

Duignan must start to fulfill his obligations

This is a call to North-Halton MPP Noel Duignan to start fulfilling his obligation as the area provincial representative.

It turns out Mr. Duignan's provincial colleagues recently amended a regulation of Ontario's Consolidated Hearings Act to include the Halton Region Act.

However, nothing on the matter was heard from Mr. Duignan before the amendment's approval at the beginning of January, and nothing has been heard from him since its approval.

Neither the amendment nor Mr. Duignan's silence may seem like a big deal. But for those opposing the Acton dump proposal, it is a major development.

The province passed the Halton Region Act during the early 70s' in

order to create the municipality of Halton.

In creating the municipality, the province gave it responsibility over waste disposal within Halton.

That means under normal circumstances the construction of a landfill needs regional approval before it can go ahead.

For those who don't know, Milton-based Reclamations Systems Incorporated, (RSI), the dump proponent - has applied for a Consolidated Hearings Board to consider the proposal's validity.

A Consolidated Hearings Board will consider the the proposal in context of all related provincial acts.

Until the province amended the Consolidated Hearings Act, the Halton Region Act was included as



Ben's Banter
by Ben Dummett

part of this law.

That meant up until the change, Halton Region had "two kicks at the can" so to speak to stop the dump proposal.

Since the Halton Region Act gives the Region control over waste

disposal, regional council would normally have the right to reject the RSI application.

Since the region has already come out against the proposal, in all likelihood Regional council would have rejected it.

If this happened, RSI would have most likely appealed the decision to the Ontario Municipal Board which would have upheld or rejected regional council's decision.

If regional council lost at the OMB, it would try to stop the dump at a Consolidated Hearings Board.

However, the province's decision to change the Consolidated Hearings Act means regional council doesn't have a chance to deal with the proposal directly.

Contacted Monday, Mr. Duignan said he had only heard about the

change to the Consolidated Hearings Act as a result of my contacting him.

Why did Mr. Duignan only find out about a government decision involving his ward after the fact? And from a reporter, at that?

Mr. Duignan said he would look into the matter and get back to me.

Instead of getting back to me, Mr. Duignan should be more concerned about explaining himself and his party to his constituency.

His being unaware of such a major decision indicates one of two things; Mr. Duignan doesn't know what's going on within his own party, or his party is shutting him out of the decision making process.

Whatever the case, it doesn't say much for Mr. Duignan or his party.

Intolerance in disguise is on the rise

Are we facing a new fascist era? For many Canadians fascism is some old horror, vaguely associated with weird people in jackboots and funeral clothing. But fascism as a social phenomena was something much more insidious and much more damaging than the antiques of a bunch of violent loudmouths.

Fascism meant uniformity and repression of original thinking. Meant hypocrisy and fear. Fascism meant mediocrity and the death of significant intellectual life in the countries affected. It meant the triumph of the petit-bourgeois way of thinking and the death of generosity and open inquiry.

Why raise the spectre of fascism in 1992 Canada? Because we are surrounded by intolerance, under the cloth of fairness and tolerance.

The so called "political correctness" which is permeating the media and political life is nothing more than an attempt to stifle our

freedom, not only to act but to think.

The mealy-mouthed voices on the Radio and on TV, the gutless commentators and reporting in the newspapers are attempts to impose a "correct" view.

Correct for whom? Correct why?

Some examples. Racial discrimination is disgusting and foolish. Which does not mean that I do not have the right to harbor the most stupid prejudices. I have the right to dislike Jews, Wasps, Italians and Venusians. It is my absolute right not only to harbor such sentiments but to express them.

If in the name of political correctness we lose those rights, the whole structure of democratic life is undermined. To impose on me a "perfect" position in the name of political or social correctness is a crime just as big as the crime of active racism.

Another example. To condone and support the state of moral



Another View
by Carlo Testa

and intellectual confusion of the teenager is an abdication of my duty to criticize and oppose such confusion. There is a huge difference between tolerating a state of mind or a form of behavior and supporting it. I have no right to stop a speeder on the 401, but I have no right to encourage the speeder or to condone her/his behavior.

Democratic life implies variety and freedom. But everywhere I see signs of attempts to impose

strict rules: the rules of the intellectual grave.

We are becoming prisoners of stereotyped thoughts and like pavlovian dogs we are expected to react in the predicted way to any news.

I have worked with blacks and shared room and board for four years with a black student. I have been supported in my political careers by black Torontonians. Which has nothing to do with the fact that I think, and I must be free to express my opinion that there is an abnormally high rate of crime in the Torontonian black community. Or even better, that there is a "perceived" high rate of crime.

By refusing the perceived fact, we are committing two major errors. First we are not investigating the perceived fact. And a proper investigation could well turn out to refute it. In other words we keep alive a perceived fact which could be absolute baloney.

But what if a serious investigation would confirm the fact? The logical action to follow would be to attempt to cure the sickness, to the benefit, first of all, of the black community. But the politically correct voices do not want even to mention the issue. Right, next we will not recognize cancer and let people die in blissful ignorance!

Do you think the above is just a lot of words with little relevance? Why do you think we are in an economic mess? Because politicians, in the name of holy hypocrisy have refused to face reality and honestly debate it.

After Bob Rae's speech the heads of the Liberals and Conservatives scathingly attacked the Premier. Good fun? No, utter, pathetic nonsense.

Another example of the abdication of the right/duty to be free to think and of the necessity of debate.

To accept "correct thinking" is a bigger oxymoron than fascist freedom.

People's Forum

Reporter chided for opinion on escarpment initiative

Editor's Note: The following letter was forwarded to Herald

Back in the real world

To the Editor,
Now that I have your attention, lets take a look at a perfect "UTOPIAN" world, (or what anti-gunners want). A world free of guns and violence! Such a world would have no armies because guns can, and are, stolen from armories. People who commit crimes,

and or violence to another person would be dealt with most severely. Since most serial killers prefer knives and blunt instruments or strangulation, the fact that there are no guns would not bother them. A criminal wanting to have an 'edge' on their victim could use, say, a baseball bat. Guess baseball is doomed cause a bat is now a weapon. Can't have cars, because some nut ran over a bunch of people at the bus stop before he did himself in with a butcher knife. 'UTOPIA' (Definition of Utopian is - excellent or ideal, but existing only in visionary or impractical thought or theory.)

So, here we are, back in the real world. A place where criminals can point a gun at, or even shoot someone, and walk the streets in five years. Maybe we need to have laws that will send someone to prison for at least 20 years, with no parole, for crimes committed with weapons. I own a gun, and I am proud of it. Why not? I am a law abiding citizen, I shoot my gun at paper targets, this makes it a weapon? Although it could be used as one, it never has been. Lets not forget baseball. The bat is a wonderful thing. It can be used to give your child hours of enjoyment, or to

senior reporter Ben Dummett.
Dear Ben,

protect yourself against an intruder. Problem is, when the criminal has a gun you will be dead, bat or no bat, and the police just don't have the man power to be there until its too late. (Weapon: An instrument or bodily part used as a means of attack or defense in combat, a means employed to disarm, persuade, or get the better of another). Isn't that something! Doesn't say gun anywhere!

Well, whats the answer? Nothing fool proof I'm afraid. If we take a look at the mass shootings of late we can see that they were directed at, schools, women, children, handicapped and generally defenceless people. Perhaps, if even one of those women had a snub nose .38 in their purse, history would have been a little brighter. Perhaps, if even one of those McDonalds employees, or patrons had the means to defend themselves with a gun, it would be remembered quite differently. Maybe gun control should be set up much like licencing to drive a car, with yearly competency tests, family safety and orientation programs, and the ability to carry a gun for protection. I for one would feel a lot better if I knew my wife could safely handle, and carry a firearm for her personal protection. Criminals would think differently if they thought that gas stations might be the last thing they ever see, or that women that they are stalking, with violence in their minds, might blow them into the next life....

N. Maile,
Georgetown, Ont.

I read with interest your last two articles in The Herald regarding the Niagara Escarpment Plan amendment that I initiated.

You may have been carried away in painting a battle between two parties which, in reality, are both interested in opposing new quarries on the Escarpment. Then you may have tried hard to find a compromise position between what you wrote about our positions.

as a journalist you are entitled to raise public concerns or dismiss them, state someone else's opinion or your opinion. However, when you print that I "showed lack of good faith", I must respond.

Good faith is not a skill that you develop. Nor the lack of it can be attributed to a mistake.

Good faith is a way of acting and dealing with people or issues in a straightforward and sincere manner. Either you do it all the time, automatically, or otherwise you have a habit of deceiving people. People have lost faith in politicians exactly because of their politicking.

If in your opinion I did something wrong, then say so. I am prepared to recognize my mistakes. But if you try to derive

from my actions a picture of my character, it is imperative that you look at all the facts.

We, myself and the other members of the group EAGLE, tried to make known our intentions to ask for this Amendment since August 1989.

We published articles in the local papers specifying Lots and Concession numbers. We called several meetings in the last two years, open to all, at which this matter was raised.

I personally dropped a note to more than 100 mail boxes last October, stating my intention to go ahead with the application to the NEC.

As a result of all of the above I received not one phone call nor one letter. Not one extra person came to EAGLE's meetings. I was not surprised by that. Most people have to work hard to earn their living and do not have the time to attend one more meeting.

I recognize that we could have done more, but there is a limit to our time and EAGLE's funds.

I then initiated the only process I know (the Amendment) which starts with a letter of notification to all the neighbors, sent by the Niagara Escarpment Commis-

sion staff, asking them for their comments.

The Amendment can be withdrawn in whole or in part at any time, even before it is presented to the Commissioners. I stated to you my intention to do exactly that, if serious opposition developed.

The "official" NEC staff letter finally raised people's interest (and fears). I then offered to meet with anyone, anywhere to answer any question. Last week we called a new OPEN meeting to which ALL, including planners from the NEC and the media, have been invited. Lack of good faith?

Sincerely,
Giuseppe Gori

Couple thanked

Dear Editor,
I just wanted to take the time to write and thank the nice couple from Limehouse who stopped to help me January 23 when my car stalled out on Airport Rd. south of Derry Rd. in Mississauga.

When my car stalled and I couldn't restart it, I tried to get out and push it off the road. However, since I was in the centre lane and no one would stop, I couldn't do this. Not until this couple stopped and helped me. The gentleman then helped me restart my car.

This kind behavior is one of the reasons my husband and I moved to Georgetown last summer. I've generally found people here are friendly and happy to help others. This is something for Georgetown to be proud of and to encourage.

Sincerely,
Diane Hamilton

Support is essential

Letter to the Editor:
These are very busy times at Acton Food Share, but we feel we must express our thanks and gratitude to the many wonderful people, organizations and businesses that help us with gifts of food and money.

Thanks also to the Churches of Acton, Rockwood, Everton and Churchill for their donations and support.

During the Christmas season we received an outpouring of gifts of toys, cookies, Christmas cakes, fruit and turkeys, helping to make the season brighter for those in need.

On behalf of the directors and volunteers may I express our thanks. Your support is so essential.

Sincerely,
Joan Waldie
Co-ordinator