

# Speaking Out

FEB 2003

Volume 1 Issue4

## Maurice Suspended

by Jim Tolnai

So the Orillia Power Corp. Grinches are at it again. Maurice McMillan Orillia's Citizen of the Year has been suspended from his job for failing to follow operating procedures. The letter to Maurice states that any further misconduct will result in his dismissal. Thirty five years of service, believing in a cause, being RIGHT and what does he get? Looks like HARASSMENT to me.

I have spoken to many who now say this action by John Mattinson and the politically appointed board of OPC have gone too far. Hundreds if not thousands of citizens of Orillia are ready to fight this council and OPC. Due to Mattinson's and the boards mishandling just about every issue concerning privatization, they seem to feel that Maurice should pay the price. This will blow up in their faces.

There has to be changes made at OPC but not in the employment of Maurice McMillan. John Mattinson has proven himself to be unworthy of his position. Mattinson's denial that the suspension is not related to Maurice's opposition to deregulation is really unbelievable. Remember last year Mattinson tried to suspend Maurice for exactly that. He failed and now they are trying to make Maurice out to be incompetent in his job.

I have a question. In the 35 years Maurice has been doing his job, how many times has he been suspended? If he is so incompetent then why has he been kept on for all these years? I dare say OPC has built a good case against itself for a unjust dismissal suit if they try to fire Maurice.

This whole affair is nothing more than a poorly veiled political vendetta. Maurice was right about deregulation and the powers don't like being upstaged.



## OPC Board of Directors

All this controversy has wetted my appetite to know more about OPC and the people who run it. I went to the OPC web site and found the names of the people who were appointed to the board of directors. I must say that other than Geoff Hewett and Ray Hayhurst the other names do not ring a bell.

I know Geoff from the carwash and of course he was on council and ran for Mayor. I am very surprised that Geoff would be involved in this effort to discredit Maurice McMillan and would be very happy to hear that he opposes these underhanded tactics. I always thought he was a straight shooter. How about it Geoff have I been wrong about you?

Ray Hayhurst is a name I recognize from the old OWLP but I do not know him personally. Maybe Ray could let Orillians know if he is for or against FREE Speech and the right to protest a government policy that is hurting the citizens of Ontario. Or does he believe that only people who agree with the government deserve to work?

I have never heard of Larry Brooksbank, the Chairman, and upon doing a quick check of the phone book found no listing for him. Either he does not live in Orillia or his number is unlisted.. Anyway

unlisted Anyway I am curious to know who he is and what his claim to fame might be. A bit of biography might be a good idea for the OPC website so we might know the people who hold so much power over us. These people do not have to answer to anyone and I am sure their positions are safe as long as they tow the political line.

The next director is a Bruce Jackson. The name is not familiar so again to the phone book and again no listing.

The last director is a John Cameron who again, I am not familiar with. I checked the book and there are two John Camerons. Again, it would be good to know just who John Cameron is and what his qualifications were to be appointed to the board.

I assume that the OPC Board of Directors have sanctioned Mr. Mattinson's attacks on Maurice McMillan. I believe that we have a right to know so please let us know your position.

It would also be interesting to know their political affiliation. As the Packet reported seven out of nine people on council have PC affiliation. This council is the one responsible for the appointments. It would be good to know if the best people were chosen or was their appointment political.

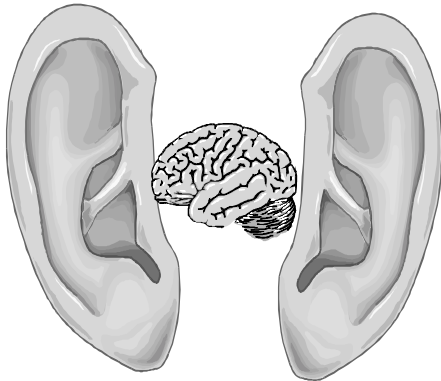
If the majority of Directors are of the PC persuasion then we know that their enthusiasm for privatization was based on political and not public interest. We also know then, that Maurice is considered a political dissident and their actions ARE politically motivated.

I have one more question. Could this council not find at least one bright woman in all of Orillia who could have been appointed to the board?

If anyone can enlighten us about these people please feel free.

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# Wm. C. Hobson Mis-Informed



Third, the Kiwanis Club faced a maximum fine of \$275. Glen Wagner was charged and paid \$75. I doubt if the city would have levied any more than \$75. And even then, the club could have asked for forgiveness just like Glen Wagner did. Maybe council would have waved the fine unlike in Glen's case.

You see Mr. Hobson, Glen Wagner was told that exceptions can not be made.

As for my head, it is true it keeps my ears apart but I also have an open mind and listen to all sides. I believe in equal justice for all. I and anyone else living in Orillia or anywhere else in this great country have the right to be treated equal under the law.

Last but not least, Doug who practices law, stated that he read the legislation and went ahead anyway. If he is found to be guilty, only Doug will be responsible for it. You are blaming the wrong person. You should be asking Doug what he was using his head for when he decided to break the law. Jim Tolnai

Mr. Hobson's letter to the editor Jan. 03/03 is fascinating reading. He states that I use my head only to keep my ears apart. He also states that Doug Downey was looking after the interest of all Orillians when he broke the conflict of interest law. He also states that he would like to think that Doug would have done the same thing for any other club if he realized the circumstances that were about to unfold. He then goes on to say I had sour grapes because I did not manage to get elected to council.

Well let me answer all his points. First, I did run for council and I was not elected. So what. First of all I ran in the North Ward and I did not run against Doug. Second, I do not consider myself a loser. I participated in the democratic process for the first time in my life and had a wonderful experience. There are no winners or losers in a democratic election. This was not a lottery or bingo game. It was an attempt by me and all the candidates to express their views and let the people decide. So, Mr. Hobson I did not lose the election the people chose someone else.

As for the charge of being petty, I do not believe that holding an elected official who has received the trust of the elector, responsible to perform his duties

## Child Porn

World famous Peter Townsend of The Who has been charged under Child Pornography law in the UK. U.S. authorities shared info with UK and Canada about users of a filthy web-site that was shut down. One of these sites was actually about Raping Babies as young as three months. According to TO police there were over 200 individuals with 10 charges so far. The officer on TVO stated these people ranged from lawyers, teachers, accountants, and even a physicist. He claims they are Hardwired and no amount of treatment will work a cure. This is just how they are.

I was so disgusted about what I heard I nearly threw up. If these people can not help the way they are maybe we need to provide them with alternatives.

1. Life in prison till they die OR
2. Eliminate their sexual urges through castration and drugs with weekly monitoring to make sure it is working. Let them choose one or the other.

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### Speaking Out

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according to lawful conduct is petty. If you do not like the Conflict of Interest legislation then ask your MPP to have it amended to your liking. In the mean time let's obey the law or suffer the consequences.

The fact that the Kiwanis Club or a other club voted the reason for the charge is a RFD. If you can make exceptions for a club then we should be able to make exceptions for individuals who make a mistake. Only Doug did not make a mistake. He willfully and knowingly broke the law which he helped create and voted for. In a democracy you do not have a right because it is your right for you at the time. This is how dictators do business. It is not history that politicians live off but held accountable for their actions. Today the Kiwanis Club tomorrow what?

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## Great Service



I just had to let everyone know about a great new service I discovered. It's called Mobile Mechanics and the name says it all. Greg Henderson mechanic, entrepreneur runs this incredible business. He does mechanical work on your car, truck, trailer, RV, boat etc. His twist is that he does it at your home, work, cottage etc.

My son needed brakes recently and Greg rolled into our driveway in his fully equipped truck. In about an hour he had new brakes installed right there. He cleaned up and took the time to explain what he had done and went through all the old parts showing us what and why they were changed. Truly a good experience.

About a month and a half later my son's car needed to be tuned up. Todd's schedule had him at work when Greg had an opening. "No problem" said Greg "where do you park your car"? Greg went to my sons work and did the tune up while Todd was working. Greg did an excellent job and left the parking lot spotless.

I decided to use Greg just the other day Jan. 8/02. I needed a tune up as well as a seal for my rocker cover. Greg showed up in my driveway and within two hours the job was complete and again everything was left spotless.

Greg did a great job for our family and we will use him again. He is a no nonsense guy and his prices are fantastic.. His hourly rate is about 60% of the prevailing shop rate. He only charges \$45 hr. and does a first rate job.

We wish Greg all the success, he truly deserves it. Give him a call at 330-1935 guaranteed you won't regret it.

Jim and Todd Tolnai

# FAVORITISM

The January 13/03 issue the Packet had a story about Joe Silvaggio wanting to ask council for a review of the city sign by-law. So curious me decided to go and meet Joe and find out what this was all about. Joe owns and runs the Pizza Plus Cafe on West St. across from O.D.C.V.I. You may remember Joe as he ran for Mayor in the last election as well as running the Hog Line Restaurant at the city owned curling rink. Never having met Joe I was pleased to find a very courteous friendly individual who is passionate about equality and fairness for all. Joe has had his disagreements with council and it looks like there will be more if, as he says "others get special treatment under the law".

As there are still outstanding legal issues between Joe and the city, he has been keeping an eye on the Barnfield center and making notes so that he has records. On June 26/02 Joe made note of a portable sign advertising the restaurant in the curling rink now called The Bayside Restaurant. On or about Oct. 15 Joe went to see Glenda Kruska regarding a permit for a portable sign in front of his new business. Glenda informed him that the bylaw only permitted the sign to be up for 90 days. Joe at this time informed Glenda that if that were the case why was the city allowing the Bayside Restaurant to have a sign over that limit and lodged a complaint with the city via Glenda. Joe kept an eye out and nothing was done. So on Nov. 06/02 he phoned Glenda to lodge another complaint that the sign was still up. He then called Cliff Turner, the man ultimately responsible for enforcing the law but was unable to speak with Cliff and left a voice mail for Cliff to call him back. Cliff did not return his call. Joe called the mayor and explained the situation to Stevens who couldn't figure out why Joe was upset that the Bayside received special treatment. Joe reported that Stevens stated "I don't understand what the problem is the sign is now removed". Yes the sign was removed at the end of Dec. after being in violation for over 90 days and no sign of the Sign Cop. So why is Joe upset? Well he is upset

about one law for one and another for others. He wants and has a right to expect the same treatment from government as anyone else. He has asked for a Special council meeting to deal with his situation as he must remove the sign by Jan. 17 or else pay a fine. He says that if Councillor Downey can have the Kiwanis club exempted on short notice and council obliged him then he has the right to be treated equally. He did try to make a deputation to council which is every citizens right but was turned down flat. So a Special meeting is his only hope.

As for the violation of the Bayside Restaurant he bears no ill will to the new operators but takes exception that, because the City of Orillia profits from increased business generated by the illegal sign they turn a blind eye in enforcing their own law. You see the deal on the restaurant is that the city receives a base rent or a percentage of the gross sales which ever is the greater. That means that it is profitable for the city to turn a blind eye. Sounds like favoritism to me. This favoritism hurt every restaurant and business in Orillia as the playing field was not level. Stating that there should be no complaint now that the sign is removed does not cut it. Obviously council and the mayor don't get it. In a democracy you can not nor should you give advantage to one and not to the rest. Our society is based on law. If you allow one citizen, organization or business special consideration to break the law then you have anarchy.

I do hope Joe gets his meeting and his exemption. This sign law has been a farce from day one. Council certainly did not think it through and made a mistake. Most people I have spoken to are not happy with the law. All they are interested in is letting people know who and where their business is. They are frustrated with it's complexity. The by law is fifty-nine pages long and many sections I tried to read were beyond me to understand.

## Expensive

An article concerning the Minister of Heritage Sheila Copps, caught my attention. It was concerning her expenses and her unwillingness to provide details under an Information request by Sun Media. The article states that she has not provided receipts or other documents to completely explain how she spent tens of thousands of taxpayers' dollars on travel, hospitality and other expenses.

Last spring the Prime Minister ordered his ministers to hand over detailed expense accounts when requested through the Access to information. This order came on the heels of weeks of criticism that ministers were hiding their high-flying ways behind privacy rules. I guess Jeans' power is over as Copps is ignoring his orders.

In a short 22 month period Copps spent almost \$180,000 in travel, hospitality and other expenses. Almost \$81,000 of that was classed as other unspecified expenses.

So let's take a look at what this means. In order to spend this \$81,000 on non-receiptable expenses she has to spend \$122.72 per day, or \$3681.81 per month or \$44,181.72 per year. I can only assume because she does not show any receipts it went for coffee, donuts, etc. Now remember this was in addition to receipted expenses of almost \$100,000.

Folks, there are families living on less than half of the money this woman spends on unspecified items! I don't understand how this unaccountability can be allowed. Ms. Copps earns a salary for her work like all of us. If I buy a meal it comes out of my salary. If I buy a cup of coffee and donut it comes from my salary. Why are we responsible to feed and clothe these people and still pay them a salary? I can see paying for travel expenses and certainly accommodation while away from home, but certainly not personal items which she is embarrassed to divulge.

I believe all expenses should be scrutinized and receipts provided. Ministers are given the title Honorable, so prove it by being honest, up front and transparent. It doesn't matter what party is in power they all believe that power is like winning the Super7 Jackpot.

And she wants to be Prime Minister?

## Who Owns Orillia Power Corp.?

What a load of Bull Shit. Does Ian Brown and council really think Orillia citizens are stupid? Brown says that unless Orillia Power Corporation stays, A For Profit company gouging Orillians, the utility will not be able to do maintenance or invest in capital projects. Non profit does not mean that OPC will not charge costs of operating back to its customers. It does not mean that if OPC decides to invest in more generation it can not charge back these costs. What non-profit means is that this council and the next and next will not be able to arbitrarily collect huge amounts of money from OPC as a hidden tax on all of us. Ian Brown and this council are being less than honest with every one of us. Think back to before privatization. We were supposed to receive a refund but the un-elected board changed the wishes of the out going elected board and rescinded the rebate. Where did that money go? These people are so blinded by what they call profit (power) that the interests of the people they are supposed to serve don't count. The truth is in the article where Brown states "But taxes would have to be raised to replace money now flowing to the city in the form of dividends". Well which is it? Not being able to maintain the utility or the dividends that flow to city management and council. This council at the expense of all citizens spent OPC future profits with the donation to Soldiers building fund. They should never have spent money unearned. Now they are willing to jeopardize the well being of this community for the sake of a 1 1/2 million-dollar promise. This will cost all of us tens if not hundreds of millions in the future.

In the same article Ken McLaughlin refers to Browns suggestion of a tax rise as "That's just a hidden tax". Bingo the truth is coming out. This whole exercise has been about only one thing. Picking our pockets. It is time that this CRAP stops. Call your councillor and complain. Maybe they might end up doing the right thing.

Doing the right thing is to challenge the PC provincial government on Bill 210 which they blame for their need to keep OPC for profit.

## Business Hurting

I was very interested in your newsletter, especially your concerns about Hydro. We are a small company (20 employees) that have just found out, along with many other small businesses that we are not eligible for the 4 year freeze, and are paying the same open market rates as GM, Ford and Stelco.

We have just received our hydro bill today for the month of December, so you can imagine how difficult it is trying to run a business when you don't know for almost 2 months what production costs were.

M Keech

Rama Plastics Inc

## Will Run

On Monday Jan. 27 Orillia city council decided that the people of Orillia had nothing worth while to say about Orillia Power staying as a for profit company. Councillors stated that they had studied the situation and that they knew everything there was to know. They denied the request of Joe Silvaggio for a public forum.

Although I had no intention of running for council in November, this councils unwillingness to let people at least voice their concerns before making a final decision, changed my mind. You see with seven out of nine council members reported to be PC supporters, their decision looks like an effort to tow the party line at the expense of their electors and neighbors.

Jim Tolnai

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