

The Rockwood

MULLER



Self-appointed watchdogs rely on inferences, half-truths-Mayor

Dear Editor,

Hypocrisy has never sat well with me. Self appointed Council watchdogs are rarely held accountable for their inflammatory comments. Inferences, half-truths and opinion pass as fact and the effect is the cultivation of mistrust and cynicism.

Wally Mayes' letter is a case in point. Ratepayers were not labelled silly, certainly not the 470 families that Mayes claims to represent and you chose to embellish in your headline. It is not my fault if Mayes views himself and his membership that way. These latest false claims cannot be left unchallenged.

I must admit some confusion as to why Mayes would reference an article in the Wellington Advertiser, when the New Tanner featured a similar article two weeks ago. Mayes could have taken exception to your subject matter, which was essentially the same. Instead Mayes with the aid of The New Tanner, the Guelph Mercury and other news outlets, seems content to continue promoting my day job and public office as a synonymous entity.

If Mayes were actually interested in debate or encouraging discussion about my comments he could have stayed to the real subject and ask if any ratepayer letter should be considered silly.

Every individual in our community has a right to an opinion and every individual has access to a councillor, myself or township staff. That remains the case today despite my statement of concern relating to some correspondence we are receiving.



Dave Adsett

Residents should put a little more thought into their correspondence rather than simply thrash about with senseless allegations or half-truths. Many well-spoken residents have done that and we thank them for those letters on the subject of taxes and lately the Tim Hortons application.

However, when individuals take third party gossip and turn that into a letter it serves no one, not even the letter writer. It certainly will not net any tangible benefit for the community let alone strengthen the ties between all communities within our township.

There is a large picture we are dealing with in the new township. Old Eramosa has been the beneficiary in that relationship, regardless of what the Mayes crowd has to say. All the years of fighting over the Bowstring Bridge, dissolution of the police villages, development pressures and even taxes, created costs then that are now being paid. Council cannot waste time nor effort on matters that will never be resolved. We need to keep moving forward.

A prime example of misinformed opinions turning into fact for use in letters was

the contention that the paving of the Fourth Line was unnecessary. One letter writer claimed it was little more than a private lane and did not deserve to be improved. Others have stated that if homeowners bought on a gravel road they should be satisfied and not want improvements. These positions were stated by GETA executive and regurgitated as fact by unsuspecting members.

Urban dwellers should recognize that many of our township roads are now commuter bypasses. Traffic counts indicate a higher standard is required. Urbanites should also recognize that major improvements in villages are paid for by all taxpayers, including those people living on gravel roads. We need to think about each other a little bit and we need to look at the future. People should recognize that maintenance on paved or hardtop surfaces is substantially less than gravel roads.

Council, while fulfilling its infrastructure obligations, continues to look for funding alternatives to offset the tremendous burden on ratepayers. We are looking for answers and seeking solutions. Business plans are in place for the next ten years. We have stated that the increase in our own purposed budget should now be limited to marginal annual increases during that time. It is a matter of refining those plans and finding more cost effective ways of managing the operations budget. Residents are most welcome to provide constructive input.

It is not helpful for citizens

to suggest in letters that politicians be "treated like Fido", or that forensic audits are required, simply because the individual does not understand the many external factors now affecting budgets. Similarly, for people to suggest Council is cavalier and a host of other adjectives does not advance debate, unless of course, the goal of this group is simply to disrupt township business.

I do not want to see our township return to the days where portions of the township are resented for taking up Council's time. We are at that precipice now, whether members of GETA want to recognize that fact or not. We need more cooperation rather than alienation. In order to do that, we need mature debate rather than sarcastic attacks on the character of those who run for office and are elected.

As for Mayes, and others in his core group, that have rounded up approximately \$4,700 worth of memberships from hard working taxpayers, it is time to get to work. It's time for you to state substantive policy suggestions, it's time for you to run for office and give voters a new vision. If you can't do any better than you are right now you should consider rebating people their money. "Mayes for Mayor" has ring to it and seems to play well with roughly ten percent of the population. Let's see what the silent majority has to say. Nomination forms are available in the New Year for next fall.

Sincerely,
Dave Adsett
Mayor Guelph/Eramosa Township

Attempted break-in, 'Pukefest' on blotter

Wellington Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are looking for two young males who attempted to break into a residence on Saturday, August 3 at 5874 Wellington County Rd 29 in Eramosa Township. The pair tried to pry open a patio door when they were confronted by the home owner.

The suspect is described as male, non-white, possibly East Indian, 18-22 years, dark complexion, medium to slim build, about 5ft 9" tall, wearing blue jeans and a white T-shirt. The second was a white male, 18-22, 5' 10" tall, shaved head, fair complexion, and wearing a white T-shirt and black shorts.

The pair fled the scene in an older model, light blue, Mazda 323 4 door, with a temporary permit. They were last seen travelling north on

County Rd. 29. Anyone who can help the investigation should call the Guelph detachment of the OPP at (519) 822-7250 or Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

Pukefest assault

Officers are also asking assistance in solving a sexual assault at a "Pukefest" at a farm located on Wellington County Rd. 14 in Arthur Twp. The victim, a 19-year-old female had been drinking and was sexually assaulted sometime during the evening.

Police said she awoke later in a field after being assaulted and was seen walking around in a green garbage bag. Anyone with information which might assist police is asked to contact Detective Constable David Shantz of the Wellington County Major Crime Unit at (519) 822-7250, ext. 3240.

Two pulled over for excessive speed on 124

Constable Andrew Hampson of the Guelph detachment of the Wellington O.P.P. was on routine patrol on Friday, August 9, when he observed two vehicles travelling eastbound at a high rate of speed on Wellington County road 124, (officially 24) in Erin Township.

The officer activated the moving radar and the first vehicle, a 1991 Plymouth, entered the beam and recorded a speed of 152-km/h in a posted 80-km/h zone. The second vehicle, a 1988

Lincoln, pulled out and passed the first vehicle. It entered the radar beam and recorded a speed of 179-km/h in a posted 80-km/h zone. The officer stopped both vehicles.

Driver of the Plymouth, Bryon Gregory Thomson 19, of Mono Mills and the driver of the Lincoln, Adam Bathgate 19, of Erin are both charged with speeding. Both are scheduled to attend Guelph P.O.A. Court on October 2, to answer to the charges.

EWAG NEWS

The SMILE theatre will once again be performing in Rockwood at the Rockmosa Community Centre on Thursday, September 12. The presentation is called "Beautiful Dreamer" and is a musical celebration of America's songwriter Stephen Foster, composer of such classics as

Oh Susanna and *Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair*. The show starts at 1:30 with doors open at 1:00pm. Tickets are \$7.00 advance and \$10.00 at the door. Call Lynn at the EWAG office for more information. If you need help with your resume, come in and see Natalie on Tuesday mornings

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Slow down signs stolen

Four roadside signs asking speeders to slow down were stolen from Rockwood's Main Street sometime Friday night by vandals.

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