

Osprey declines to apologize to mayor

Media group responds to Mr. Dekeyser's legal notice

by Adam Huras
THE INDEPENDENT

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THE INDEPENDENT has learned that Osprey Media, group publisher for Northumberland Publishers, Darren Murphy, and editor of the Colborne Chronicle, Bob Owen, have declined to apologize to Cramahe Township Mayor Lee Dekeyser, setting the stage for the two sides meeting in court.

Served notice July 25 that legal action will commence if an apology is not published by the Colborne Chronicle in its next regular edition, Osprey Media has since responded to Mr. Dekeyser's lawyer, Robert J. Reynolds, indicating no apology will be forthcoming.

"I have received a reply from the other party and there was no apology included," said Mr. Reynolds in a phone interview with *The Independent*. "We will now take the appropriate steps to that effect."

Mr. Reynolds would not comment further on the matter.

The official deadline for an apology would have been the Thursday, August 3 edition of the Colborne Chronicle, but no apology was included in its copy.

The Reynolds O'Brien law firm has since gone forward in collecting evidence for the case initiated by law clerk Trudie Robertson.

Ms. Robertson has contacted *The Independent*, as well as council members

and other witnesses associated with the confrontation at the June 6 meeting.

This is a preliminary step in a process that could include the gathering of witness statements and affidavits depending on the status of the case.

Mr. Dekeyser was seeking the retraction and apology for words said by Mr. Murphy that Mr. Dekeyser believes were used "as a springboard to cast aspersions on (his) character" and to imply "cowardice on Mr. Dekeyser's part." He was also seeking retraction and apology from Mr. Owen for two editorials on the events of June 6 council which Mr. Dekeyser believes contain parts that are factually inaccurate.

Angel hair

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To make a human hair wig requires at least 12 donations of hair, untouched by chemicals, as well as funds for materials and manufacturing to turn the hair into children's wigs.

The need was there and Amber was ready to help.

Asked how she feels about her new short look, she commented, "I like it. It's good in the summer."



Amber's brother Troy, wasn't to be left out. In an act of solidarity with his stepmother who has been diagnosed with cancer, Troy had his head shaved.

Castleton's Amber Partridge is a hair angel



Amber before her haircut, in her school photo.



Amber Partridge's braid of hair once reached her waist.



Amber after her haircut.

PHOTO BY BOB OWEN

COLBORNE CHRONICLE

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She had never had her hair cut short. For 10 years, Amber Partridge of Castleton has cultivated a beautiful head of curly red hair that flowed to her waist.

One day, she decided that hair could benefit others. It was time to give it away: "It was a nice thing to do."

She decided her hair could be used to help make someone less fortunate feel a little happier.

There was no pressure from her mother, Tricia, to make this bold move. Mom's

response to the suggestion was that "it's your head".

When Amber's stepmother, Kathy Winchester, discovered recently that she had lung cancer, Amber says she simply got "more inspired" to donate her hair.

So, off she went to Castleton hair stylist, Gail Jones early in July, returning home with her braid ready to mail to Angel Hair for Kids.

The Angel Hair for Kids is a project of A Child's Voice Foundation, a national non-profit organization established in 1995 and dedicated to support and enhance the physical and emotional well being of less fortunate

children in Canada.

Its website outlines the need for hair.

Each day, 46 children are diagnosed with cancer, and one in 330 children will develop cancer by age 20. Ten thousand children in Canada will lose their hair to the ravages of cancer treatments, burn accidents or Alopecia this year.

Angel Hair for Kids provides human hair wigs for children from financially disadvantaged families who have lost their hair.

At any given time, the charitable organization has between five and 10 applications waiting to be processed.

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