

Dec.23, 2004

## Citizens Coalition of Orillia Summary and Update

We have been asked by a number of people to summarize our efforts and update our concerns and efforts in the summary so here it is.

For those who wonder what the Coalition is all about and what the "MURF" mess has to do with us, here is a summary of the issues we see in the City's handling of it's environmental and public safety responsibilities.

1. The proposed MURF site (PMS) is known to be catastrophically contaminated with many hazardous substances, but the City ordered too few tests to know either the nature or the full extent of the hazards.
2. We asked for a proper assessment under the Environmental Assessment Act before any decision was taken to put recreation facilities on the PMS. An assessment requires an E. A. Board hearing with evidence from the public, independent experts and thorough testing.
3. Orillia refuses proper testing, all public input and all assessment procedures. It's team of lawyers oppose both an environmental assessment and a proper, professional 8-step site-specific risk assessment.
4. The Coalition expects that a full environmental assessment will result either in prohibiting building on the PMS or in strict remediation measures and environmental safe guards before any building occurs. The Coalition will abide by the outcome of a full hearing before Ontario's E. A. Board.
5. Soil taken from the PMS to the landfill contains chemical compounds that are hazardous by definition. The Coalition tried to stop that dumping into our leaky lakeside landfill, but the City pre-empted the judicial process by moving thousands of tonnes before an injunction hearing on Nov. 18-19. Whether all or some of that contaminated soil must be removed from the landfill is still very much an issue. In its reckless rush to beat the judicial clock, the city may have added millions of dollars to the remediation costs. A full review of the landfill's Certificate of Approval (issued by the E.A.B. in 1992) has been ordered by the Minister of the Environment.
6. In test wells drilled 50 metres apart in the "footprint" of the proposed MURF building (PMB) on Oct. 18, 2004, very high levels of vinyl chloride were found at a depth of 1.6-1.8 metres. In the only deeper well very high levels of trichlorethylene were found. Testing was halted. With full knowledge of these terrifying results the contract for excavation was awarded by Council on Nov. 8, excavation to 1.8 metres was completed Dec. 9, 2004 and engineered fill now rises about 5 metres above the bottom of the excavation.
7. Orillia now has a known but undefined pool of deadly volatile organic compound (VOCs) directly under the PMB. Our consultant, Dr. Derek Ford (a hydrogeologist of international renown), interprets the available data to infer that the plume is traveling slowly from the northwest of the PMB footprint through the centre to the southeast. Any building sitting on those VOCs will be uninsurable and quite possibly unusable by humans. As the need for proper environmental and site-specific assessments becomes more urgent and more obvious, the City's stubborn resistance increases our conviction that we are on the right track.
- 8 The Coalition expects the matter forcing the City into an assessment will be argued in Court in Barrie in February. We welcome both financial support for our legal challenges and moral support for proper testing, due process and responsible, accountable local government.

For more information call 327-5717 or 326-0433

For donations make cheques payable to:

Citizens Coalition of Orillia and mail to:  
13 Creighton St.  
Orillia, L3V 1A9  
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TD Canada Trust  
Peter St. or any branch in Ontario  
Acct.# 0596 5210352

Dec. 20, 2004

### More Information

In Fridays Packet Jim Purnell wrote the article titled "More warnings about site's soil". Oddly enough the Packet as usual missed the story. Dr. Ford was there as a world renowned Hydrogeologist not a soil expert. You see although the soil is contaminated and a danger a far more serious situation is the water that is contaminated. It was in this capacity that Dr. Ford spoke. He clearly identified himself a Hydrogeologist not as a geographer and geologist although he is those as well. The idea of the deputation was to inform the EAC members and through them council. The bonus would have been informing the public through the Packet. Hope was that for once the Packet would take the time and make an effort to inform their readers accurately. Unfortunately that was not to be.

You see no mention was made of the explosive nature of vinyl chloride. Instead that honor was given to trichlorethylene. Nor was it explained how vinyl chloride gas burns at 42 degrees C. Folks that temperature is a hot summer day in India. We are not talking needing a flame to start this stuff burning. He also failed to tell you that Dr. Ford gave his expert opinion which is totally different than just giving a speech. You see Dr. Ford supplied a nine page document to support his deputation with drawings, graphs and reprinted summaries of tests done by S&P. The Packet also failed to tell you that of 15 examples of similar polluted sites in North America and one in Ireland Orillia's site is by far the worst. The story also failed to let you know just how bad the contamination is vs. MOE standards. You see Moe standard is 20 ppb but there is 298,800 ppb present of trichlorethylene and .5ppb of vinyl chloride with 41,600ppb present. That is why Dr. Ford has called this "catastrophic". Yet Wayne Gardy who was present and had a copy of Dr. Ford's document did not bother to read it or even turn to pages as Dr. Ford suggested so the listeners could follow him. But the Packet does report what Gardy says without questioning the intelligence of his statements. "It's bad stuff, but there are options for cleaning it up" "The tests are done, they know what is there and the site risk assessment will tell us what we need to do to look after it". what a load of bunk. Dr. Ford stated that people do not knowingly build on a known plume of these chemicals and actually gave an example of a library built at the University of Minnesota on such a plume and it's consequences yet the Packet does not share the information with you. The point of Dr. Ford's presentation was that the testing done is inadequate and that the size of the plume is unknown. Dr. Ford also sought opinions from two other reputable experts who concurred with him. Yet Gardy claims no more testing is needed and the Packet fails to inform you of these experts opinion or even that Dr. Ford sought them.

It's hard to understand why the Packet fails so miserably to inform their readers of facts. We know

that the editors and Management are all for the site but with ever mounting evidence of just how bad this site is and now expert opinion as to the consequences we will suffer why do they keep on not informing thoroughly??? Shame on you Packet and shame on you council. Orillia desperately needs a daily paper that will inform and hold politicians and city staff accountable. There are other examples of the Packets inability to report so this is not an exception. On the other side Orillia Today with it's minimal resources has done a much better job of keeping us informed on the MURF. Maybe we could encourage them to look at publishing daily so that we could have an alternative to the Packet. I know I for one would be a subscriber. In the mean time the Citizens Coalition and Speaking Out will keep up the fight to inform you accurately and in a timely fashion. If you are interested Dr. Fords documents have been converted to a pdf file Derekpdf as well as an abbreviated version of his credentials Dr. Ford CV pdf below. One can only be impressed by his credentials. I wonder if the city would be interested in releasing Cynthia Robins' credentials of S&P seeing that they are relying on her expert opinion? Have they checked her credentials????



Dec. 16, 2004

## Disaster Looms

Tonight Dr. Derek Ford world renowned Hydrologist gave a deputation to the Orillia Environmental Advisory Committee regarding the MURF site and it's implications. Dr. Ford stated that in his professional opinion Orillia is sitting on a time bomb and must clean up the vinyl chloride beneath the footprint of the building. Even though the fill has been placed making it much harder and costlier to clean he stated that this material can not be left and there is no way that any competent MOE official would allow the building to be put up with this plume underneath. He conferred with two independent environmental engineers who concurred that cleanup was absolutely necessary. Dr. Ford stated that should the building be put up cracks in the floor will occur and gas will seep into the building. Two things will happen at this point. There will be a fire and or explosion danger as vinyl chloride gas ignites at 42C. Once ignited the fire can not be put out until all the gas has burned off. The second is that as the gas is toxic the building will become unusable. He cited a case where a library was built by the University of Minnesota on land with vinyl chloride under it. The building sits empty and unused and has been rendered uninhabitable. Dr. Ford also stated that should the city not cleanup and are successful in building no insurance company would cover the building as long as the vinyl chloride is present.

Dr. Fords advice to the city was to hire a reputable environmental firm for a second opinion. You see unlike the city he has consulted with two reputable firms who have grave concern over the Shaheen and Peaker reports. He stated that a prudent step would be to drill wells every 5 meters to establish the size of the plume. Then it will have to be cleaned up. He said there are a number of

ways to deal with this nasty stuff and none of them are cheap or done overnight. He also stated that depending on the method used, cost could run as high as the entire budget for the MURF of \$47,000,000. Now folks here is an unpaid expert, world renowned who has conferred with two other experts giving a professional opinion that unless the site is cleaned only disaster looms ahead. Don't you think that the city should heed his professional opinion/warning and get their own second opinion? The first one from Shaheen and Peaker just does not make sense. Dr. Ford gave examples of similar sites to our MURF around North America. Of the examples overall our site is the worst of them all. The examples are famous for their Toxicity and in fact one site in Woburn Mass. was made even more famous by the John Travolta movie "A Civil Action". Numbers at the Woburn site were a fraction of what our site contains and caused an environmental disaster for local children. Are you and your family willing to be council's guinea pigs? Remember what Mayor Stevens said on Rogers cable. Future councils will have to deal with problems down the road.  
jim tolnai

Dec. 15, 2005

I watched an interview on Rogers Cable of Mayor Stevens by John Swartz. In the interview the Mayor had the gall to make a statement that was pure bull. John did not question this statement nor correct it and I felt that it should be challenged. So here is the letter I sent to John with the hope that if Rogers is a fair and unbiased media the Citizens Coalition will be invited to set the record straight. As for Judge Stong's order it is clear to me that council is in contempt as they have not kept the loads separate and identifiable but mixed it. These people should and will be made responsible for their blatant disregard of the order.

John Swartz  
Rogers Television  
1 Sperling Drive  
Barrie, Ont.

Good Morning John

I watched your Xmas interview with Mayor Stevens. You may recall the statement by Stevens that there are rumours (fact not rumours) the city mixed clean soil with contaminated soil to make it non hazardous and further stating that is the most ridiculous thing he has ever heard. The facts as contained in Shaheen and Peaker reports as well as reports of statements attributed to Peter Dance in the Packet confirms that indeed that is what has happened. Further the MOE, the Minister Leona Dombrowsky, Judge Stong as well as the citizens of Orillia were told that soil at the dump would be piled in windrows and tested every 30 meters. The idea of keeping loads separate was to make sure Hazardous would not be mixed with clean. The Minister Of Environment misled the Legislature when she stated: "Yes, there are very high levels of contaminants, not considered hazardous waste yet. If they were, they would be disposed of in a hazardous waste facility. However, the material that is removed from the site is being

placed in **separate windrows** in the landfill facility. They are being tested every 30 metres for the levels of contaminants, and those levels of contaminants will be posted on the city of Orillia Web site so the public will have access to those results as soon as they are available from the testing labs, which is five days from the time the tests are taken"  
From Hansard

Judge Stongs order:

, "The Materials excavated from the Foundry Site under the footprint for the MURF are to be dumped in Cell 7 only and **kept separate and identifiable** until tested to see if they are non hazardous and therefore suitable for disposal at the Landfill site".

Also the action of mixing allows the VOC's to release into the air. Instead of keeping these loads separate they were spread immediately on delivery over a wide area into a thin layer. We watched load after load being dumped and before the trucks had even left being leveled and spread. Dilution is not the solution. So John the Mayor lied to you and your viewers plain and simple. If you read the Shaheen and Peaker reports you will see where three samples taken in June from clean areas were mixed with one sample taken from the hazardous sample in Oct. Just the act of mixing allows VOC's to disipate. Then if you dilute it further with who knows what proportion but lets guess three to one but more than likely more of course it will come up non hazardous. This is a very dangerous game these people are playing. If the MOE allows them to get away with this type of science Ontario is in real trouble. There is nothing to stop any industry from going out into the middle of any large body of water and dumping their poison. As it is mixing with the huge body of water it becomes non hazardous. Does this make sense? I think not yet that is exactly what Stevens and company have and are doing. So John I believe you owe it to your viewers to correct this misinformation by Stevens. I and my fellow Coalition members await your response.

Jim Tolnai  
Citizens Coalition  
327-5717

Dec. 11, 2004

### Dioxin Poisoning

So Ralph Cipolla and Mayor Stevens are upset with our picture of conjoined twins which happened as a result of Dioxin poisoning of the mother. Today Viktor Yushchenko Presidential candidate of Ukrania was diagnosed with Dioxin Poisoning. In only a few months Dioxin has transformed this man. So Ralph and Ron have a look at these before

and after pictures. In just a few months after being poisoned look what Dioxin has done. Is this what you want for Orillia and area. Once the water is poisoned we will be poisoned. Do the testing and clean up not cover up.  
jim tolnai

Before

After

The picture combo shows Viktor Yushchenko in file photos dated March 28, 2002, left, and Dec. 6, 2004, right. The Ukrainian opposition leader and presidential candidate's mysterious illness that scared his face was caused by dioxin poisoning, doctors said Saturday Dec. 11, 2004, in Vienna, Austria. (AP Photo/Viktor Pobedinsky/Efrem Lukatsky)

Do you think maybe we need to test the MURF site for Dioxins? Should we not make sure that the site is cleaned so that this stuff doesn't end up harming us? Remember there were two transformer fires. When heated PCB's turn to Dioxins. No Dioxin tests have been done on the MURF site and according to the experts non is needed?? We disagree. Better to be safe than sorry.

Dec. 2, 2004

Just posted a new page called Vapor Migration. I posted only two examples but there are literally hundreds of examples. If you go to <http://www.google.com/search?q=vinyl+chloride+contaminated+library+buildings&hl=en&lr=&start=80&sa=N> there is over 6,000 sites to search through. To see what other communities are doing please check it out. We are no different here in Orillia. We have a large plume of contaminated groundwater on the MURF site that needs to be cleaned or it will do us harm as it is moved by the construction activity. Homes all along Barrie Rd. and side streets will be at risk if the plume moves in that direction. Immediate testing and monitoring of basements should be undertaken by the city to ensure peoples safety. If you live in this area speak with your councillor and city officials and find out if they have a plan in place for your safety.