

Letters

Dear Editor:

This letter is written by the partners of Teskey, Heacock and Ferguson to protest the lack of balance in your coverage of the allegations made by the small group calling themselves "The Tiny Township Rate-payers Association". We do not protest that you should report that allegations had been made against our firm, or members of our firm by such a group. We do protest that your coverage of this matter (we refrain from using the word "issue" since for reasons below, we do not consider the matter an issue) is most unbalanced.

It does not appear that at any time you or your journalistic staff have ever made any enquiry or investigation as to whether or not there is any foundation in fact or principle into the so-called conflict of interest allegations.

At no time have you sought permission from our client, The Township of Tiny, to discuss this matter directly with us in that regard. We point out to you that it would be improper for us to discuss our retainer with a client without that client's permission.

Neither, evidently, have you asked any independent authoritative source their opinion of the merits of these allegations. Certainly if you have, you have not published the result of any enquiry.

We do not think it is reasonable for you to simply parrot in your columns the press releases from the self-styled "Rate-payers Association" without attempting to provide some form of balance. The most extreme example is your repeating of the allegation in last week's paper that our firm is in some way in conflict with the interests of our client, The Corporation of the Township of Tiny, because a former associate, Bernd Richardt, was an appointed member of the Town of Midland Property Standards Committee. Surely the least that your readership can expect is for you to enquire of Mr. Lancia, or some other representative of the "Tiny Township Rate-Payers Association", how such an appointment could in any conceivable way place our firm in a conflict of interest position. I repeat, any conceivable way!

I am not aware of any effort on the part of your paper to explain the Chamber of Commerce question. Perhaps your readers should be reminded that the Midland Chamber of Commerce (whose membership includes numerous businesses and residents outside the Town) has far ranging activities designed to promote the interests of the community at large (and that means not simply residents of the Town of Midland or even members of the Chamber of Commerce). The Resolution passed by the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors concerning the annexation issue was one item, of a broad ranging agenda, at one meeting. Our partner, Ross Heacock, did not participate in the discussion on the item, did not vote, and has not taken part in any way in steps in furtherance of the Resolution.

Perhaps as responsible journalists you should not simply take Mr. Heacock's word on the matter; but if you do not take his word on the matter, surely you owe him, in fairness, an obligation to explore through independent sources whether or not what he has said is true? You certainly should, and you should publish the results of your enquiries.

It could be argued that Mr. Heacock technically might not have even been required to exercise the caution that he did. In regard to the annexation attempt by the Town of Midland, the Township of Tiny have retained the firm of Gardiner, Roberts, to represent them on this most specialized issue. And had Mr. Heacock not taken the precaution that he had, and had our client, The Corporation of the Township of Tiny considered his conduct to be in conflict with our firm's duty to our client, it would be our client - The Corporation of the Township of Tiny, and no one else who would have standing to criticize us.

I wish to re-emphasize however, that Mr. Heacock did in fact recognize that it might not have seemed fair, not only to the Corporation of the Township of Tiny but to the Chamber of Commerce itself, had he participated in the Chamber's deliberations concerning the annexation resolution.

Mr. Lancia and his advisors apparently feel that Mr. Heacock should resign from his position as President of the Chamber of Commerce. Logically there is no magic in the fact that Mr. Heacock is President. Do they want our firm to resign from the Chamber completely?

The partners in our firm are active in numerous organizations in our community and elsewhere across the country. When the Federal Government

takes a position at odds with the official position of the Corporation of the Township of Tiny, is our partner Rod Ferguson obliged to surrender his membership from the Liberal Party? If the Provincial Government take a position which is contrary to the official position of the Corporation of the Township of Tiny, is our partner Gordon Teskey required to surrender his membership in the Conservative Party?

You know, Mr. Editor, there is a more serious and far ranging manifestation to the kind of criticism being levelled against our firm. There is certainly no surplus of volunteers for the various community organizations ranging from our Municipal Councils down. If you look around the community (and we know you should know this because of your involvement in volunteer organizations and projects) the percentage of

people involving themselves in public activities has become smaller and smaller.

Ross Heacock has given, voluntarily and without any remuneration of any kind, countless hours to the Chamber of Commerce, a large part of which have been from his productive working day. If people are to be encouraged to devote their time and become involved in our community - whether it be Council, Municipal Boards or Committees, service organizations or whatever, they should be protected from the kind of unfair criticism that certain people in our community have levelled on elective office holders and volunteers in our community.

The best protection is an evenhanded, balanced, diligent and responsible involvement of our press.

—Gordon Teskey
W. Ross Heacock
Roderic G. Ferguson

Local teachers elected to AEFO

Anne Gagne, Principal of Ecole Saints Martyrs Canadiens in Perkinsfield, was elected to the position of second vice-president of AEFO, the association of Franco-Ontarian teachers, at that organization's annual assembly held in Ottawa over the March break.

Genevieve Roy, teacher at Ecole Secondaire Le Caron, was re-elected for her third term as one of five members of the Administrative Council of the AEFO for Region 5, which encompasses all of southern Ontario.

Seven other teachers from the area attended the assembly in Ottawa.

Thank you for the gift of life

Dear Editor:

Last Wednesday the Canadian Red Cross Society held a blood donor clinic at Mountainview Mall. The goal for this clinic was 350 pints of blood. They received 503 donations, more than 1 1/2 times the anticipated goal!

This was the biggest response ever from this area. On top of the 503 people who gave blood, 70 more were deferred. This means that for one reason or another they couldn't give this time, perhaps they had taken medication within 48 hours, but they are welcome to come out next time. Also, there were many more people who came out and wanted to give, but the lineups were just too long.

Over half of the donors were 'first time donors'. This means that over 250 people from this area, for the first time in their lives, came out and donated a pint of their blood to help someone in desperate need of a blood transfusion.

There were over 100 high school students out to this clinic. It is wonderful to see the young people responding like this.

Recently I wrote a letter to the area newspapers telling of the problem with my 10 year old son, James, and how he is absolutely dependant on blood donations for his very life. Since I wrote that letter he has received three more transfusions, but he is still alive.

I would like to say THANK YOU! to the 503 people who gave blood last week, to the 70 more who were deferred, to the many more who came out but didn't have time to stand in line (you WERE noticed), and to the people who donated time or materials or space for this clinic. Perhaps some of the blood given here in Midland will soon be flowing in James' veins.

From James, his sister, my wife, and myself, what can we say but "Thank you". No other words can express our gratitude for what the people of this area have done for us and for all the others who need that Gift of Life.

The next Blood donor clinic is to be held on June 20. Please, let's all set that date aside and make the next one an even bigger success.

—Terry Burt-Gerrans

Researcher needs help

Dear Editor:

For the past two years, I have been researching a book detailing the experiences of Canadians who served or worked in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam Era.

To date, I have confirmed several hundred

Canadians who served with U.S., Australian and New Zealand Armed Forces in Vietnam as well as Canadian troops who served with the series of International Controls Commissions between 1954-73, Canadian journalists, doctors, nurses and others whose duties ranged from covert operations to rescuing orphans.

I am appealing to your readers, who may have served or know someone who did, to contact: Doug Clark, 7 Douglas Crescent, Fergus, Ont., N1M 1C1, 519-843-4019.

Thanking you in advance for your assistance, I remain,

—Doug Clark

Thanks for League

Dear Editor:

The Executive, parents and hockey participants of the Penetanguishene Minor Hockey Association wish to thank the following individuals and/or companies: Rotary Club, Penetanguishene, Central Marine, Midland, Beaver Lumber, Penetanguishene, Bay Marine & Sports, Penetanguishene, Desroches Bros. Penetanguishene, Driftwood Restaurant & Dining Lounge, Midland, Little Lake BP, Midland, The Friar, Penetanguishene, Penetang IGA, Watson's Shell & Variety, Mailloux's Footwear, Hindson Marine Ltd., Top Hat Amusements, Georgian Bay Vending, R. & R. Sports, 1230 CKMP, S. Charlebois Excavating, U.A.W. 1411 for their generous contributions towards the purchase of Hockey Sweaters. Without their support the 1983-84 Hockey season would not have been a success.

—H. Bisschop, President

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Let your vision be world-embracing, rather than confined to your own selves."

From the Writings of the Bahá'í Faith 526-3184

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We're glad you asked!



Jim Lynn
Funeral Director

WHAT DO YOU SAY TO A GRIEVING WIDOW?

Because it is so difficult to know how a grieving person really feels, we advise that you not say: "I know how you must feel." It is not necessary to force a conversation, nor to extoll the virtues of the deceased to the grieving family.

Silent expressions of emotion and compassion (like a firm gripping of the hand) and a simple "I'm sorry," are frequently more eloquent than talkative attempts at eulogies.

Listening and just "being there" shows that you care. Your presence is an indication of your desire to be sympathetic and comforting.

Above all, don't try to jolt a grieving widow out of her grief. Time will do it for her gradually. She must first accept the loss, then begin to live with it and pass through several emotional stages before the natural healing effects of time take hold.

We welcome your questions and comments on this and other subjects - privately or publicly, through this column.

James H. Lynn
Funeral Homes

Midland
526-6551

Elmvale
322-2732

ROSE FITNESS

New location
282 King St., 2nd floor,
Midland Town Centre 526-9115
(Entrance - in E&R or rear of building)

<p style="text-align: center;">Men's</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Body building & weight training Aerobics classes Self defence</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Ladies</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Aerobics classes Weight training & body building Self defence</p>
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Coming events:
April 3rd-Judi Graham
CKVR's Morning Break Star

Register **NOW** to avoid disappointment
Inquire about classes forming soon
in Penetanguishene

GEORGIAN COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
(affiliated with Associated Gospel Churches)

SUNDAYS-10:00 a.m.
PARKVIEW SCHOOL-
Seventh & Yonge Sts., Midland

Current Adult Study:
Ephesians-Doctrine of the Church
Bible teaching for children provided

Pastor: Rev. James Weber, B.A.
For further information, call 526-4025
PLEASE JOIN US