
❖ Speaking Out ❖

Volume 1 Issue 13

The Truth is Mighty and Will Prevail

Integrity Honesty

Back in August on the Monday following the great blackout I was driving down Front St. listening to the news. The report was about how everyone had to cut back on power use to help with the energy crunch. Mayor Stevens was speaking about how proud he was that the citizens of Orillia were making a great sacrifice and that we all had to stay the course until we were out of the crisis. Don't use your air conditioner, shut lights off etc. Well as I approached Colborne St. I decided to see if the Mayor believed in what he was saying to us and headed for his business. I pulled into the lot that leads to the back of his business where two air conditioning units were humming away burning power to beat the devil. Not 3 minutes before I heard this man saying we must sacrifice for the good of all and here he was sitting in a nice cool building while my house was hot as hell. On Wednesday my wife and I were heading up to the Mall and I decided to show her the Mayors air conditioners. Lo and behold both units were humming away again. The request for conservation was not lifted till some time Thursday.

So what does this say about the man who wants to lead us? Can anyone trust him or what he says? I know I certainly don't. I'm sure he enjoyed being cool while we cooked to save energy for his needs.

I know his supporters will say why am I bringing this up now. What better time than during an election so people can know what type of person their voting for. I did offer this story to the local media back in the summer but they chose not to inform you. I guess they did not think honesty and integrity an important issue. You can tell a lot about a persons character when they say one thing and do another. If you shut your air off and roasted during the energy emergency you have a right to be angry.
Jim Tolnai

Mushrooms

The Mayor, council, city staff, and the local media think of us as MUSHROOMS. First they keep us in the dark and when some light is shed they throw crap at us. I am sick and tired of the POWER treating us like this. In the Oct. 29 Packet it was finally admitted that the clause giving away over \$600,000 in development charges does exist. Only took four weeks to finally admit it. But then the CRAP starts all over again. Laura Lee now says the clause was incorrectly worded and does not reflect the understanding between the city and the developer, but Lee cannot provide a document that over rides the erroneous clause in the contract. The developer agreed the intent of the clause was to waive only the 221 fees and not development charges. Bull! the clause specifically says "no further development charge is payable by the purchaser". How can anyone misunderstand such clear language? It is the MUSHROOM factor. Mr. Orsi is quoted as saying "As far as I am concerned I'm paying develop-

ment charges on this property. Definitely". Good! that solves the problem. Everyone agrees that development charges will be paid. Now add it to the contract, sign and initial it end of story. But when I asked the Mayor at the candidates meeting to do just that the MUSHROOM factor kicked in. He stated again that the development charges are payable but would not commit it into the contract.

How stupid do these people think we are. A signed contract with clear wording takes precedence over the spoken word. We are talking about over \$600,000 of public money. Why would Stevens jeopardize any kind of money never mind over \$600,000. Last night the Mayor spoke of being a business man as well as Mayor. Well let me tell you if he were to run his business like he ran this deal he would be out of business in quick order.

The truth is Mr. Orsi has a legal binding contract and unless the clause is removed initialed and goes before council for a new bylaw (make sure councillors read it this time) there will never be any development charges payable on this property. So if everyone has the best interest of the public at heart stop the MUSHROOM factor do the change and let's get onto some other scandal. I know there are lots of others to be dealt with.
Jim Tolnai



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ON
NOVEMBER 10
GET OUT
AND
VOTE
YOU CAN MAKE
A DIFFERENCE

Who's Responsible

So who is responsible when bad deals are made by Mayor and council costing us literally millions of dollars? Well there is lots of blame to go around but ultimately councillors are at fault as it takes five votes to pass any bylaw.

Back in issue 7 of Speaking Out I questioned whether councillors know what they vote for. Please go to www.speakingout.biz and read the article it will open your eyes as to just what is going or not going on. Anyway I became aware that councillors for the most part do not actually receive copies of bylaws or copies of contracts in the case of this land deal to read. What they receive is a brief overview from staff who either recommend or not the action to be taken by council. How do I know this. Well if you read issue 7 you will see that under oath Mr. Downey admits this. I also have information from a Mr. Doug Peddle who spoke with Councillor McLaughlin regarding this land deal. McLaughlin stated to Doug that "he had never seen the contract" and that he was only given the staff report but would go to City Hall next day and look at the contract. Then my wife asked Councillor Smith if he read documents before voting on them. He stated that NO there was so much information he could not possibly read it all and did not. My wife asked Councillor Gardy who stated he read everything given to him. My question to Mr. Gardy and Smith "Was a copy of this contract given to you to read or as in McLaughlin's case you received only the staff report? Same question to all the other councillors. I know they won't answer me but maybe if you readers took a few minutes to ask these people the question. If the answer is NO we were not given the contract which seems to be the case at least according to McLaughlin then there is a deep rooted problem at City Hall. If they say YES then ask them why they did not read it. If they say they read it then ask why they did not question the fact that such a sloppy and one sided contract was given to council without input from the city solicitor.

I don't believe that most councillors
I don't believe councillors committed

committed an error of commission but an error of omission. They did not see copies of contracts and bylaws but accepted the Mayors and staff reports. This is wrong. I don't care how much reading there is, you as councillors agreed to take the job. In fact you lobbied for the job. It is now too late to say the work is over whelming. Your duty to all of us is to act in Good Faith. Putting blinders on and not being pro active does not show Good Faith.

Every councillor should immediately demand copies of all deals involving money whether it is land sales, supply contracts etc. Please read them, I am sure your eyes will be opened. I know that because of the small town feel and comradery of councillors and staff there is a TRUST factor (MUSHROOM FACTOR) that can be taken advantage of. The fact is that Orillia is BIG business and business must be looked after. Councillors regardless of what you think of me, regardless of being embarrassed by what you find, your first duty is to the people of Orillia. Don't be tempted to ignore the mess which at first will seem to be the easiest route. This information will come out eventually and will be made public. Be part of the solution and voters will reward you. Cover-up and eventually it will come back to bite you.

Jim Tolnai

Allan Millard

I have attended all four ward candidates meetings and no one impressed me or my wife more than Mr. Millard. This man has the qualifications and ideas that are sorely needed by our city. Unlike other candidates he spoke of looking after the most needy and vulnerable and explained how by doing the right thing our city will prosper. He is pro development but not at any cost. He wants prosperity for all and knows that profit is needed. But his point that profit at the expense of the vulnerable or indeed at the expense of all citizens is wrong. Ward 3 voters, I don't believe you could find a better candidate.

Jim Tolnai

Mayors Debate

So who won the the mayoral Debate? I attended and infact participated by asking questions of the candidates.

For Showmanship Nick Montague won hands down. Nick put on a very entertaining speech that had me in stitches. His background in radio showed. As for policy he held his own and seemed to have the right answers. Can Nick win? No I'm afraid he will not make it this time until he can get more exposure and a bigger campaign. Keep Trying Nick

Ken McCann came across as real strong, honest and passionate. He said the right things and I for one believed that this time he would make an excellent Mayor who will run the city business like, and challenge any questionable practices. I have been critical of Ken in the past but after seeing and hearing him I was impressed.

Maurice McMillan brought common sense to the debate along with his honesty and sheer tenacity of will power to over come adversity. Maurice answered all questions honestly showing he is not just a one issue candidate. I came out to support Maurice las week and I have not changed my mind. He deserves our support. Like McCaan Maurice can not be controlled by The POWER. He will make an excellent Mayor with a heart for the disadvantaged and all people.

Ron Stevens. What can I say. For organization and Smoothness he won by a mile. The big blue machine was everywhere. T-shirts, signs, volunteers and yes supporters attempting to stop me from asking questions by yelling "Sit Down" and other less complimentary things. Ron is a true politician who stuck to the script but for me and a number of others I spoke to there was no feeling of honesty like with McMillan and McCaan. Ron's answer to a direct question by Kelly Clune if he received campaign contributions from Doug Lewis or Angelo Orsi went unanswered when he said he does not get involved in knowing campaign contributions and the question should be asked of his manager. Real SMOOTH??? Left most of us wondering.

Jim Tolnai

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