realm of the "ad hoc sign bylaw committee" who in three years still have not decided to recommend that the amendment made three years ago and seems to have been working be made permanent. Such is Orillia politics???? As a scary (to Doug Lewis) "**Activist**" I would like to welcome Ralph into our midst. Of course he will be on probation and not a full member until he can prove by his actions and not just lip service that he actually gives a "**rats ass**" about the

environment and of course as all true "**Activists**" he must go down to Doug Lewis' office , stick his head through the door and yell "**Boo**".

jim tolnai

Nov. 1, 2005

Doug Lewis' Ward Argument

In yesterdays Packet Doug Lewis deals with his vision of why the Ward system is superior to the at large one. Personally I think there is argument for both sides and each have valid points.

As a candidate who ran under the ward system, going door to door maybe fun but very tiring, and is an inefficient way to expend a lot of energy for limited results. Most people today are away at work or, work shifts and end up upset with you for waking them up. Leaving literature becomes your option at this point. I found that every other person I did end up speaking with claimed they don't bother to vote. Shocking, but true. What a waste of ones democratic right. Frankly I couldn't imagine trying to do door to door on a citywide basis, so I would say from a physical work point of view the ward system is much superior for the candidate. As for local ward issues I really didn't find very many people with ward concerns. I think most people are astute enough to know you call the city department first. If they won't do a satisfactory job, only then do you call a councillor. Otherwise there is no need is there.

Now from a democracy point of view I believe the at large system is far superior to the ward. To be able to command a vote for all council members and, to actually use it would make most councillors think twice before ignoring your concern. There are about 24,000 voters in Orillia but only about 40% or 9,600 actually exercise their right. If these 9,600 votes are divided by 28 running, theoretically the first eight who get over 344 votes could be elected. So it makes sense that your one vote is extremely important for the candidates. Not to mention that unlike parliament or the legislature having a vote for all members of council is much closer to pure democracy which people who have tasted power or have power are not too anxious to allow. So to summarize, the ward system is far superior for the candidates no question. The at large system is better for the electorate. Question is "In whose interest are elections held?" The people who hold power believe their interest comes first and,, elections are held for their benefit. The people who vote believe elections are held for their benefit. But once councillors are elected, or in the case of Carl Garland who was appointed, they feel they have a divine right to rule whether, we like their rule or not. Take the 40% wage increase that council and mayor gave themselves. They thumbed their nose at us and took the chance of the people, having short memories. Regardless of ward or at large elections this single outrageous act of stupidity and greedyness will not be forgotten.

Doug Lewis says that the ward system creates accountability and, better service or representation to people of a particular ward. Mike Murphy was one of the proponents of keeping the ward system. He says he likes it and related a story of why the ward system couldn't be any better. He lives in Ward 4 and works in Ward 2. He had a problem in Ward 2, I suppose related to his work. He

approached council and explained his problem. Now this is true so don't say I'm making it up as we recorded council and his pitch. He goes on to say that, his ward 4 or ward 2 councillors did not bother to ask questions and showed no interest. But councillor Smith from ward 1 did take an interest and his problem was solved. "Doesn't get better than that" he said. Whoops! If councillors in the wards the represent are supposed to deal with local problems but don't and you can't get help from councillors from the ward you live in, then how does that make the ward system more accountable or superior?? What that says to me is the quality of ward 2 & 4 councillors is the problem. Service was poor and accountability non-existent. Mike might want to rethink his position as it was not his councillors who helped him with his problem. Obviously his vote didn't impress them under the ward system as it is not relevant.

In Doug Lewis' presentation to council he shared with them what he has written in his column and some he has not. I personally found it very interesting that Doug seemed defensive that he does not reside in town. Now that should make no difference as he does business in town and the mayor and Cipolla don't live in town either. What I found interesting is his claim that the building he currently occupies now has 16 people gainfully employed leading people who don't know to think Mr. Lewis has created 16 new jobs. What he didn't tell was that his partners moved their gainful employment from up the street. Now normally that wouldn't be an issue except the way it was done. Some might call it a midnight runner. As reported in the paper, files and personal property was moved out in off hours without the principals of the firm being told or given notice honestly and in a business like fashion. So for the square footage now occupied by these people there was an equal square footage left empty for a gain of 0 (zero). Not a very impressive statistic. Not very many jobs created here is there. Oh! I wonder if in the 16 gainfully employed in the building also includes Aubrey Fords move of his practice from Front St.??? Yup! quite an accomplishment in creating jobs isn't it.

Now we get to the real reason I believe for Doug's column and his speech to council. He seems to have a problem with "**Activists**". Many times since his column began and before in letters to the editor he has taken shots at the dreaded "**Activists**". Why it is almost like Doug has "**Activistphobia**". For those who need to know what "**Activistphobia**" is, it is a fear of "**Activists**". According to Doug anyone he calls an **Activist** "have no claim **for**" doing anything for the community". So who are these activists???

Dictionary .com says " **A proponent or practitioner of activism:political activists.** " Who are these terrible people that Doug seems to be less than pleased with. Well if you go by Doug's standards, anyone who doesn't belong to his Redneck party and does not agree with him is an "**Activist**" because they have different values than he has and dared say so. Then of course the people who opened the food bank are "**Activists**" as they criticize the governments for not doing enough for the disadvantaged. Hey! is there a minister, priest or preacher who has not criticized government from the pulpit at one time or other on political matters? Why Tommy Douglas the father of Medicare was labelled an "**Activist**". What about someone who is a neighbourhood "**Activist**"? You know some one not

holding office and continually complaining that council is not doing the right thing for his neighborhood? What about the "**Activist**" who does nothing but complain that it takes him 5 minutes longer to get into town even though it was his own choice to move out of town and, is himself one of the causes of the traffic slowdown, only he doesn't count, it's everyone else's fault???? What about Chief Friday from Keshechawan who dared to travel way down to Toronto and complain publicly that his people were being poisoned? Surely he too is an "**Activist**". Then of course anyone who supports any candidate and says so publicly or works for them other than those approved by Doug would be an "**Activist**" wouldn't they? So maybe in Doug's next column he could expand on his list as I am sure there are more types of "**Activists**" he could identify than I could ever dream of.

I have been wondering where Doug has gotten this dislike for "**Activists**" (**Activistphobia**), and had a thought. Wasn't Doug a treasure hunter a few years ago?? Why it seems he was the president of a corporation that hunted treasure in the Caribbean. If I am correct and I will be corrected if wrong, Doug spent quite a bit of time in Cuba schmoozing with the powerful who have this huge hate on for "**Activists**". Having been powerful himself as a Minister of the Crown I can't help but think he would have some empathy for the Cuban political elite who really "**Hate Activists**". Why commies hate "**Activists**" so much that jail or even "**Execution**" is not out of the question in dealing with them. So was he secretly indoctrinated into the "**Hate Activists**" state of mind by maybe being secretly drugged, hypnotized or horror of horror tortured by the commies??? Surely this can't be his own beliefs, can it???

jim tolnai

News Flash!!!

Here is a pdf of a news article from Endicot NY. You may remember the story we wrote about Endicot which you can read on the Vapor Migration page . This is a new development affecting tenants of apartments that do not have proper ventilation systems installed. You see over 480 buildings have been affected so far from migration of trichloroethylene (same stuff we have only they have a lot less to deal with). We bring this to your attention as 95 Barrie Rd. is being prepared to build a 60 unit apartment complex. Question is are they installing a ventilation system under this building or are they just assuming everything will be alright??? What about all the houses in the area, have they been checked or the people even contacted? Enjoy the read and pass it on especially to councillors, maybe it will motivate them to contact Endicot mayor and councillors to find out just how serious these chemicals really are to the health of a community. Our contamination is many times worst than anything in Endicot. Do you suppose

they might do it?????



