

Of dust and garbage

As the dust has fallen over the last round of the garbage dispute, we can now examine the events in a less emotional light.

It is very difficult to appropriate praise or condemnation with a story like waste management. It's so complex, there are too many variables at work to cloud the achievements and failures of the cast of characters involved.

Today's NSWMA and today's provincial government are largely working with the legacy of their predecessors.

There seems to be no good reason for this last minute rush to build a transfer station. Three years of squabbling between the NSWMA, Tiny Township and the Ministry of Environment have forced us to make large decisions quickly.

But were the negotiations in Toronto of a week-and-a-half ago successful? Certainly not completely. Perhaps not very much.

But what has to impress us all is the initiative which the NSWMA showed in at least trying to get something done. The Reeve of Tiny Township should be singled out as the guy who got the ball rolling and for doing something which was inspiring to behold: raising a little bit of hell.

At the very least, the NSWMA demanded personal consultation with the people within the Ministry of the Environment who make the decision instead of accepting second or third-hand information.

But the people of Huronia are heavily taxed as it is. Hauling garbage to Toronto is not going to ease that burden. Let's hope it doesn't take any longer than three years to find another garbage dump around here.

Council statements like information from Pluto

Dear Editor:

I am somewhat confused about the statements by Tiny Deputy Reeve Peter Brasher when he is quoted in your article about garbage last week as saying extreme care must be taken that no spill occurs at the temporary garbage site and that the Pauze site should have been used for a longer period of time.

If my memory is correct, the opposite attitude by our Tiny council prevailed last spring, when a proposal by the NSWMA and various ratepayer and protest groups agreed in principle to ask the Ministry of the Environment to consider keeping the existing Pauze site open, if it could be proven safe, for one or two more years.

At that time council informed the public it could not agree with the plan since further use for one or two years would aggravate the plume movement and that the plume was detected by the township's consultants as

moving faster towards the waterfront than anticipated.

How come Peter Brasher now thinks it is a good idea to reactivate the Pauze site? Would not a spill be just as polluting if it occurred in Perkinsfield as the temporary site on Golf Links Road?

Does our council really know what they want or remember what they said in the recent past? It has only been six months since their announcement. Obviously they must be getting new information sent from another planet. Pluto, perhaps?

One more thing. How come if a sand base is not acceptable at the Golf Links Road site, as Mr. Brasher insists, why is a sand base good enough at Perkinsfield for the council's proposal for an engineered site?

Yours truly
Gary Posey
County Road 6
Perkinsfield, Ontario

Didn't suggest picketing Leitz, says MSS teacher

Dear Editor:

As a teacher of English I try to impress upon my students the need to quote accurately and to keep those quotations in context. It would seem someone needs to impress these necessities upon your reporting staff as well.

In its Wednesday Nov. 4 edition, under the headline "Midland peace group forms," your newspaper quotes me inaccurately and removes that quotation from its context, entirely reversing the spirit and intent of what I originally said.

"Go down and picket at Leitz for days on end," he suggested. "They're producing (military-related) equipment. You have a lot of energy to channel in dozens of directions." What I, in fact, meant was they had limited energy and resources, and should narrow their focus to the nuclear arms race; if they tried to demilitarize the world they would

dissipate their strength by going in too many directions; they could, if they wished, spend days picketing Litton Industries in Toronto or Leitz here in Midland (both of which produce military equipment), but such actions would dilute any effect the group had on the much more serious proliferation of nuclear weapons.

I am highly disappointed and extremely angry at this misrepresentation. And I'm sure the people at Leitz feel chagrined at being lumped in with the producers of nuclear weaponry, of which group they are not members.

We need and want publicity, but if even the smallest part of this exposure is based on such inaccuracy, then we'll happily do without any coverage.

Roger Bell
Staff advisor to END

Ban tobacco advertising

Dear Editor:

The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) believes the health of Canadians would be improved by speedy passage by Parliament of Bill C-51, the Tobacco Products Control Act. The Bill, introduced last spring by Jake Epp, Minister of National Health and Welfare, would eliminate advertising of tobacco products and introduce other measures to reduce smoking.

There is no doubt in the minds of physicians that smoking, which is responsible for more than 35,000 deaths every year, is the leading cause of preventable death and disease in Canada. The CMA, which supports efforts to eradicate this killer, has asked Canada's 56,000 physicians to contact

their MPs to voice their support for Bill C-51 as citizens and as health care professionals.

While I believe it is the responsibility of the medical profession to show leadership on this important health issue, I think every Canadian should express their opinion on Bill C-51 to their elected representatives. I urge readers to join the doctors of Canada and make their views on prohibiting tobacco advertising known to their MP and this newspaper. Information on who your MP is, the correct address and telephone number is available by calling the toll-free number 1-800-267-3800.

Yours truly
Dr. Athol L. Roberts
President, Canadian Medical Association



As I see it

by David Krayden

Stalin: the lonely psychopath

It is always difficult to get ten historians to agree on specific historical contentions. History is often a commodity which is open to the highest bidder: present the most coherent case and you own the rights for explanation.

But historians can generally agree on generalities. The American Civil War did happen between 1861-1865. There was such a thing as an Inquisition. The large events are seen by all; the intricacies of detail may be subject to argument.

But what happens when historical facts are determined on the basis of their political use? What happens when there are two political versions of history? Well, when this happens, history serves the interests of a ruling caste and political regime.

In other words, I see what I want to see in history. If certain events conflict with my political ideology then these events simply didn't happen. History becomes subordinate to ideology.

This is precisely how Marxists think. Never were whining ideologues ever more convinced that history was unfolding just for their discerning eyes.

There's been a lot of discussion over one Marxist's supposedly startling reinterpretation of his nation's history. I'm talking of Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev's speech last week in which he publically revealed Joseph Stalin's excesses.

Here we had an honest appraisal of the past, people said.

Well, in the first place, I find it incredible

to call Gorbachev's speech heroic or courageous. The crimes he accused Stalin of were committed some 50 years ago. If a German leader were to announce for the first time this week that Adolf Hitler had been guilty of a few political excesses and wasn't quite the nice man we all thought, I don't think anyone would be very impressed.

A paranoid psychopath who used the power of the state to crush millions of individuals has finally earned some bad press!

If Stalin is not seen as a criminal of Hitler's calibre, it is only because Uncle Joe won the war. Troops did not occupy the Kremlin and find all the documentation of horror that filled the file cabinets in Berlin.

And I must make this clear. I see Gorbachev's speech not as a dramatic movement

away from the traditional Soviet use of history but as a continuation. Why? Because Gorbachev is once more appropriating history to justify the political plans of the present.

We can criticise Stalin now because Gorbachev's political agenda requires that criticism.

Make no mistake, Gorbachev is still a good Marxist, just a more pragmatic one. If it is now time to see history a little more clearly - and Gorbachev is still not admitting to the full terror of Stalin's reign - in order to keep the present blurry, then so be it.

Stalin is in the grave. The socialist state has outlived him. Now that state can finish anything Stalin lacked the time to do.

Penetanguishene Citizen

Published by Bayweb Limited every Tuesday at
74 Main Street, Penetanguishene, Ontario 549-2012
Second Class Mail Registration Number 2327
Year subscription rate \$39.00

Publisher: Andrew Markle
Manager: Judy French
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