



Compliance Audit Report
For the Compliance Audit Committee –
Township of Springwater
Re: Bill French

May 7, 2018

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1 Introduction

Background to the Compliance Audit

- 1.1 This Report is the result of a request for a compliance audit under Section 81 of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (“**the Act**”) in relation to the campaign finances of Bill French (“**Mr. French**” or “**the Candidate**”).
- 1.2 Mr. French filed for election as Mayor of the Township of Springwater on March 4, 2014.
- 1.3 Mr. French’s 2014 campaign spending limit issued by the Town Clerk was \$20,363.90.
- 1.4 On March 18, 2015, Mr. French attested that the financial statement for the campaign period from March 4, 2014 to October 27, 2014 (the “**Financial Statement**”) was true and correct to the best of his knowledge and belief.
- 1.5 On June 24, 2015, Mr. Dan McLean (“**the Applicant**”) submitted a request for a compliance audit to the Compliance Audit Committee of the Township of Springwater (“**CAC**”). The Applicant identified 6 issues regarding inaccurate and missing expenses in the Financial Statement and we summarized the issues as follows:
 - 1) That the Financial Statement did not include the value of advertising costs on Springwater News as Mr. French contributed articles that criticized the Mayor and Council to promote his candidacy during the election process;
 - 2) That the Financial Statement did not include the market value of campaign office rent in the \$590 reported as office expenses;
 - 3) That the Financial Statement under-reported the cost of brochures when Mr. French’s campaign delivered two to three brochures to each household during the campaign;
 - 4) That the Financial Statement under-reported website, phone and internet charges for the campaign;
 - 5) That Mr. French’s campaign received in kind of contributions of \$250 from Genesis 2, which is not a proper corporate name nor an individual name; and

- 6) That the Financial Statement did not include the value of the signs and stakes of \$2,725.78 reported as ending inventory from Mr. French's last campaign as candidate for the Mayor of Springwater.
- 1.6 On July 21, 2015, the CAC ordered a compliance audit of the financial statements for the 2014 election campaign finances of Mr. French pursuant to Subsection 81(7) of the Act. Grant Thornton LLP was appointed to conduct the compliance audit and submitted a report to the CAC on September 25, 2015.
- 1.7 However, at a hearing on October 23, 2015, the CAC rejected the Grant Thornton report and ordered a second compliance audit of the 2014 election campaign finances of Mr. French.
- 1.8 On November 10, 2015, the CAC appointed Glen R. Davison, CPA, CA, LPA,¹ CFP of Froese Forensic Partners Ltd ("FFP") to conduct the second compliance audit in accordance with the Act.
- 1.9 A judicial review was filed by Mr. French on November 30, 2015. A Court Decision was issued on January 16, 2018 declaring that it was within the CAC's powers and jurisdiction to order a second compliance audit of the 2014 election campaign finances of Mr. French.
- 1.10 Subsection 81(9) of the Act requires that the auditor prepare a report "*outlining any apparent contravention by the candidate.*" This Report contains our findings in relation to our compliance audit of the Financial Statement submitted by Mr. French.

Our Approach to the Compliance Audit

- 1.11 The objective of our compliance audit is to report any apparent contraventions of the Act identified through the course of our compliance audit related to the Financial Statement filed by Mr. French. The compliance audit addressed the issues raised by the Applicant, as summarized above.
- 1.12 The audit also addressed other matters identified through the compliance audit process, including:
- 1) Whether the Candidate maintained separate bank accounts for the campaign;
 - 2) Whether the Candidate kept proper books and records for the campaign;

¹ Licensed Public Accountant.

- 3) Whether Mr. French performed candidate duties in accordance with the Act; and
 - 4) Whether the Financial Statement was prepared in accordance with the Act and the 2014 Candidates' Guide for Ontario Municipal and School Board Elections ("**the 2014 Candidates' Guide**").
- 1.13 We did not review the compliance audit report prepared by Grant Thornton which was submitted to the CAC in September 2015.
- 1.14 Mr. French cooperated fully with the compliance audit process and provided detailed explanations as requested.

Procedures Performed

- 1.15 Our procedures related to the compliance audit included:
- 1) Review of the information presented to the CAC in relation to the compliance audit, including the Candidate's response to the issues identified by the Applicant;
 - 2) Review of the Financial Statement, campaign bank statements, bank deposits, contribution receipts, expense payments and supporting documents;
 - 3) Review of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 and the 2014 Candidates' Guide;
 - 4) Interview of Mr. French and Mrs. Lorraine French ("**Mrs. L. French**"), who managed the campaign finance;
 - 5) Meeting with the Applicant and his legal counsel, Mr. Jack Siegel of Blaney McMurtry LLP;
 - 6) Review of documents submitted by Mr. French and the Applicant, both to CAC and during our interviews;
 - 7) Conducted corporate searches and internet research;
 - 8) Inquiries of vendors, suppliers and volunteers in relation to the campaign expenditures in question;

- 9) Inquiries of the owner of Springwater News and one of the Board members of Aware Simcoe in relation to advertising of the 2014 French Campaign; and
- 10) Brief telephone interview of Ms. Linda Collins, former Mayor of Springwater, in relation to access of the Springwater News.

What the Act Says about the Candidate's Duties

1.16 Subsection 69(1) of the Act, under the heading “Duties of candidate”, requires candidates to ensure that:

- 1) One or more bank accounts are opened in the name of the candidate's election campaign exclusively for the purposes of the election campaign (69(1)(a));
- 2) All contributions are deposited into campaign bank account(s) (69(1)(b));
- 3) All payments of expenses are made from the campaign bank account(s) other than the nomination filing fee (69(1)(c));
- 4) All contributions of goods and services are valued (69(1)(d));
- 5) Receipts are issued for every contribution and obtained for every expense (69(1)(e));
- 6) Records are kept of,
 - a) the receipts issued for every contribution,
 - b) the value of every contribution,
 - c) whether a contribution is in the form of money, goods or services, and
 - d) the contributor's name and address (69(1)(f));
- 7) All receipts are retained for all recorded and disputed expenses (69(1)(g) and (h)) for the term of office of the members of council or until their successors are elected;
- 8) Financial filings are made in accordance with Sections 78 and 79.1 of the Act (69(1)(k));

- 9) Proper direction is given to persons who are authorized to incur expenses and accept or solicit contributions on behalf of the candidate (69(1)(l)); and
- 10) A contribution of money made or received in contravention of this Act is returned to the contributor as soon as possible after the candidate becomes aware of the contravention (69(1)(m));

1.17 The 2014 Candidates' Guide also requires that:²

"All contributions – including contributions you make yourself – must be deposited into the campaign bank account. All expenses must be paid for from the campaign account (with the exception of the nomination fee, because you can't open the campaign account until you have filed your nomination)."

1.18 Subsection 78(1) of the Act, under the heading "Financial Statement and Auditor's Report", states that *"a candidate shall file with the clerk with whom the nomination was filed a financial statement and auditor's report, each in the prescribed form, reflecting the candidate's election campaign finances."*

1.19 The 2014 Candidates' Guide states that:³

*"It is your responsibility as a candidate to file a **complete** and **accurate** financial statement **on time**."*

What the Act Says About Contributions

1.20 Subsection 66(1) of the Act states that *"money, goods and services given to and accepted by or on behalf of a person for his or her election campaign are contributions."*

1.21 The 2014 Candidates' Guide states that:⁴

"Campaign contributions are any money, goods or services that are given to you for use in your campaign, including money and goods that you contribute yourself."

"If you are given a special discount on a good or service that you are purchasing for your campaign, the difference between what you

² Page 13 of the 2014 Candidates' Guide.

³ Page 19 of the 2014 Candidates' Guide.

⁴ Page 13 of the 2014 Candidates' Guide.

were charged and what an average person would be charged is considered to be a contribution.”

1.22 Subsection 70(3) of the Act states that “*only the following may make contributions:*

- 1. An individual who is normally resident in Ontario.*
- 2. A corporation that carries on business in Ontario.*
- 3. A trade union that holds bargaining rights for employees in Ontario.*
- 4. Subject to subsection (5), the candidate and his or her spouse.”*

1.23 Subsection 70(2) states that contributions should not be accepted by or on behalf of the candidate outside his or her campaign period.

1.24 Subsection 70(6) states that only a candidate or a person acting under the candidate’s direction may accept a contribution and 70(7) states that a contribution may not be accepted from a person or entity that is not entitled to make a contribution.

1.25 Subsection 71(1) of the Act limits the maximum contribution a contributor can make to any one candidate in an election to \$750.

1.26 In accordance with Subsection 70(8) of the Act, the 2014 Candidates’ Guide limits cash contributions to \$25 or less:⁵

“Only a contribution that is \$25 or less can be made in cash. All contributions above \$25 must be made by cheque, money order, or by a method that clearly shows where the funds came from.”

1.27 In relation to the contribution receipts, the 2014 Candidates’ Guide requires that a receipt must be issued for every contribution the Candidate received, including full value of goods and services received. A record of the names and addresses of the contributor must be kept, regardless of the value of the contribution, as the same contributor may make multiple contributions that exceed \$100.⁶

1.28 If the Candidate receives a cheque from a joint personal account, the receipt must be issued only to the person who signs the cheque.

⁵ Page 15 of the 2014 Candidates’ Guide.

⁶ Page 16 of the 2014 Candidates’ Guide.

- 1.29 The 2014 Candidates' Guides states the following in relation to contributions from the Candidate and his/her spouse:⁷

"There are no limits on how much you and your spouse can contribute to your campaign. Contributions that you and your spouse make to your campaign do not count toward the \$5,000 limit."

"If your campaign ends with a surplus, you can withdraw the value of contributions that you and your spouse made from the surplus. If you still have a surplus once you have withdrawn your contributions, the surplus remaining must be turned over to the clerk."

- 1.30 Subsection 66(2) of the Act and the 2014 Candidates' Guide also list the following as things that are deemed not to be contributions:⁸

- 1) Value of volunteer labour;
- 2) Value of services provided voluntarily, under the person's direction, by an employee whose compensation from all sources for providing them does not exceed the compensation the employee would normally receive for the period the services are provided,
- 3) Cash donation of \$10 or less at a fundraising event;
- 4) The value of free political advertising, provided that such advertising is made available to all candidates and is in accordance with the Broadcasting Act (Canada); and
- 5) Campaign loan from a bank or recognized financial institution.

What the Act Says About Expenses

- 1.31 Subsection 67(1) of the Act states that "*costs incurred for goods and services by or on behalf of a person wholly or partly for use in his or her election campaign are expenses*".

⁷ Page 16 of the 2014 Candidates' Guide.

⁸ Page 14 of the 2014 Candidates' Guide.

1.32 Section 76 outlines who may incur expenses, and states that only a candidate or an individual acting under a candidate's direction may incur expenses (76(1) and 76(3)).

1.33 The 2014 Candidates' Guide notes that:⁹

"Expenses must be paid from your campaign bank account. If you use a credit card to pay for purchases you should make sure that you keep clear records showing that the expense on the credit card was reimbursed from the campaign account."

1.34 One of the frequently asked questions includes:¹⁰

Can I pay for campaign expenses using my credit card?

The legislation says that all campaign expenses must be paid from the campaign bank account. If you pay for goods and services using a credit card, you should be sure to reimburse the expense promptly from the campaign account, and to keep records that show that the expense was paid from the campaign account.

1.35 In regards to special discounts provided to the campaign by suppliers of goods and services, the 2014 Candidates' Guide states that:¹¹

"If you are given a special discount on a good or service that you are purchasing for your campaign, you should record the expense as if you were not given the discount (since the value of the discount is considered to be a contribution of the good or service to your campaign).

Example:

Your order for campaign signs would normally cost \$500, but the vendor lets you have them for \$300 because he wants to help out your campaign. You should record an expense of \$500 for the signs, and record a contribution of \$200 in goods or services from the vendor. (Note: if the business is not a corporation, the contribution would have to be a personal contribution from the vendor.)"

⁹ Page 18 of the 2014 Candidates' Guide.

¹⁰ Page 24 of the 2014 Candidates' Guide.

¹¹ Page 18 of the 2014 Candidates' Guide.

- 1.36 The 2014 Candidates' Guide provides the following guidance in relation to campaign inventory (Subsection 67(2) of the Act):¹²

“If you ran in the last election and you want to reuse leftover goods such as signs or office supplies you must establish the current market value of the goods – what it would cost you to purchase them today. You must record the current market value as an expense.”

- 1.37 Subsection 76(4) of the Act prescribes that the maximum amount of expenses to be incurred during the campaign should not exceed an amount calculated in accordance with the prescribed formula (i.e. the spending limit). The 2014 Candidates' Guide states the following when applying the spending limit of expenses:¹³

“Your spending limit covers expenses that you incur between the beginning of your campaign and voting day. Expenses that you incur between the day after voting day and the end of your campaign are not subject to the spending limit.”

¹² Page 19 of the 2014 Candidates' Guide.

¹³ Page 19 of the 2014 Candidates' Guide.

2 Overall Summary

2.1 We reviewed the six issues identified by the Applicant regarding inaccurate and missing expenses in the Financial Statement and summarized our conclusions as follows (detailed discussions in Section 3 of this Report):

- 1) *Advertising expense* – There are no apparent contraventions of the Act in relation to failure to report advertising expenses for the Springwater News articles and the Aware Simcoe advertisements.
- 2) *Office rent expense* - There are no apparent contraventions of the Act in relation to the reporting of office rent expense.
- 3) *Advertising brochures and related photography expenses* - There are no apparent contraventions of the Act in relation to reporting of brochures / flyers expenses for the campaign.
- 4) *Website, phone and internet charges:*
 - a) *Phone* - There are no apparent contraventions of the Act in relation to reporting of phone expense for the campaign.
 - b) *Fringe Media website maintenance* - The failure to record a Fringe Media website maintenance contribution of goods and services and the corresponding campaign expense in the Financial Statement is an apparent contravention of Subsections 69(1)(d) and 69(1)(k) of the Act.
 - c) *Hosting of website* - The failure to include a campaign expense for website hosting in the Financial Statement is an apparent contravention of Subsection 69(1)(k) of the Act and the failure to pay the expenses from the campaign bank account is an apparent contravention of Subsection 69(1)(c) of the Act.
- 5) *In Kind Contributor Genesis 2* – The failure to issue a contribution receipt for the acceptance of goods and services contribution is an apparent contravention of Subsection 69(1)(e) of the Act.
- 6) *Campaign Inventory – Signs and Stakes:*

- a) *Stakes inventory from last campaign* - The failure to include the replacement value of stakes as campaign expenses where the stakes were retained from the previous election and used in the current election is an apparent contravention of Subsection 67(2) of the Act.
- b) *Rental of 300 stakes* - The failure to record the rental value of 300 stakes lent to the campaign as a contribution of goods and services and the corresponding failure to record the campaign expense in the Financial Statement is an apparent contravention of Subsections 69(1)(d) and 69(1)(k) of the Act.

2.2 We have also identified additional issues during our compliance audit as follows (detailed discussions in Section 4 of this Report):

- 1) *Cash contributions* - The acceptance of four contributions of cash over \$25 was an apparent contravention of Subsection 70(8) of the Act on the part of both the contributors and the Candidate.
- 2) *Campaign bank account* - The failure to pay campaign expenses from the campaign bank account and not reimburse campaign expenses in a prompt manner is an apparent contravention of Subsection 69(1)(c) of the Act.
- 3) *Contribution receipts* - The failure to issue a contribution receipt to the proper individual is a financial reporting contravention under Subsection 69(1)(f) of the Act.
- 4) *Financial Statement* - The failure to file a complete and accurate financial statement is an apparent contravention of Subsections 69(1)(k) and 78(1) of the Act.

2.3 In our opinion, campaign expenses subject to the spending limit are \$15,496.72 after our restatements, which remained within the authorized spending limit of \$20,363.90 for the French Campaign (Refer to paragraph 4.20 for the restated Financial Statement).

2.4 We estimate that the potential value of the letters / articles authored by Mr. French in the Springwater News to be \$1,800 for six letters / articles that reference the campaign. The cost of Aware Simcoe advertisements totaled \$1,582, including HST. We concluded that these were not apparent contraventions of the Act. Should we have concluded differently and included the additional cost of advertising as campaign expenditures, the total campaign expenses subject to limitation (\$18,878.72) would still have been less than the campaign spending limit.

3 Our Findings – Applicant’s Allegations

Advertising Expense

- 3.1. The Applicant alleged that the Candidate was granted privileged access to the Springwater News where Mr. French promoted his candidacy for Mayor of Springwater through his articles posted in a regular column of the local newspaper, when similar free access was not available to other candidates.
- 3.2. The Applicant also alleged that Mr. French’s articles included both his campaign email address and telephone number and phrases such as “*help me lead that vision*” to advertise his campaign.
- 3.3. The Applicant also identified that Mr. French was a reporter for the Springwater News and carried a press badge to a number of Springwater Council functions.
- 3.4. As such, the Applicant contended that the publications constitute a contribution of goods and services from Springwater News and an undeclared campaign expense by the Candidate. If assigned a value to the publications, it would likely be valued in excess of \$750.
- 3.5. The Candidate reported a total of \$5,308.83 as advertising expenses in the Financial Statement, comprised of the following:
 - Springwater News advertising on August 28, September 11, September 25, October 9, and October 23, 2014 editions for a total of \$3,638.60;¹⁴
 - CHAY-FM for the period from September 29 to October 27, 2014 for a total of \$1,186.50;
 - Mike Guilbault Photography for \$272.33;
 - Name tags for \$126.59; and
 - Business cards for \$84.81.

¹⁴ All were half page advertisements (\$525 plus HST) with the exception of October 23, 2014 which was a full page advertisement (\$1,120 plus HST).

- 3.6. FFP reviewed the Springwater News articles provided by the Applicant. Each of the articles was included in the letters to editor section of the newspaper, which is entitled “Your View – Letters to the Editor”, along with other letters, each with a title. Each of Mr. French’s letters had a title that began with “My View - ” and each included “by Bill French” under the title, giving the letters the appearance of being regular columns. Our observations on the letters that appeared during the election period include the following (see **Exhibit 1** for examples of the letters):

Date & Page	Title	FFP’s Observations
March 27, 2014 (page 8)	My View – Why bother?	No specific mention of the French campaign but addresses election issues.
April 10, 2014 (page 15)	My View – What are we thinking?	No specific mention of the French campaign but addresses election issues.
April 24, 2014	My View – Mr. Webster, PLEASE!	No specific mention of the French campaign but addresses election issues. The same issue included a letter to the editor from then Deputy Mayor Dan McLean entitled “Get the right Information”.
May 8, 2014 (page 8)	My View – Why not protect Springwater’s Unique Character?	Contact telephone number and email address frenchformayor2014@gmail.com were provided. A letter from then Mayor Linda Collins was published on the same page.
May 22, 2014 (page 10)	My View – How do you find the Truth?	Contact telephone number and email address frenchformayor2014@gmail.com were provided. The article comments on two articles by then Mayor Linda Collins that appeared in the prior edition of Springwater News.
July 3, 2014 (page 8)	My View – Springwater Council Advances Final	Contact telephone number and email address

Date & Page	Title	FFP's Observations
	Steps of Midhurst Secondary Plan	frenchformayor2014@gmail.com were provided.
July 17, 2014 (page 12)	My View – Why show up for an OMB gun fight unarmed?	Contact telephone number and email address frenchformayor2014@gmail.com were provided.
July 31, 2014 (page 8)	My View – Elmvale Still an unrecognized Jewel in Springwater	<i>“Let’s elect a council that has a vision for the entire township and not just mega developments in the south end of the township. Help me lead that vision!”</i> Contact telephone number and email address frenchformayor2014@gmail.com were provided.
August 14, 2014 (page 8)	My View – McLean Letter Response	The letter responds to a letter to the editor from then Deputy Mayor Dan McLean that was published two weeks previously. Contact telephone number and email address frenchformayor2014@gmail.com were provided.

- 3.7. According to an article from Aware Simcoe,¹⁵ from April 10 to September 25, 2014, there were 8 letters from supporters of council’s position in relation to the Midhurst Secondary Plan, including then Mayor Linda Collins, then Deputy Mayor Dan McLean, and Councillors Rick Webster and Dan Clement, and 14 other letters from critics, including Council candidates Les Stewart and Katy Austin.
- 3.8. The Aware Simcoe article also stated that, as a result of the pre-election policy discussed below, no letters related to the Midhurst Secondary Plan were published by the Springwater News until the last issue before election.¹⁶

¹⁵ Aware Simcoe article entitled “Springwater mayor’s expenses: judicial review application dismissed” by Kate Harries dated January 24, 2018.

¹⁶ Ibid.

- 3.9. The Applicant advised that former Mayor Linda Collins had a submission to the Springwater News rejected during the campaign period, suggesting that the Springwater News gave preferential treatment to Mr. French.
- 3.10. FFP contacted Ms. Collins in relation to her access to the Springwater News. Ms. Collins advised that she submitted a rebuttal letter to the editor of Springwater News in relation to the Midhurst Secondary Plan in or around late September 2014 and her letter was rejected. Ms. Collins did not retain a copy of the letter.
- 3.11. FFP contacted Mr. Michael Jacobs, owner of Springwater News, who advised that Springwater News had consulted Ontario Community Newspapers Association and as a result released pre-election policies on September 25, 2014, as follows:

“We are in an election mode for the next 32 days. If you want to mention an issue, you may do so. You may not mention a candidate’s name and if you do, we have the right to edit or reject the letter.”

- 3.12. The Springwater News also published background to its decision by quoting policies other newspapers followed, which included policies such as not permitting endorsement styled letters after nomination day has passed. The range of policies make it clear that community newspapers had a wide range of policies on what they would or would not publish during the election period.
- 3.13. The timing of the letter of Ms. Collins being rejected by Springwater News is consistent with the timing of the pre-election policy published by Springwater News. It appears likely that Ms. Collins’ letter was a primary factor leading Mr. Jacobs to consult with the Ontario Community Newspaper Association and to release the pre-election policy, resulting in her letter being rejected.
- 3.14. Mr. Jacobs indicated the following:
- Mr. Bill French sent occasional letters to the editor;
 - Mr. Jacobs started a byline on Mr. French’s letters but he did not recall when it started;
 - Anyone could have sent letters to the editor;
 - Of the present seven members on council, only four contributed articles and, in the previous council, no one contributed anything;
 - Springwater News began to reject letters in September 2014 if the letters to the editor mentioned a name or referred to any one of the candidates or when the letters were less than civil;

- Bill French did not get any preferential treatment from Springwater News nor was he paid for his contributions; and
 - Springwater News issued press passes to almost anyone if they asked.
- 3.15. The Applicant also indicated that the Candidate was a member of Aware Simcoe and thus, any advertising carried out by Aware Simcoe to endorse the French campaign was conducted by or on behalf of Mr. French.
- 3.16. FFP contacted Aware Simcoe, a volunteer advocacy group that works for transparency and accountability in government to protect water, the environment and health of the Simcoe area. Kate Harries, a board member of Aware Simcoe, advised us that Aware Simcoe welcomed vigorous and respectful political discussions and offered equal access to all candidates in the election, including issuing questionnaire to all candidates and publishing their answers.
- 3.17. We were advised that Mr. French was a member of Aware Simcoe and was a member of the board of directors from May 2012 to May 2013.¹⁷ Mr. French did not seek re-election in 2013.
- 3.18. Kate Harries advised that the Board of Aware Simcoe acted independently to endorse Mr. French as Mayor of Springwater, as well as endorsing other candidates in Wasaga Beach and Bradford West Gwillimbury who also supported the principles of Aware Simcoe. Mr. French had no involvement in the Board's decisions. We requested and obtained copies of the Board's minutes for their September 11 to December 14, 2014 meetings, which are consistent with the Board acting independently of Mr. French.
- 3.19. We were informed by Ms. Harries that, in view of other advertising that attacked the policies Aware Simcoe was advocating, the Board decided to place two advertisements in the Springwater News endorsing Mr. French as Mayor, as follows:
- 1) October 9, 2014 edition for \$280 plus HST; and
 - 2) Full page advertisement on October 23, 2014 edition for \$1,120 plus HST.
- 3.20. Aware Simcoe advised that they did not inform Mr. French of their intention to advertise in support of his campaign and that he had no involvement in drafting the contents of the advertisements.
- 3.21. Aware Simcoe also republished Mr. French's articles from Springwater News, unchanged, with the permission of Mr. French, together with other Springwater News

¹⁷ Mr. French did not seek for re-election to the Board subsequent to May 2013.

articles that they thought would be relevant to their readers. No payments were made to anyone for these articles.

- 3.22. Item 2(iv) of Subsection 62(2) of the Act provides the following is not a contribution:

“the value of political advertising provided without charge on a broadcasting undertaking as defined in section 2 of the Broadcasting Act (Canada), if,

A. it is provided in accordance with that Act and the regulations and guidelines made under it, and

B. it is provided equally to all candidates for office on the particular council or local board.”

- 3.23. As Mr. French’s letters were published by the Springwater News without any charge, and the Springwater News was accessible to all candidates up to September 25, 2014, and were treated equally thereafter, we concluded that the value of the letters/articles is not a campaign contribution, in accordance with Subsection 62(2) of the Act. We also concluded that the Board of Directors of Aware Simcoe acted independently of Mr. French in their decision to place advertisements in Springwater News and in determining the content of the advertisements.
- 3.24. Accordingly, in our opinion there are no apparent contraventions of the Act in relation to failure to report advertising expenses for the Springwater News articles and the Aware Simcoe advertisements.
- 3.25. We estimate that the potential value of the article-styled letters to the editor in the Springwater News to be \$1,800 for six articles that reference the campaign. The cost of Aware Simcoe advertisements in the Springwater News totaled \$1,582, including HST. Should we have concluded differently, the total campaign expenses subject to limitation would still have been less than the campaign spending limit.

Office Rent Expense

- 3.26. The Applicant alleged that the market value of the campaign office rent was not included in the office expense reported in the Candidate’s Financial Statement.
- 3.27. The Candidate reported that he had incurred \$589.91 of office expense for the campaign, comprising of the following:
- 1) \$348.15 for carpet of the campaign office;
 - 2) \$75.50 for pictures and frames;

- 3) \$54.48 for office supplies;
 - 4) \$40.65 for flowers;
 - 5) \$40.20 for electricity hook-up supplies; and
 - 6) \$30.93 for keys.
- 3.28. Mr. French advised that he approached Mr. Bernie Roth at Century 21, landlord of the campaign office to discuss renting the front space (approximately 300 square feet)¹⁸ at 24 Yonge Street South, Elmvale as his campaign office. He was referred to Mr. Roth but had not met him previously. Mr. Roth suggested a total rent of \$400 for approximately 45 days of his campaign.
- 3.29. Mr. French advised that when he viewed the premise the property had no utilities (i.e. electricity, water, phone and internet connections). He advised that Mr. Roth indicated he could not connect hydro without incurring additional costs and thus would call off the arrangement. Mr. French proposed that, in lieu of rent, he would connect electricity and install carpet in the premises, to which Mr. Roth agreed. The cost of materials was approximately \$400.
- 3.30. Mr. French advised that the office was closed off at the back with a wall separating the front and back space. Mr. French put 2 folding plastic tables and some lounge chairs from home in the front space. He advised that the office was open for approximately 4 hours per day from September 16, 2014 to October 27, 2014.
- 3.31. Mr. French also put a large campaign sign (8 feet x 4 feet) above the entrance. The cost of the sign (\$120 plus HST) was recorded under “Signs” in the Financial Statement.
- 3.32. FFP contacted Mr. Bernie Roth, the landlord and owner of the property at 24 Yonge Street South, Elmvale. He confirmed that Mr. French used the front part of the premises, around 300 to 400 square feet of space, the size of 3 small offices. He also confirmed that there is a wall separating the front and back part of the space. Mr. Roth indicated that he probably would have suggested the rental amount of \$400 to Mr. French as he owns the property.¹⁹ However, he could not find any records of payments and he could not recall whether he had received any payments from Mr. French. He

¹⁸ Total office space was approximately 2,000 square feet.

¹⁹ Mr. Roth advised that the property was listed at \$10 per square foot per year for a 5 years lease in 2014, consistent with the listing dated July 21, 2012 provided by Mr. French to the CAC (300 square feet x \$10 = \$3,000 per year or \$250 per month; 1.5 months = \$375)

also confirmed that Mr. French had put carpeting in the vacant space to cover the concrete flooring.

- 3.33. FFP contacted Ms. Anna Romano, a volunteer for the French campaign, who confirmed that she worked at the campaign office during the campaign. She confirmed that the campaign office was at the front of the office space and was part of a bigger area with a wall and door separating it. She confirmed that all campaign signs and brochures were stored in the campaign office under one of the folding tables and that she did not have access to the back of the space. She also confirmed that there was no heat, internet or phone connections, or washroom on the premises.
- 3.34. We accept that Mr. French paid for carpeting and electrical installation in lieu of the rent, as supported by receipts. The Financial Statement includes these expenses in office rent.
- 3.35. We concluded that the rent was negotiated between Mr. French and the landlord, the rental period was short (approximately 45 days), the space had some severe shortcomings but allowed for advertising above the entrance, and only a portion of the space was used by the campaign. The rental arrangement is significantly below market rent should the entire space have been rented, and the use of only a portion of the space by Mr. French meant the remainder of the space was not available to rent to other tenants. However, we understand that the space had been on the market for more than a year and concluded it is unlikely the short term rental would have impacted the landlord's ability to find a tenant. There is also very little information on market value rents for short term rental of space and it appears reasonable that landlords are willing to view rental income from these arrangements as a contribution towards covering costs. We concluded that we do not have sufficient information to conclude that the \$400 rental arrangement was at a value other than fair value.
- 3.36. Accordingly, we concluded that there are no apparent contraventions of the Act in relation to the reporting of office rent expense in the Financial Statement.

Advertising Brochures and Related Photography Expenses

- 3.37. The Applicant alleged that the Candidate under-reported the cost of brochures and flyers, estimating that 13,000 or more brochures and additional literature in the form of letters were distributed by the Candidate in the Township.²⁰
- 3.38. The Applicant stated in his Written Submissions to the CAC that each resident (a total of 6,960 households in Springwater) received two or three separate brochures at the

²⁰ Written Submissions to the Compliance Auditor dated March 23, 2018.

door promoting the French campaign. The Applicant is also aware of two other pieces of campaign literature in the form of letters being delivered to the voters. He estimated that 6,000 tri-folded flyers and 5,000 rack cards will cost a total of \$1,300 plus HST, the amount that the Candidate reported on the Financial Statement.

3.39. The Candidate reported a total expense for brochures and flyers of \$1,394.44 in the Financial Statement, comprised of the following:

1) Express Print & Copy:

- a) 2,500 tri-folded colour brochures for \$378.55;
- b) 1,000 tri-folded black and white brochures for a total of \$158.20;
- c) 200 ID tags for \$84.75 (also recorded under advertising expense in the Financial Statement);

2) Staples:

- a) Custom printing of 5,000 black and white brochures for \$485.90;
- b) Printing of 100 colour brochures at \$0.39 each for \$44.07;
- c) Printing of an additional 800 black and white brochures for \$82.49;
- d) Printing of 2,000 letters for \$160.47.

3.40. The invoices above include a total of 2,600 colour brochures, 6,800 black and white brochures (total of 9,400 brochures) and 2,000 letters.

3.41. Mr. French indicated that there is only one type of tri-folded brochure delivered to the residents during the campaign and that the letter was delivered close to the end of the campaign. He advised that the campaign hand delivered all brochures and letters to the residents without any mailings. Copies of the brochures and letter are attached as **Exhibit 2**.

3.42. Ms. Anna Romano, a volunteer for the French campaign, advised that she participated in delivering brochures to the residents in the Midhurst, Elmvale and Orr Lake areas. Each volunteer had a list of addresses and tracked the households to which they delivered brochures. At the same time they also delivered brochures and rack cards for Councillor Candidate Jack Hanna and Deputy Mayor Candidate Don Allen. They would also ask the permission of the residents to put up election signs on their lawns.

- 3.43. Ms. Romano indicated that each resident should have received one brochure for each of the three Candidates. There might be a duplication of delivery when the Candidates may have contacted the residents themselves or when the volunteers were replaced by other volunteers without adequate tracking of deliveries.
- 3.44. The total of 9,400 brochures printed by the campaign is consistent with each household having been delivered one or two brochures, which is consistent with Ms. Romano's representation to us.
- 3.45. The Applicant identified that there were two distinct printings of the brochures. The Candidate had included 2 invoices for colour brochures printing – one from Express Copy and Printing and one from the Staples. This is consistent with the Applicant's identification in relation to two distinct printings of the brochures.
- 3.46. The Applicant has been informed that Georgian Copy and Printers in Barrie had carried out a large volume of printing in relation to Mr. French's campaign. FFP contacted Georgian Copy and Printers and their manager advised that they could not find any records in relation to printing for the 2014 French campaign.
- 3.47. The Applicant also questioned the reporting of the expense incurred for a professional photographer, Mike Guilbault in taking a photograph of Mr. French that was used in the campaign brochures.
- 3.48. The invoices provided by the Candidate included two invoices from Mike Guilbault Photography as follows:
- 1) Business portrait for \$141.25 (\$125 plus HST) dated August 26, 2014; and
 - 2) 16x20 Gallery wrap for \$131.08 (\$161 plus HST) dated August 28, 2014.
- 3.49. Both invoices were recorded under advertising expenses in the Candidate's Financial Statement.
- 3.50. Accordingly, in our opinion, there are no apparent contraventions of the Act in relation to reporting of brochures / flyers expenses for the campaign.

Website, Phone and Internet Charges

- 3.51. The Applicant alleged that the Candidate under-reported website, phone and internet charges for the campaign. The Applicant also identified that there were missing expenses for Mr. French's webpage and social media.

- 3.52. The Candidate included \$430.64 of phone and internet charges in the Financial Statement, consisting of the following:
- 1) Website design and set up by Fringe Media of \$306.92;
 - 2) Phone expenses of \$123.72, representing 50% of phone charges for Mr. French's cell phone from August 7 to October 6, 2014.
- 3.53. The Candidate advised that there was no phone or internet connections in the campaign office and this was confirmed by the landlord. Ms. Anna Romano also confirmed that there was no phone nor internet connections in the campaign office and that the volunteers used their own cell phones and free wifi from a nearby McDonald's.
- 3.54. The Candidate used his own cell phone for the campaign contact number in advertising materials and in letters to the editor and he allocated 50% of its cost to the campaign.
- 3.55. There is no guidance in the Act or in the Candidate's Guide for allocation of costs between personal and campaign costs. We concluded that there is support for including 100% of its cost as a campaign cost, on the basis that a phone was required by the campaign and it is reasonable that its fair value to the campaign is the cost of its monthly service charges. It is also reasonable to conclude that there is a personal usage that should reduce the allocation.
- 3.56. We allocated 100% of the cost of his phone to his campaign but have concluded that this is not an apparent contravention of the Act.
- 3.57. The Fringe Media invoice dated October 14, 2014 referenced site maintenance and content management services where \$nil was charged for 10 hours service time (see **Exhibit 3**) with the note that:
- "Additional services were donated to the Bill French campaign.
(Regular rate: \$70 per hour+tax)."*
- 3.58. Subsequently, Mr. French obtained a revised invoice from Fringe Media dated September 16, 2015 indicating the hourly rate for site maintenance was \$50, consistent with the hourly rate for website design.
- 3.59. The Candidate's Financial Statement did not include an in-kind contribution and campaign expense for content management and site maintenance services. Total market value of this service is \$565 including HST (\$50 x 10 hours + 13% HST).

- 3.60. Accordingly, in our opinion, the failure to record good and services contribution and the corresponding campaign expense in the Financial Statement is an apparent contravention of Subsections 69(1)(d) and 69(1)(k) of the Act.
- 3.61. In our meeting with Mr. French and Mrs. L. French, Mr. French acknowledged that an invoice from Miller, Ink Illustration Design in Barrie was missed when accounting for campaign finances.
- 3.62. A cost of \$169.50 (\$150 plus HST) was incurred for word press transfer and configuring the website “billfrenchformayor.ca” and another cost of \$169.50 (\$150 plus HST) was incurred for hosting the website for one year from August 1, 2014 (see **Exhibit 3**). The invoice was dated November 10, 2014 and paid by personal cheque on January 20, 2015. A total cost of \$339 should have been included in the campaign expenses.
- 3.63. Accordingly, in our opinion, the failure to include a campaign expense in the Financial Statement is an apparent contravention of Subsection 69(1)(k) of the Act and the failure to pay the expenses from the campaign bank account is an apparent contravention of Subsection 69(1)(c) of the Act.

In-Kind Contributor Genesis 2

- 3.64. The Applicant alleged that the in-kind contributor, Genesis 2, as reported on the Financial Statement, was not an individual or a corporation. Genesis 2 contributed 10 signs and 26 hats totaling \$250.
- 3.65. FFP performed a corporate profile search on Genesis 2 and confirmed that it is a corporation under the name Genesis 2 Inc.
- 3.66. The Candidate provided an email from Vern Martin as support for the in-kind contribution. Vernon Martin is listed as one of the directors and officers in the Genesis 2 Inc.’s corporate profile report.
- 3.67. The address reported for Genesis 2 on the Financial Statement is the same as that shown for the director, Vernon Martin, on the corporate profile report.
- 3.68. We considered that Genesis 2 Inc. is an eligible corporate contributor under the Act.
- 3.69. However, the campaign did not issue a contribution receipt in relation to the full value of the in-kind contribution.

- 3.70. Accordingly, in our opinion, failure to issue a contribution receipt for the acceptance of goods and services contribution is an apparent contravention of Subsection 69(1)(e) of the Act.

Campaign Inventory – Signs and Stakes

- 3.71. The Applicant questioned the accounting for the 2010 ending campaign inventory of signs and stakes in the 2014 Financial Statement.
- 3.72. In 2010, Mr. French reported ending inventory of \$2,725.78 from the last election, as follows:
- 1) 450 small lawn signs at \$3.50 each for a total of \$1,575;
 - 2) 22 large signs at \$39.49 each for a total of \$868.78; and
 - 3) 200 small sign stakes at \$1.41 each for a total of \$282.
- 3.73. The 2014 Financial Statement reported the following expenses totaling \$5,384.63 under “Signs”:
- 1) 500 24x16 colour 2 sided small signs for \$1,751.50 (\$3.10 each plus HST);
 - 2) 99 48x32 colour 2 sided large signs for \$2,349.27 (\$21 each plus HST);
 - 3) 1 4x8 colour 1 side office sign for \$135.60 (\$120 plus HST);
 - 4) 200 step stakes for \$282 (\$1.25 each plus HST);
 - 5) 66 20-ft. rebar for \$727.16;
 - 6) Cable for \$38.60; and
 - 7) Sign deposit of \$100.
- 3.74. The 2014 Financial Statement reported \$nil in relation to the 2010 campaign ending inventory being used in the current campaign.
- 3.75. Mr. French advised us that he did not use the signs from the 2010 election campaign as the logos, website and colour of the old signs were different those used in the 2014 election. Copies of the new and old signs are attached in **Exhibit 4**.
- 3.76. Mr. French agreed that he should have included the value of the stakes inventory in 2014 election campaign expenses.

- 3.77. Accordingly, in our opinion, the failure to include the replacement value of goods retained by the Candidate from any previous election and used in the current election as campaign expenses was an apparent contravention of Subsection 67(2) of the Act.
- 3.78. In 2014, Mr. French purchased 200 step stakes at \$1.25 plus HST, or \$1.41 each, same cost per unit as that recorded in the 2010 election campaign.
- 3.79. We concluded that 200 step stakes from the previous campaign that were re-used in the 2014 campaign should have been recorded at a replacement value of approximately \$1.25 plus HST, or \$1.41, for a total of \$282 as campaign expenses.
- 3.80. The 2014 French campaign had borrowed approximately 200 H stakes from Mr. Roy Monk and 100 sign stands from Mr. Jim Roberts.
- 3.81. The 2014 French campaign reported purchase of 500 small lawn signs and 99 large signs. The total number of stakes (700) used by the Campaign is consistent with the number of signs purchased by the campaign.
- 3.82. FFP contacted Mr. Roy Monk. He indicated that he previously provided signs and stakes for the Liberal Party provincial and federal elections. The stakes were stored at a warehouse at the time. He lent approximately 200 H stakes to Mr. French free of charge and Mr. French returned them all to him at the end of the campaign.
- 3.83. FFP contacted Mr. Jim Roberts. Mr. Roberts confirmed that he lent 100 stakes to Mr. French free of charge and Mr. French returned them all to him after use. Mr. Roberts had the stakes when he ran for council in the previous election.
- 3.84. The campaign used a total of 300 sign stakes without assigning any campaign expense value. We accept that there is little comparative information in the rental of sign stakes. However, we considered a reasonable estimate of expense would be 25% to 35% of the replacement costs of the stakes (i.e. 300 stakes x \$1.41 x 25% to 35%), approximately \$105.75 to \$148.05.
- 3.85. In our opinion the failure to record the rental value of the 300 stakes lent to the campaign as a contribution of goods and services and the corresponding failure to record the campaign expense in the Financial Statement is an apparent contravention of Subsections 69(1)(d) and 69(1)(k) of the Act.

4 Our Findings – Other Issues

Cash Contributions

- 4.1 Subsection 70(8) of the Act requires that “*a contribution of money in cash that exceeds \$25 shall not be made to or accepted by or on behalf of a candidate.*”
- 4.2 Cash contributions over \$25 were accepted by the French campaign as follows:
- 2 contributors for \$100 each; and
 - 2 contributors for \$50 each.
- 4.3 Accordingly, in our opinion, the acceptance of contributions over \$25 in cash was an apparent contravention of Subsection 70(8) of the Act on the part of both the contributors and the Candidate.

Campaign Bank Account

- 4.4 The Candidate opened a separate bank account under “Lorraine French, Official Agent for Charles William”, effective June 27, 2014.
- 4.5 Although the bank account was not named under the Bill French campaign, our review of the bank statements for the period from June 2014 to April 15, 2015 indicated that the bank account was used exclusively for Mr. French’s election campaign.
- 4.6 The bank balance as at December 31, 2014, the end of the campaign period, was \$189.49. The bank account had a \$nil balance on February 4, 2015.
- 4.7 All listed contributions were deposited to the campaign bank account.
- 4.8 Mrs. L. French paid for a portion of the campaign expenses personally throughout the campaign period and was not reimbursed from the campaign bank account, except for a few expenses.
- 4.9 When clearing the campaign bank account on February 4, 2015, \$200 and \$239.29 was withdrawn on January 15, 2015 and February 4, 2015 respectively to cover the campaign expenses paid for by Mrs. L. French.

-
- 4.10 The audit fee of \$1,073.50 was paid via personal cheque by Mrs. L. French on March 17, 2015, after the campaign bank account was closed.
- 4.11 As the total campaign expenses exceeded total contributions, any expenses paid by and not reimbursed to Mrs. L. French were recorded as contributions from spouse on the Financial Statement (\$8,568.36).
- 4.12 In addition, a campaign expense of \$339 paid for personally by Mrs. L. French in relation to website hosting costs (as discussed above) was missed and not recorded in the Financial Statement. As a result, contributions from spouse were understated.
- 4.13 The 2014 Candidates' Guide listed one of the frequently asked questions as follows:²¹

Can I pay for campaign expenses using my credit card?

The legislation says that all campaign expenses must be paid from the campaign bank account. If you pay for goods and services using a credit card, you should be sure to reimburse the expense promptly from the campaign account, and to keep records that show that the expense was paid from the campaign account.

- 4.14 In our opinion, the failure to pay campaign expenses from the campaign bank account and not reimburse campaign expenses in a prompt manner is an apparent contravention of Subsection 69(1)(c) of the Act.

Contribution Receipts

- 4.15 A contribution receipt for \$500 from Robert Wright's joint account was not issued to Robert Wright, the individual signing the cheque. Receipt was issued to Wrico Holsteins, the other account holder of the joint account from which the contribution cheque was issued.
- 4.16 In our opinion, the failure to issue contribution receipt to the proper individual is a financial reporting contravention under Subsection 69(1)(f) of the Act.

Financial Statement

- 4.17 The Financial Statement indicated the campaign period was from March 4, 2014 to October 27, 2014. In accordance with section 68 of the Act, the election campaign period should end on December 31, 2014 in the case of a regular election.

²¹ Page 24 of the 2014 Candidates' Guide.

- 4.18 We reviewed campaign contributions and expenses as reflected in the Financial Statement and the corresponding supporting documentation, including bank statements and invoices supporting the expenses.
- 4.19 Based on our review, we have the following observations and adjustments:
- 1) Brochures/flyers expenses should be reduced by \$84.76 (this amount was recorded twice in error);
 - 2) An additional \$565 should be reported as website maintenance service in-kind contributions and campaign expense;
 - 3) An additional \$123.72 should be recorded in phone charges in relation to 50% of Mr. French's cellphone costs;
 - 4) An additional \$339 should be included in phone / internet expenses for hosting the website billfrenchformayor.ca and included in contributions from spouse;
 - 5) Additional sign stake expense of \$282 should be included for inventory from the last campaign;
 - 6) An additional expense of \$148 should be included for the fair value for renting 300 sign stakes should be reported under sign expense and included in in-kind contributions; and
 - 7) An invoice supporting Foodland expenses of \$119.97 recorded under the "meetings hosted" category was missing. Mrs. L. French advised that the invoice may have been lost during the previous compliance audit as the documents were returned unattached and the prior audit did not have an issue with this expense. We accept that no adjustment is necessary for this expense.
- 4.20 The Restated Financial Statement is as follows:

	Original	Restated
INCOME		
Total amount of all contributions	15,993.36	17,366.33
Refund of nomination filing fee	200.00	200.00
Sign deposit refund	100.00	100.00
Total Campaign Income	16,293.36	17,666.33
EXPENSES		
<i>Expenses Subject to Spending Limit</i>		
Nomination filing fee	200.00	200.00
Inventory from previous campaign used in this campaign	0.00	282.00
Advertising	5,308.83	5,308.83
Brochures / flyers	1,394.44	1,309.69
Signs	5,384.63	5,532.63
Meetings hosted	545.78	545.78
Office expenses incurred until voting day	589.91	589.91
Phone and/or internet expenses incurred until voting day	430.64	893.36
Bank charges incurred until voting day	19.52	19.52
Other – Gifts in kind – 10 signs and 26 hats	250.00	250.00
Other – Gifts in kind – website maintenance	0.00	565.00
Total Expenses Subject to Spending Limit	14,123.75	15,496.72
<i>Expenses Not Subject to Spending Limit</i>		
Accounting and Audit	1,073.50	1,073.50
Voting day party / appreciation notices	1,083.80	1,083.80
Bank charges incurred after voting day	12.31	12.31
Total Expenses Not Subject to Spending Limit	2,169.61	2,169.61
Total Campaign Expenses	16,293.36	17,666.33
SURPLUS (OR DEFICIT)	0.00	0.00

- 4.21 Total campaign expenses subject to the spending limit were adjusted to \$15,496.72 after the above restatement, which remained within the campaign spending limit of \$20,363.90.
- 4.22 We estimate that the potential value of the letters / articles in the Springwater News to be \$1,800 for six letters / articles that reference the campaign. The cost of Aware Simcoe advertisements totaled \$1,582, including HST. We concluded that these were not apparent contraventions of the Act. Should we have concluded differently and included the additional cost of advertising as campaign expenditures, the total

campaign expenses subject to limitation (\$18,878.72) would still have been less than the campaign spending limit.

4.23 Adjusted contributions of \$17,366.33 are summarized as follows:

- Contributions from candidate - \$282;
- Contributions from spouse - \$8,946.33;
- Total value of contributions not exceeding \$100 per contributor - \$1,373; and
- Total value of contributions exceeding \$100 per contributor - \$6,765.

4.24 The 2014 Candidates' Guide states that it is the responsibility of all Candidates to file a complete and accurate financial statement on time.

4.25 In our opinion, the failure to file a complete and accurate financial statement is an apparent contravention of Subsections 69(1)(k) and 78(1) of the Act.

5 Restrictions and Limitations

- 5.1 This Report was prepared for the Township of Springwater in relation to the compliance audit regarding the 2014 election campaign finances of Mr. Bill French requested by the Compliance Audit Committee. This report is not to be used for any other purpose and we specifically disclaim any responsibility for losses or damages incurred through use of this Report for a purpose other than as described in this paragraph.
- 5.2 Although we reserve the right, we will be under no obligation to review and/or revise the contents of this Report in light of information which becomes known to us after the date of this Report.
- 5.3 This Report is respectfully submitted by Glen R. Davison. I was assisted in the compliance audit by Ken Froese and Grace Lau.

Yours truly,



Glen R. Davison, CPA, CA, LPA, CFP

EXHIBIT 1

Your View - Letters to the Editor

My View - Why Not Protect Springwater's Unique Character?

by Bill French

During my career I had the opportunity of living in some nice cities and enjoyed it very much. I spent two years in London England living in the Kensington High Street area in a lovely 3 bedroom flat. I lived for a year in Santa Monica in a beautiful Condo Complex at Marina Del Rey and had Mick Jagger as a neighbor in the building next to mine. I also did a half year stint in Boston. We lived and raised our children in Scarborough for 17 years. In all cases my wife and I enjoyed the amenities that were offered and the many conveniences. As expected we paid dearly for those conveniences.

After a hectic 35 year business career, I decided that I would forego some of those amenities for a simpler way of life. I chose Springwater because of its natural setting and its collection of small communities. Maybe I am selfish, but I think many people moved here for the same reason.

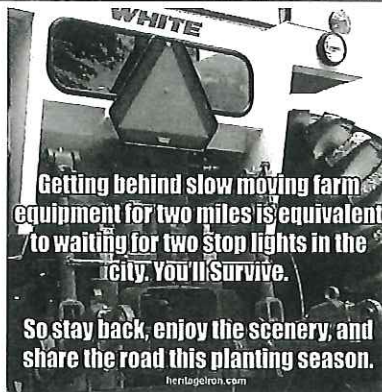
Last weekend I was reminded of why I moved to Springwater Township when I semi-retired. I attended two Church Suppers on Saturday. I visited the Grenfell United Church supper attended by about 150 people and also the Midhurst United Church Supper attended by about 300 people. These events are the true marks of rural living and the very reason why so many want to protect it against the speculators and profiteers that have invaded the Midhurst area in recent years. Where do you find gatherings today when many faces are recognized when you go into the room. You may not know them by name but you have seen them in your community on a regular basis.

Contrasting that was the open house on Wednesday to view the subdivision plans for the Mega Developments in Midhurst. Effectively, if both phases are allowed to proceed, there will be another 10,000 homes or about 28,000 more people in this rural peaceful hamlet. It is simply crazy. The plans for the approved lands outlined two areas of development around Midhurst with the first phase requesting the approval of zoning for over 5,000 new dwelling units. That would represent a 400% increase in the number of homes in Midhurst in the first phase. If the second phase proceeds that would present an 800% increase in the number of homes. As far as the neighborhood designs on these tiny lots, they are quite good and if they were situated in the annexed lands in Barrie, they make perfect sense and would complement the similarly designed developments you find in Barrie. None of the plans presented complement any of the existing community designs in Midhurst today or any other area of Springwater. The big disappointment is that our council passed a resolution to simply address a few nuances such as wider streets, some wider lots, room for snow storage and other matters of this nature and forward the comments to the OMB as the landowners and developers have bypassed the normal township controlled planning process. No one on council said that the entire rezoning application is unsuitable and contrary to the existing character of Midhurst or Springwater. The motion passed unanimously.

The atrocity of the Midhurst Secondary Plan and the Mega City developments can be stopped or greatly curtailed but you must get involved. If you don't engage then you must be prepared to accept the consequences, which is simply the destruction of a unique community that has survived for over 150 years. Call your councillors and ask them to at least take a strong position at the OMB hearings on the rezoning matter. Currently it appears that aside for the minor nuances, they plan to take a passive role and not protect the distinct character of our existing communities.

To show how forthright our elected officials are, I emailed a variety of questions to Collins, Hanna and McConkey that sit on the Environmental Assessment Committee for the Mega Development. This was prompted by Deputy Mayor McLean's comment in his recent letter to the editor that our elected officials are ensuring that everything will be environmentally protected with the Midhurst Mega Developments Plans for water and sewage treatment. I received this response from Councillor Hanna "I provide the following in response to your questions. I am not responding on behalf of the E. A. Committee or Council. I can confirm that there have been two meetings of the E. A. Committee. I cannot provide the minutes. You may wish to check the Twp web site.

I will ensure that the rest of your questions are advanced at our next E A or liaison committee meeting and seek an appropriate response". From McConkey the response was "We have had 2 meetings. I want to respect the Mayor and her message in keeping with the protocol of communication from these meetings. I understand from her response that she will be referring your questions to the next meeting for a response". I received this response from Mayor Collins, "In keeping with the protocol of communication from these meetings, I thank you for your questions and will refer them to the next EA meeting for response". For those that attend the planning and council meetings this is a normal response from the Mayor on any subject. She must be a mushroom grower as she is great at keeping you in the dark and covering you with manure. My questions were not exactly threatening since the first two asked about how many meetings had been held and



The Benefits of Suncor Parkland Property

Green spaces can increase property values while also attracting and retaining businesses to an area. The benefits go far beyond their role in contributing to a healthy environment and acting as a hub for local communities. The City of Toronto's 2013-2017 Parks Plan outlines the importance of parks and recognizes the economic benefits that parks offer through their ability to attract tourists and overall enjoyment from pleasant spaces and shade trees.

The Maple Syrup Festival recently benefitted from the Suncor Parkland Property in Elmvalle as the Township's Maple Taffy Station was located there, in excellent proximity to the Information Booth and as a gateway to the Main Street of vendors.

The actual cost of this space is minimal compared to the benefits. Suncor has entered into a lease agreement for 10 years in relief of taxes - which as vacant commercial is assessed at exactly \$2051.82 per year (based on the 2014 tax rate). Suncor removed the building at their expense.

All funds to redevelop the space were raised outside the tax base. Generous gifts from Farm Credit Corporation (\$15,000) and Recurrent Energy (\$20,000) are helping to lead this initiative. The BIA, seeing this as a community asset, is also investing \$10,000 for the gazebo. In-kind donations to provide additional furnishings continue to come. This project will be completed in the late spring of this year.

This Council took control of a bad situation and through staff's negotiation, and the continued efforts of volunteers, we now have an entrance to Elmvalle of which we can be proud.

We invite you to watch it unfold and experience the benefits of this great new public space!

Sincerely,
Mayor Linda Collins

Privacy

Dear editor,
Please help protect our Privacy. Tell the story, thanks. I encourage each and every Canadian to learn more about our right to privacy at OurPrivacy.ca
Bonnie Hanmore Midland,

The human braincell can hold 5 times as much information as an encyclopedia. Your brain uses 20% of the oxygen that enters your bloodstream, and is itself made up of 80% water. Though it interprets pain signals from the rest of the body, the brain itself cannot feel pain.

The tooth is the only part of the human body that can't repair itself.

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if there were minutes published. Hanna and McConkey at least answered some of them.

It is important to study the candidates for the Municipal Election in the Fall and find out who is running. Unfortunately, the current council is being coy and have not filed their nomination papers and will probably wait until the last minute hoping that the OMB will make a decision on Midhurst so they don't have to deal with it. In my eyes that is cowardice. You have seen recent articles from two of our elected officials and both conveniently blame someone else. That might work in government jobs but never seems to work in the real world. It is time to remind them that we do live in the real world and not some parallel universe.

It's your choice!
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More About Midhurst from the Mayor

In a continued effort to maintain the facts and clear the air about the plans for the Midhurst Growth, I offer the following. This Council is trying to get it right! We are not rushing items forward. The Township of Springwater must follow processes governed by Provincial Laws and Provincial Acts (e.g. Municipal Act, Planning Act, Provincial Policy Statements, Places To Grow Legislation) and of course our Official Plan approved in 1998. We must follow the laws of the land.

Over the past few years you have heard the perspective of others that proposes a path that conflicts with these laws. We must follow the law; to do otherwise is not responsible and much too costly to defend at the taxpayers' expense.

For your information, the cost of \$100 Million that has been noted in some articles came from the lawyer, not from the cost of infrastructure as others have said in error.

Midhurst was designated a growth area in 1998 in the Township Official Plan which was approved by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, as well as the Ontario Municipal Board. The Official Plan required the creation of a Secondary Plan for Midhurst. While completing the Midhurst Secondary Plan, the Province created new legislation called the Places to Grow Act (2005/2006). The Province required the Council of the day to proceed with the Midhurst Secondary Plan. This plan refined development areas in Midhurst (residential, commercial and industrial). This exercise also added an additional 1200 hectares of Environmentally Protected Land to the plan.

This became the Midhurst Secondary Plan (MSP) known as OPA 38. This is the blueprint to guide any future development in Midhurst with all the controls in place. New development will be fully serviced with sewer and water. The Places to Grow Act required that all new communities comply with new density targets meaning that all new development is required to have a mix of housing that includes a full range of housing types (low to high density). This Council did not lobby for increased density; this was imposed by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. We did not lobby for a mega city; we were told that growth will meet these targets to avoid sprawl and prevent impact on agricultural land outside of the settlement area.

There has also been a lot of discussion on the Environmental Studies needed for this development; Phases 1 & 2 have been completed and now Phases 3 & 4 are in process. The Midhurst Secondary Plan ensures that until all conditions around storm water, source water and wastewater are approved by Council, the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority and the Ministry of the Environment, nothing will proceed. No houses will be built until all terms and conditions are met. No registration of Plans of Subdivision can take place without all conditions being met. Front ending agreements between the Midhurst Landowners' Group and the Township will cover the waste water, water and transportation requirements for new development in Midhurst. Front-ending means paying for all infrastructure up-front.....not the Township paying it back.

Council has the same concerns as the residents. We want a development that is positive for the community and does not have an impact on the environment. At the same time, Council has to follow all of the Provincial Laws and Provincial Processes; to do otherwise would place Springwater in a position of liability. I encourage you to get all of the information and facts on this issue. Visit the Midhurst section of our web site www.springwater.ca/msp or call a member of your Council.

Sincerely,
Mayor Linda Collins

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Build wisely for the future or risk health: medical officers' report

BARRIE – Improving the design of our communities and transportation systems is needed to take the Greater Toronto-Hamilton Area in a direction that will improve health for the general public.

It's a process that includes Simcoe County, says Simcoe Muskoka District Medical Officer of Health Dr. Charles Gardner. Dr. Gardner is one of four medical officers who co-wrote *Improving Health By Design in the Greater Toronto-Hamilton Area*, a report on land use and transportation planning as it affects the diseases associated with inactivity, obesity and poor air quality.

The report, unveiled on May 14, contains warnings of the consequences to the public's health of continuing to build and plan cities "with the motor vehicle at their centre."

"All our technological improvements have given us great mobility, but they have also removed physical activity from people's lives—and generated harmful pollutants," said Dr. Gardner. "The convenience is taking a serious toll on our health."

"In the GTHA, including Simcoe County, obesity and inactivity are costing us \$4 billion a year," Dr. Gardner said. "We see more than 12,500 new cases of diabetes every year, all attributable to inactivity; and more than 850 premature deaths per year and 3,300 hospitalizations because of traffic-related air pollution. This can be improved by factoring human health into municipal planning."

The report predicts that if planning and transportation are improved, as many as 330 premature deaths and 1,000 new cases of diabetes could be prevented each year. It makes three key recommendations:

1. Fund *The Big Move*, the long-range plan from Metrolinx, the provincial agency that coordinates transportation in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area.
2. Strengthen provincial policies to support greater walking, cycling and public transit.
3. Normalize the planning for walking, cycling and transit use by municipalities.

Without any change to current community design and transportation systems, the next 20 years could see more gridlock and greater threats to health, including

- a 33% increase in commute time;
- a 200% increase in economic costs of lost productivity due to congestion;
- a 27% increase in small particulate air pollution from traffic emissions;
- a 30% increase in greenhouse gas emissions from traffic;
- an almost doubling of cases of diabetes with one in six adults being affected.

Simcoe County is a part of the report, since it is included in both the Metrolinx Big Move and Places to Grow as a region of high urban growth potential.

Copies of the report are available on the health unit website <http://www.smdhb.org/Promos/NOHreport.aspx>.

New HRP report calls for reform of Ontario's College of Trades to tackle province's skilled trades shortage

Duff McCutcheon 416 923 2324 X 324 TORONTO, May 8, 2014 - Ontario's new College of Trades must make changes to its apprenticeship regime, including modernizing the certified tradespeople-to-student ratio required to train apprentices, and ensuring fair and transparent classification of compulsory trades, according to a new report released today by the Human Resources Professionals Association (HRPA).

The report, *Apprenticeship Reform: Ontario's future depends on it*, also calls for increased government promotion of skilled trades careers among young Ontarians.

"Ontario is facing a skilled trades shortage that is costing the province \$24B annually and, paradoxically, it is occurring at a time when youth unemployment is hovering around 17 per cent," said HRP CEO Bill Greenhalgh. "To restore Ontario's prosperity, the government must invigorate the trades to both fulfil the talent needs of business and to create high-paying jobs for young people."

I hope HRP's recommendations will prompt discussion among government, business, educational institutes and other stakeholders on how they can partner to produce apprentices and apprenticeship programs that meet the province's skills needs."

Key recommendations include modernizing Ontario's journeyman-to-apprentice ratio (the numbers of certified tradespersons required to train an apprentice). Compared to other provinces, Ontario's current ratio is restrictive and unjustifiable—and risks losing potential apprentices to provinces with more favourable ratios. The report recommends government review the current ratio to get the province in synch with other jurisdictions.

The report also calls for fair and transparent classification of compulsory trades. While some trades like electrician, plumber or auto mechanic are already compulsory and require certification

My View – How do you find the Truth?

by Bill French - It was great to see the two articles from Mayor Collins in the last edition of Springwater News.

I have no real problem with Mayor Collin's comments on the former Suncor (Petrocan) property at the main intersection in Elmvalle. I only question why Suncor was given a tax break on what is still a long term problem for someone at some point. The main reason the valuable property has not been sold is the fact that there is some question on soil contamination from leaching gasoline over its more than half a century existence. I have not seen the agreement but I am hoping that it includes clauses covering the potential cleanup costs at some point. I am sure Suncor would have also agreed to continue to pay the taxes of just over \$2,000 a year if it had been requested. Paying approximately \$24,000 of tax over a ten year period would have been an inexpensive deferral cost for such a large company. The obvious question will be, "How do we recover the investment of the park improvements when the agreement expires?" I do appreciate that the Mayor actually responded rather than deferring to an administrative response as she usually does.

Now the Mayor's comments on Midhurst are a different story. It was obviously edited by the Administration staff as I know by her usual comments at Council and Planning meetings, the statements are far above her typical vocabulary. I appreciate the detail provided but I encourage you, that care about our wonderful Springwater, to spend some time and dig into her explanations. The reality is that the province in the early 2000's saw a disturbing trend of sprawl and poor planning especially in Simcoe County and passed two important policies, the Provincial Policy Statement and Places to Grow. It had become obvious that developers preferred flat farmland to develop their large subdivisions, as the costs were less expensive than redevelopment of declining neighborhoods. If you look around Springwater, especially in Hillsdale, Snow Valley, Minesing, Phelpsston, Centre Vespra, Apto and Fergusonville, they were all small developments complementing the existing areas. If you speak to the council members of the late 90's, the development of Midhurst was expected to follow that trend. The proposed Mega City of Midhurst was a concept driven by developers and supported by this and the previous council. It was not mandated by the province and the province projected a growth in Springwater of 6,500 people from 2006 to 2031, not another 28,000. If this council had informed the Provincial Growth Secretariat and the Facilitator, who met with all stakeholders, that the proposals for Midhurst were not in keeping with the township's vision for its future, then there would have been no "Special Rule". Remember the proposed Mega Developments in Midhurst are only permitted because of the Minister's order approving the Special Midhurst Rule. A future Minister could as easily reverse the decision, if it did before actual development commences. The Mayor seems a little misguided if she thinks this is trying to subvert the law.

You have seen recent articles from our Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Ward 3 Councillor. At least we know where they all sit on Midhurst and effectively it is full speed ahead. They all lay blame the decisions on higher levels of government. The reality is that our local council could have and should have taken more control to avoid what will be the most negative economic, environmental and social impact on Springwater in its entire history.

The October 27th election is a long way off. You need to understand these important issues. Don't take my word for it, do you own research and talk to those in the know. It's your choice!

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QUESTIONS FOR THE BRAIN INJURED PERSON:
Do You Miss the Person You Were Before the Brain Injury?

Do you believe on one level that you are the same person you were before the Brain Injury?
Do you believe that if people could see beyond the reactions to situations that healing might take a different road?
These are questions that everyone who has a brain injury and the people who care for them could have the courage to ask and answer. It could make the difference in recovery and recovery could take a different turn.

The ability to answer these questions for the brain injured person could be difficult at first because probably nobody during their recovery have asked these questions, so they might not have the answers right away. The people who are asking the questions might have to wait a while for the answer and let the brain injured person think about the answer for a while.

Once a brain injured person thinks about the answer you might find out that the answer is probably "yes" to all those questions, but they are so concerned about recovery, that they never thought to try to find out if there might be a reason for certain things that happen during recovery.

Once the people who care for the brain injured person have the answers to these questions they may realize that maybe the recovery path needs to change.

Question for the people who care for the brain injured person: Do you miss the person; the brain injured person was before the brain injury?

If the brain injured person and the people who care for the brain injured person are all missing the person before the brain injury "that is a lot of missing?" Sometimes "all that missing" turns inward and is expressed through anger, and because of the magnification of emotions, it can make the reactions to "all that missing" into very strong "emotional reactions".

To the Brain Injured Person: Have the courage to ask "Do I miss the person I was before the brain injury and if so is it affecting the recovery path?"

To the People who Care for the Brain Injured Person: "Do I miss the person, the brain injured person was before the brain injury and if so, is that affecting the recovery path?"

Jean Ostrom lives in Springwater Township has lived with a brain injury since 1997 and has created a website www.newbrainliving.com where people with brain injuries and their caregivers can find answers.

Twitter: @newbrainliving Facebook: New Brain Living
Email: jean@newbrainliving.com New Brain Living Book www.newbrainliving.com Click on the Book Icon

In 2013, the UK had the coldest spring since 1963.
-In March 2013, Northern Japan received record snowfall—up to 16 ft thick just south of Aomori.
-In October 2013, the worst frost in more than 80 years hit Chile and damaged 30 million boxes of fruit for export—damages were over \$1 billion.
-An expedition vessel full of Climate Change scientists became trapped in Antarctic sea ice 10 feet thick on Christmas Day 2013.
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Your View - Letters to the Editor

Dear Michael; Below is a thank you to Georgian Bay General Hospital:

"I would like to thank the nurses at 2 North, the doctors, technicians and patient transfer drivers at the Georgian Bay General Hospital for being so thoughtful and kind to my mother, Maria Piwerka, Room 236, for the two weeks that she stayed with you. She received excellent care during her time of illness. The service to and from GBGH to St. Michael's in Toronto and again from GBGH to Southlake in Newmarket was exceptional. Thank you again for all your caring. She is back home again, doing her regular chores, a little slower, but loving every minute of it! Thank you again.

Sincerely,
Rosemary Hagedorn,
Penetanguishene, Ontario.

This letter was forwarded to the Springwater Council regarding the Midhurst Secondary Plan.

Hello,
Please include this in your agenda for the next council meeting.

I grew up in Midhurst and have always loved it. I love it because in Midhurst I can be close to nature. I am totally against the development plans for Midhurst, which would change nature to urban sprawl. Massive growth is not what Midhurst is about and it would destroy it. Please don't destroy Midhurst and STOP this proposed development. Thank you.

Alison Green

Anyone else going through settling of a large estate? Is the Ontario estate act fair to all parties?

Have you had an executor who manipulates the will to act in their own best interest? Have you waited 3 years to receive your funds after the government was paid 480,000.00 in capital corrupt gains tax two years ago? Have you had an executor who is using the estate assets such as the parry sound summer cottage at easter, hot summer weekends, thanksgiving and xmas and your paying the utilities and taxes?

Have you had an executor brother who finds an appraiser who values the lands at half the market value? Have you had an executor have your father sign an executor change in the last year he was living? Did you know the corrupt estate law - allows - the executor to use the estate funds to pay lawyers to fight you in court? Have you had an executor who has not done the "passing of the accounts in over 3 years- for the beneficiaries to view?

It would be good to hear from anyone who is going through this upsetting, disturbing activity from an executor is acting in their own best interest.

Paul Mallory
Springwater Township Cycle1955@sympatico.ca

Questions not answered

May I use your paper to state the obvious and my condolences to the Minty family.

Bravery is placing yourself in a position of danger helping others. Mr. Minty might not have known he was in a position of danger. He was likely taught policemen are your friends. Too me, he was still a brave man. He was protecting his mother. Why did he have to die?

When the SIU, the Crown, the Minister and the OPP say nothing criminal happened when Mr. Minty died; that is a strong statement and that seems like a majority and it may be the truth. I don't think it is the whole truth though. A majority should depend on the whole truth and nothing but the truth. If what they said is not the whole truth how do we find it? Hopefully the media will get to the truth of what happened. Hopefully the story will not end here!

I mentioned bravery; now cowardice. It is (cowardice) on the other hand, is as easy as falling into a lifeboat, which is how Captain Francesco Schettino left his passengers on a dying ship if we believe his statement about his exit from the Costa Concordia. Cowardice could also be failing in your basic duty to serve and protect society by shooting a man and then being disingenuous about his actions or your actions to either make yourself seem heroic or to cloud over what really happened.

There is a coroner's inquest now over where the evidence does not seem to pass the smell test. Two and two is not four and that should be raising alarm bells in the media in a democratic society not wanting to be a police state. If the media is not vigilant and exacting in their quest for the truth democracy is in peril. Their right to print the truth will be in jeopardy. In this case, I do not see the media doing their job. Also perhaps more frightening, I do not see the law society in Simcoe County voicing any concerns in public.

If we are to believe the constable (and of course we do), he felt his life was in danger and he was protecting you and me. The man he shot, apparently in a last ditch effort to change the course of history and hide his evil intent rolled over and closed the knife he was threatening the constable with and then rolled back and died thus implicating the constable in his death. That again according to the constable's testimony. The constable could have walked

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Has GBGH offered up the former PGH to save?

I cant imagine that GBGH has offered up the former PGH to save \$500,000 per year and cause so much grief and sadness in the town of Penetanguishene!!!!

That amount is a pittance that maybe could buy a couple of beds or stretchers!!!

I cannot believe the hospital board really have thought through how much of death sentence tis is to the town and its people.

Moving patients to Midland will not replace the quality of care they now receive at the "Penetang site".

The palliative Care rooms will never be the same. These rooms were designed and decorated with people's feelings involved. They are beautiful. Imagine the cost of setting those type of environment.

Also the dialysis unit is planning to be moved in the next year. Many of the clients are from Penetang and finally qualified to be served in the Penetang unit. Every patient on dialysis is required to be in Orillia until stable. Sometimes this means over a year and now in a year they will have to move once to Midland and their family will have to find transportation to bring them over at least 3 times a week. Imagine the cost of just setting up the plumbing for instance. I am thinking more about the comfortable setting the patients are now enjoying.

It is really unfortunate that the public of Penetang were never given a chance to discuss this horrible decision.

So little to save vs such grief!! I am a retired Registered nurse from PGH and watched our hospital be "sold" to HDH and now PGH will be no more.

Sincerely from the bottom of my heart,
Fran Moreau.

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away and allowed time for the situation to calm down if it was ever volatile...there were no lifeboats around to fall into but instead he stood his ground and drew his gun against a man defending his home armed only with a deadly Sig Sauer against a small unopened or opened jack knife and fired it five times once in the right leg, once in the left shoulder and three times in the torso of the gentle person before him who thought his home was his castle.

Those who don't believe the Captain fell into the life boat may also not believe the constable. They may well question whether or not the gentle giant in his last breath after being shot five times rolled over, grabbed the handle of the dangerously long (two inch blade) jack knife and closed it. Returning to his back to expire. For my part I believe the brave constable who risked his reputation and spoke to the SIU after speaking to his lawyer.

Some may say, using layman's language, it doesn't smell right, it doesn't add up. Some may suggest the policeman's actions were criminal. The Crown asks that we do not say that. The policeman stands before the record of this inquest as bloodstained Gloucester stood by the body of his slain king. (Act 1 scene two Richard the third) He begged of the widow as the OPP constable begs the jury 'Say I slew "HIM" not as Gloucester begged the Queen to say 'Say I slew them not' and the Queen replied, 'Then say they were not slain. But dead they are...' If the jury says Mr. Minty was not slain I will have to agree that he was not slain but dead he is.

But then also I believe the constable and the ship's captain. They spoke under oath and would a policeman or a ship's captain lie?

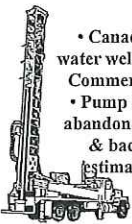
One question: Why are we paying the OPP "danger pay"? Who trained them to draw their guns when they see a knife? That is from the LA police manual and ought not be in the Ontario manual.

Justice delayed, justice denied and the reputation of a once proud force reeling from their actions at site 41, Caledonia, Levi Schaeffer and now Elmvalle; sullied again.

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My View - Springwater Council Advances Final Steps of Midhurst Secondary Plan

by Bill French - On June 25th of last week there were some special meetings held by the Planning Committee of Springwater Township. As many people know the committee is comprised of the elected officials.

The first meeting at 5:30 was a closed session to discuss the issues and conditions for the zoning of the first 5,000 homes of phase 1 of the Midhurst Secondary Plan.

The second session was an open house scheduled for 6:30 where the revised subdivision plans for the Midhurst Mega Development were presented. There were some minor revisions that had been requested by the township in April and the plans were revised accordingly. There was a minor reduction in the number of homes of about 5%.

A Special Planning Committee Meeting was scheduled for 7:00 p.m. but it was delayed by about 35 minutes as it took longer in the closed session than expected. I guess some councillors were not clicking their heels in tune with the mayor's wishes. This public meeting, which has put a further spike in the coffin of Springwater's enviable rural lifestyle, lasted about 20 minutes. There was no question period as is the normal case at Planning Meetings and we all know why. Four members of this council want this project to proceed and have ignored all pleas and reasoning by many in our community. The motion to accept the report was unanimous. Put in a nutshell the report says that the developers have satisfied the concerns of the Township and that they will support the OMB approving the zoning of the lands as applied for. Few people seemed to realize that this was more than receiving a report. It was a final stamp of approval by this council for the Mega Development to proceed. That in my estimation is a dark day for Springwater residents and will be one of the dates we refer back to in years to come where this council approved the destruction of the rural nature of Springwater.

Now for some reality checks. At the present time we have 5 ward councillors that, if evenly spread, represent about 3000 voters each. If Midhurst proceeds, as this council has approved, that will mean there will be about 4 more councillors representing the new population in Midhurst at the completion of the first phase. It could mean another 4 if phase 2 proceeds. Even if we keep the same number of councillors that would mean most councillors will be representing the Midhurst population. How successful will be the pleas be for improvements in the likes of Hillsdale, Elmvalle, Minesing, Phelpston and Anten Mills. If you think you are being ignored now, just wait until this Midhurst development proceeds.

One of the last hopes for delaying or revisiting the entire negative environmental impacts of the Midhurst Mega Development I think got scuttled by the Board at a meeting on Friday at the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority. There was another long closed session meeting with some 26 items. A number of councillors, prior to approving the agenda to go into "closed session", objected and said only 2 to 4 items would meet the requirements of the Municipal Act. But again the Board of the NVCA are the elected officials from the municipalities and many support these large plans. The NVCA had pleaded at the OMB prehearing for the Midhurst zoning that the hearings were premature and should be delayed. The outcome I expect after Friday's NVCA will be a withdrawal of the objection and "voila", the OMB will approve the zoning request.

Our elected officials are pawns in the big business of land development and speculators. As we have seen at the various OMB hearings on development issues the landowners and developers spend millions to get approval of "their" interpretation of the laws and policies. It is pretty easy when the local County and municipalities within it lack the experience or wherewithal to challenge these issues.

If you look around the County of Simcoe we see sprawl being permitted, which is contrary to the policies that govern it. And that is simply sad. What is sadder is that few of the elected officials have the courage to take a stand. It is like the school yard bully. Until someone stands up to him, everyone is in fear. But when one person says "enough is enough" the problem quickly resolves itself. We succeeded by challenging the bully responsible for the Site 41 mega-dump, so now we must do the same for Midhurst, Everett and Baxter.

We all need to decide what we want in our local municipalities and elect people that will stand up for the majority rather than the well-financed few.

It's your choice!
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My View – Why show up for an OMB gun fight unarmed? by Bill French

I attended the OMB prehearing for the rezoning of the lands in the Midhurst Mega development on July 3rd. As expected it was a lovefest with the developers, lawyers and planners singing the praises of the new proposed City of Midhurst and its potential 30,000 residents. I estimate the costs for the high paid and extremely well prepared professional talent was about \$30,000 for the day, paid for by the landowners and development community. No one was present to protect the interests of Springwater residents except for the Midhurst Ratepayers Association who took the position of a Participant at the hearing. Our high paid Springwater staff were window dressing and did not comment on behalf of you and me. As mentioned in my last article, because of pressure from the NVCA Board, which is comprised of our local elected officials that favour development, the NVCA have now changed their original position that the hearings were premature and opened the door for approval.

Your elected officials will argue that before building will proceed there are a number of conditions that must be met such as Environmental Assessment Studies, Financial Agreements and so forth. On the surface that sounds like reasonable logic. Unfortunately if and when the OMB approves the Mega development zoning, I will bet each of those conditions will be diluted to the extent that the Springwater will be exposed to untold legacy costs. If we had someone leading the Township that understood deal making, you would never do a deal with a party that outguns you until all conditions are approved. There is more than a subtle difference between approving a deal with conditions as opposed to doing a deal where nothing can proceed until all conditions are met. You will quickly see approvals for preliminary infrastructure work and model homes. Once the ball gets rolling, the project becomes more difficult to stop. The good news it can still be stopped if there is a political will.

I almost fell off my chair when I was speaking to one of our councillors about the negative effect that this Midhurst Mega Development will have on all of Springwater. Her reasoning was, "Why should Barrie get all those tax dollars instead of Springwater?" Unfortunately this is the flawed understanding of development charges and new tax dollars. In every fast growing community such as Barrie, Mississauga and Vaughan, the DC's and new tax dollars cover about 75% of actual costs leaving the municipality with increased debt and higher taxes. That is why Barrie has DC's of about \$45,000 per unit and another \$4,500 surcharge for development in the annexed lands. Under new leadership, namely Jeff Lehman, they are trying to correct the sins of poor planning over the last 30 years. Currently 10% of your Springwater tax dollars go to debt servicing rather than actual services. I see that quickly growing to the maximum permitted which is 25% if the MSP proceeds. York Region has amassed a 2 billion dollar debt because of this type of reasoning by their elected officials requiring a huge amount of the high taxes going to debt servicing.

The Liberal government set aside all good planning policies by granting the Midhurst Special Rule which allowed the MSP to proceed and only two of our elected officials objected. It will take the same government to reverse the MSP with a new Special Rule which they have full authority to invoke. The MSP contravenes a number of policies in both the Provincial Policy Statement and the Places to Grow legislation. It only approved the Midhurst Special Rule because this council requested the approval and did not provide any objection to the plan. The discussions and maneuvering was all orchestrated behind closed doors.

I would like to correct any misunderstanding about my position on growth in response to a call from one resident that stated I was against progress due to my position on the Midhurst Mega City proposal. As I have said since the 2010 election I fully support needed growth in all of our communities especially jobs. I believe there should be a focus on completion of growth in Elmvale which can support another 400 homes without any significant additional cost for infrastructure. As a matter of fact you would see reduced water and sewage bills as the services would be better utilized. I do not support paving over prime farmland with City sized mega projects such as Midhurst. For the last 25 years we have seen reasonably smart growth in the township before the onslaught of the mega developers. Small developments in Elmvale, Midhurst, Snow Valley, Apto, Minesing, Anten Mills, Fergusonvale, Phelpsston and Hillsdale have complimented the community and fit in nicely without destroying the character of the communities. A lot of the labour and services were also provided by local companies. What is proposed for Midhurst is a whole new game. The developer admits they plan to create a model community as they have done elsewhere (whatever that means!)

Oct 27th is quickly approaching. It is your last chance to elect people that will stand up for the majority rather than the well-financed few.

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Navy League cadets



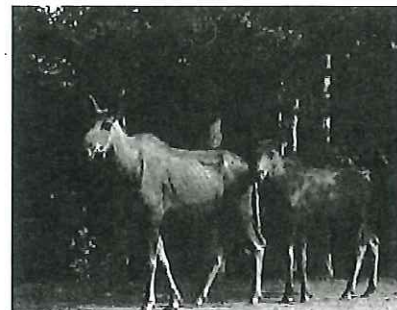
Colby Barker, 10, of Midhurst, (far left) and other Navy League cadets ride on the bowsprit of the sailing schooner *Liana's Ransom*. They were among 36 boys and girls, aged 9-12, from Navy League Cadet Corps "Chambly" in Barrie, who on Monday, July 7, travelled to Port McNicoll to sail on Georgian Bay aboard the *Ransom*. The 85-foot, two-masted schooner, which is based in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and works during the winter in the British Virgin Islands, is currently on a Great Lakes tour. The cadets helped to raise and lower the sails and took turns steering. While alongside in Port McNicoll, the cadets enjoyed "swinging from the yardarm" and dropping into the water (with life jackets on) as well as walking the plank.



Colby Barker, 10, of Midhurst, (left) keeps watch aboard the sailing schooner *Liana's Ransom*, while Caleb Pace, 12, of Barrie, mans the helm and steers. Barker and Pace were two of 36 boys and girls, aged 9-12, from Navy League Cadet Corps "Chambly" in Barrie, who on Monday, July 7, travelled to Port McNicoll to sail on Georgian Bay aboard the *Ransom*. The 85-foot, two-masted schooner, which is based in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and works during the winter in the British Virgin Islands, is currently on a Great Lakes tour. The cadets helped to raise and lower the sails and took turns steering. While alongside in Port McNicoll, the cadets enjoyed "swinging from the yardarm" and dropping into the water (with life jackets on) as well as walking the plank.

Pics and story c/o Greg Barker

Visitors in Midhurst



Repaving the Elmvale Community Parking Lot - pics from Constance Smith



County of Simcoe educates students about emergency preparedness

Midhurst/ July 3, 2014 – Recent severe weather in our region has highlighted the importance of being prepared for emergencies and disasters. The County of Simcoe Emergency Management program leads emergency preparedness training for the public across the region.

One of the educational programs that Simcoe County Emergency Management offers, in partnership with local fire services, is the Student Emergency Preparedness (STEP) program.

Launched during Emergency Preparedness Week in May 2012, the STEP program introduces students to the types of emergencies to prepare for in Simcoe County, such as tornadoes, floods, extreme weather, chemical spills, and power outages. It also helps students learn how to create a family emergency plan, and shows them what to include in an emergency preparedness kit. Students are then encouraged to teach their parents and families about what they have learned and develop an emergency preparedness kit at home.

Your View - Letters to the Editor

My View - Elmvale

Still an unrecognized Jewel in Springwater
by Bill French - I was in Elmvale last Friday for the Farmers Market and I felt like I was in a rural municipality with friendly folk, local produce and chats about people we all knew. It reminded me of an article I wrote about 5 years ago about the importance of Elmvale as it relates to the vitality and life of Springwater.

I grew up on a farm on the fifth of Flos in the 50's. Elmvale was the economic centre and a thriving village that supported the mainly rural farming community that surrounded it. I also lived for two years in Elmvale on Lorne Street in the 70's with a young family and enjoyed our strolls to the main street. The people were friendly; the shopkeepers knew most of their clientele. Based on the Provinces direction in the Places to Grow policies for municipalities to develop complete communities, Elmvale is the only urban centre that meets that criterion in the Township of Springwater. Just think of it, it has all the amenities that someone could enjoy, all in walking distance. You could effectively live all your life in Elmvale without leaving the village boundary. My question is why are we not supporting it more except for lip service such as the parkette at Yonge and Queen?

Since I have been at the planning and council meetings since Feb, 2009, I have noticed approvals for expenditures for added services to Springwater. Did you know that well over half a million dollars was spent on baseball diamonds in the property close to the soccer fields and new administration centre off Nursery Road? Would it not have been a thought to possibly establish some of these baseball diamonds in Elmvale close to BDHS? Just think of the ball tournaments that could be attracted to the benefit of the struggling merchants on main street Elmvale. Since I teach business part time, I understand why the ball fields are in Midhurst. Based on Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping software it determined this is the central location if you take all homes in the township into consideration based on travel distance. That makes sense if Springwater was isolated in the middle of nowhere. However, since Midhurst is close to all the amenities of Barrie, the decision criteria should have included such things as the economic benefit to the township and the better servicing of the rural residents as considerations. That did not happen.

I have had the same criticism about our administration building on Nursery Road. Just think of the benefit it would have brought to Elmvale if located there. With 50 people on staff, it would have meant a lot of local meals and shopping, a great benefit to the community and the township. I understand that the Township owned the land in Midhurst but a more visionary approach should have been taken by the council. The Township spent extra money to be a LEEDS rated facility. I believe the extra travel distance and the use of cars to get to the isolated location of the new admin centre more than offsets any greenhouse gas savings in the building. I am not sure that this takes Springwater in the direction of building complete communities.

As a rural municipality our council must get away from thinking big city, which seems to be the approach of the planning of our township at the moment. Let's dig deep into the roots and backbone of the Township of Springwater. If you are looking for identity, please remember people know where you can find Elmvale, Anten Mills, Phelpsston, Midhurst, Hillsdale, Orr Lake, Snow Valley, Minesing, Centre Vespra. Some even know Fergusonsvale and Apto. Few know what Springwater is or where it is located and there is probably not enough money to brand it. Branding takes more than a new logo and a catch phrase.

Main Street Springwater is Queen Street Elmvale and I think we can build on that to the benefit of all citizens of Springwater. Let's elect a council that has a vision for the entire township and not just mega developments in the south end of the township.

Help me lead that vision!

It's your choice!

frenchformayor2014@gmail.com • 705-718-7031

PGH Closes - What is the Cost?

Dear Editor:

A group of concerned citizens met yesterday to discuss the closure of the former PGH. Closure of this site means a huge cost over the long run to save so little in comparison. Representatives from Palliative Care, Hospice, dialysis and interested citizens were in attendance.

Concerns were: Why is the mayor of Penetang not calling a meeting of council and the townspeople?

Palliative Care: How many beds are really going to GBGH? Will the palliative patients really have a quiet, calm area? This area requires a fair amount of space.

How much planning has really been given to address these special concerns? When dialysis moves in "16" where would such a large unit fit in as well? What a huge cost to accommodate this unit! Saving money at what cost! It is never wise to sell your assets to lower a deficit.

The cost of transferring programs far outweighs the savings predicted. Very little is spent on PGH. There is one maintenance worker and a skeleton staff on housekeeping and the rest are nursing staff and physio.

Fran Moreau

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CORRECT INFORMATION OR UNSUBSTANTIATED OPINION

The Midhurst Ratepayers Association (MRA), Bill French, and Les Stewart want the public to believe that the main election issue in the up and coming Springwater fall election is voting to stop the Midhurst Secondary Plan (MSP). Their platform is made up of unsubstantiated opinion and fear mongering.

STOPPING THE MSP

The MSP was approved by the Province through a special rule/regulation allowing 300 hectares in specific locations to proceed at this time. The remaining Plan is held at the OMB indefinitely and can be reopened in the future. This means the development can proceed for approximately 10000 people for the planning horizon of 2031.

The only way this development can be stopped is by the Province of Ontario passing a regulation to rescind the special rule. This would undoubtedly cost the Province considerable funds in law suits. Jim Wilson, the acting Conservative Party Leader has also acknowledged that the Province would be ill-advised to consider this action due to the millions of dollars in costs. How could Springwater Council possibly even consider going against the regulations and laws of Ontario when the Province is concerned over the costs and unwilling to change the governing regulations. Springwater has also written direction from one of the best Municipal Law Firms in the Province confirming that we would be breaking the law and will face very expensive law suits. There are no grounds to repeal the Plan, all processes and regulations were followed. The environmental concern is being addressed through with the ongoing Environmental Assessment process presently underway and is expected to be complete within a year.

Bill French, Les Stewart, and the some members of MRA do not promote this but only have their unsubstantiated opinion on the matter.

I understand the concern over a development of this size and there needs be ongoing review and close attention to controls on the financial and environmental planning going forward. This Council is doing that with detail studies and reports in order to confirm and advise the Provincial agencies of our requirements and conditions.

Recently the OMB verbally approved the Draft Plans for MSP with some of the most stringent environmental and planning conditions for a development in the County of Simcoe. Springwater Staff and Council played a major role in crafting over 150 conditions. The Nottawasaga Conservation Authority provided their requirements and fully endorsed the conditions presented.

The MRA was given the opportunity to provide comments in opposition to the development both verbally and in writing, but they declined as they could not find issue with the conditions. The opportunity was there at the OMB for the MRA to lay out all their concerns and issues; they chose to be silent. They must have had no arguments to bring forward, why else would they skip this opportunity.

FEAR MONGERING

THE NORTHERN AREA OF SPRINGWATER WILL SUFFER IF MIDHURST GROWS BY 10000 PEOPLE

The suggestion that the unbalanced population and voting power of the south will hurt the north area of Springwater is not new. I heard this same argument in 1994 when I was on Council during amalgamation. Since that time I have not witnessed that and actually the opposite has happened, all the areas in Springwater have benefited even though presently the South has more representatives and population. Getting good representation and Springwaters' representation by population ward system, mitigates that threat. Having all the South Councilors voting to exclude something from the North has not happened in the 10 years I have been on Springwater Council and is not likely to occur. There are many Municipalities in Ontario where one area has a larger population and they do not experience this.

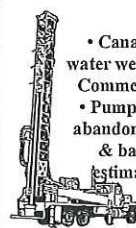
TAXPAYERS WILL PAY MORE TO SUPPORT THE OPERATION OF THE NEW WASTE WATER (SEWER) AND WATER SYSTEMS IN MIDURST.

Waste water and water systems are independent of the Municipal tax expense and are treated as a separate account. Users of the system pay for funding the operation and capital requirements of the system. Springwater's user fees are calculated to include all the operating and long term expenses of these systems. Presently the existing waste water and water systems have a healthy capital reserve for future requirements and the new Midhurst system will be no different. If you wish to confirm this review the

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Festival du Loup 2014

Dear Madam/Sir:

The 11th Festival du Loup, held in Lafontaine on the weekend of July 17-20, was a tremendous success, not only weather-wise and visitor-wise, but also for the precious volunteer support for the Festival and Museum as well as the many artists, musicians, and artisans. We are especially grateful for the financial support from community businesses, financial institutions and government funding.

We are very proud of our partners. A special thanks goes out to the Township of Tiny for all the work and services that the employees provided: grooming the park, putting up fences, providing the pavilion and the community centre thus assuring a safe and welcoming place for our cultural celebrations.

We are also thankful for government funding through the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Heritage Canada, Foodland Ontario and the Ontario Arts Council. Our Alpha Wolf Sponsors contributed greatly to the success of our event: Caisse populaire des Desjardins, La Sève, CHIGAMIK Community Health Centre, Entité 4, Asselin Insurance Brokers, National Bank, TD Bank, Conseil scolaire de district catholique Centre-Sud, Conseil scolaire Viamonde, Traductions Zip Zap Translations, North Simcoe Community Futures Development Corporation, French community radio station Vague 88.1 FM, and Club Richelieu Penetanguishene.

With thanks,

Nadine Lalonde, Chair, La Meute culturelle de Lafontaine, Martin Lalonde, Chair, Festival du Loup, Joëlle Roy, Director, La Meute culturelle de Lafontaine, Living Museum and Festival du Loup



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Springwater Financial fact sheets.

I can no longer stand by and read letters and articles in the paper that do not provide good information. Week after week opinions are expressed and many readers actually believe the misinformation and unsubstantiated opinions.

This Council continually takes criticism weekly in the paper and at Council meetings by a small group of people. Ask yourself the question, why do they take it, is the majority of the present Council so misinformed and so mislead regarding the MSP, or maybe they are well informed and governing in the best interest of Springwater.

These same individuals are always negative and never speak of the great things this Council has accomplished, such as improving the investment in roads, bridges, parks while reducing the infrastructure deficit, paying off debt, building reserves to minimize impacts on future taxes, improving the efficiency of operations, and enhancing community events. The Townships independent Auditors and the BMA Management Consultant Report both indicate that Springwater is a well run Municipality.

The 2015 to 2019 Council will have its challenges, choosing the right representatives is key, select the Candidate that has experience and ability to manage the Corporation. Getting the right facts and rational information not opinions and misinformation is very important in making the right choice.

STOPPING THE MSP IS NOT THE ISSUE, MANAGING IT PROPERLY IS, WE NEED PEOPLE IN PLACE ON THE NEW COUNCIL THAT ARE WILLING TO DO JUST THAT.

Dan Mclean
Deputy Mayor

Your View - Letters to the Editor

Drive-in Theatres

You had a little article, in your recent edition, which gave some facts about the almost extinct drive-in theater. What really caught my eye was where it mentioned the All-Weather Drive-in theater in Copiague, New York. Copiague is a village on the south shore of Long Island about 50kms from New York City. My grandparents lived there and we spent summers visiting.

And now, as Paul Harvey used to say, to the rest of the story. The reason the Drive-in was called the All-Weather, is because it was unique in that along with the big outdoor screen it had a full indoor theater for those days when the weather prevented the patrons from watching from their cars. It also kept the theater open all year due to its ability to screen movies during the winter.

On summer week-ends, after the show, they would put on fireworks displays that lasted about 15 minutes, which you could see for miles around. I seem to think though that the fireworks were messages for those people, who in the words of the song Moments to Remember, ("the drive in shows we used to go and somehow we never watched the show"), to let them know the movie was over and it was time to go home.

Sadly the site where the All-Weather was, is now a shopping plaza anchored by Home Depot.

B Crotin

Rick Webster should stop denying his Council's responsibility for the advancement of the Midhurst Secondary Plan.

Mr. Webster's letter in the July 17th edition of the *Springwater News* states that the Ontario Liberal government amended the Places to Grow Act in 2012 and allowed the Midhurst Secondary Plan (MSP) to proceed because it wanted to avoid a costly legal battle. Legal battle against whom? Against the Ontario government? On what basis does Mr. Webster base his claim? He quotes MPP Jim Wilson's statement that Wilson was shocked at the lack of consultation prior to the Ministerial Order on the MSP, his concern over loss of prime farmland, the fact that progress on the MSP hinges on the Environmental Assessment, and the need to follow proper process now that the damage is done. There is nothing in Mr. Wilson's letter saying that the province wanted to avoid being sued for its action.

The reality is that until our Council advanced the MSP after the successful lobbying of the developers, the plan was simply illegal and not permitted by the Places to Grow policies. That is why the province originally appealed the approval of the MSP by County Council. Even the County objected to the plan because of the Places to Grow Act. The developers bought the land after the Places to Grow Act was passed in 2005, so they had no grounds on which to sue the province. It is only the amendments that opened the door with the Special Rule.

The Province did not amend the Places to Grow to avoid a lawsuit. They were responding to the requests of the County of Simcoe and the Township of Springwater who continually sent letters supporting the MSP.

Katy Austin, 21 Stone St., Elmville, L0L1P0
705-322-2265 • katy.austin@sympatico.ca

Ontario is the armpit of Canada!

Enough is enough. We can't all be wrong. Every day I talk with angry Ontarians who feel the same. Ontario is the "can't do province". For example; Queens park has okayed the following: you pay taxes on your cottage and the townships will not let you rent your own property? Mr. Harris who ruined Ontario, used the excuse.

The Townships can lower the mill rate. Don't vote for anyone unless they agree to lower the mill rate 5% per year during their term!

Taxes are a joke. Up! Up! Up! Ontarians net income has decreased and yet taxes go up every year!! Springwater (7 million dollars) and many other townships, have spent millions on brand new township buildings when the Ontario economy is the pits?

Car emissions were a good idea for the first two years. Now it is a money grab, a waste of money.

The feds boat licence what a joke, stealing \$60.00 when less than 20% of boaters will use it.

Energy board allowing a 40% increase in Enbridge charges...this is communist for sure.

Hydro rate charging a "delivery charge" which is more than our consumption...another Ontario joke.

Any tax over ten percent is communist and needs to be corrected. Get rid of the capital gains tax. It is robbing Ontarians

Ontario is not a nice place to live. Talk to any Canadian who has moved to the USA - food, gas and taxes, all much cheaper.

Paul Mallory, Springwater Township
cyclc1955@sympatico.ca

Sweating from stress and sweating to cool down are chemically different. When you sweat because you're hot, it comes from your eccrine glands, but when you sweat because you're stressed, it comes from your apocrine glands.

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My View - McLean Letter-Response

by Bill French - I am pleased that Deputy Mayor McLean submitted his "Letter to Editor" in the July 31st edition of *Springwater News*. You need to have that handy to make sense of this article. A few people phoned me and asked if his letter angered me because of his strong criticism of my opinions. My answer was "no". I said it is important that people see how he thinks, which is a good thing. I also believe everyone is entitled to their opinion and point of view.

For those trying to figure out who should lead our council for the next 4 years, you now have a view from the second in command on council, the Deputy Mayor. You have also seen articles from the Mayor in recent months. For balance, and since his name is mentioned in the McLean letter, check out Les Stewart who has filed his papers to run as your next deputy mayor. As McLean states, be informed with facts and not swayed by the rhetoric.

McLean's initial information on the MSP approval is correct. It was done with a special rule by the province. He ignores the fact that the Township and County did not object to the mega development in Midhurst even though the plan offended all good planning principles. Some say and I am sure actually believe that it was out of the township's control. If the Council had objected to the plan, there would have been no special rule nor mega development, as the Midhurst Secondary Plan is contrary to all the higher level provincial policies including the County's OP. The only scaremongering I see is from McLean when he mentions the \$100,000,000 potential lawsuit, if the Midhurst Mega City was stopped. First of all, that number of \$100,000,000 from the township lawyer was based on the value of the infrastructure investment to serve the potential future 30,000 additional residents. Unlike the Gas Plant debacle that McLean refers to, which was well underway when terminated, the zoning, which is the subject of an OMB appeal, has still not been approved for the Midhurst developments and no construction has been done. No money has been put in the ground as I write this letter, but there are efforts behind the scenes trying to fast track it before the Oct 27th election. Is there a chance of a lawsuit if the MSP was cancelled? I would say yes as lawsuits seem to be the norm of today. However, the developers speculated on land they bought after the provincial policies were in place. The developers took a calculated risk, lobbied elected officials at all levels and are hoping for a win. This is quite legal and I would expect nothing less from a corporation attempting to reward its shareholders. I have no complaints about the integrity of the developers or landowners. They are trying to maximize their investments. If the MSP was revisited and reduced in size is the cost of speculating and the return may not be as anticipated. This is not a criticism of the business model, it is just the way it works. Have you never speculated on something? Did you win every time? No one is against development that is reasonable, sustainable and compliments the areas where it is built which has been the history of developments in Springwater until the high density plans for Centre Vespra, the Midhurst Mega City and Hillsdale came along.

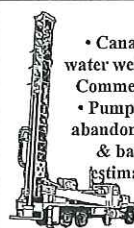
McLean's argument that the approvals before the OMB at this time have 150 conditions that must be met is correct. I commend the township for creating a good detailed list and many good conditions are included. I fear the developers will fight each condition with the end result being that some important conditions will be compromised. Now if the Township had insisted that all conditions were met prior to a final OMB zoning approval that would be a different story. That was done in Anten Mills some years ago and as a result the development has not proceeded as there are still conditions that must be met and approved.

McLean's criticism of my premise that the rest of the township will suffer because of the concentration of population in the south, is an example of old style thinking. In 1994 there were no heavy concentrations of developments like we would see with the Midhurst Mega Development, so his argument is a little dated (we are now 20 years later) and illustrates his inability to see the big picture with a long term view, which to me is worrisome.

His explanation of how our water and sewer charges work is also correct. He ignores the fact that since they are pooled, the unknown costs of operating a City sized water and sewage facility that has miles of lines are a real threat to those rates. He also failed to mention that 2 years into a plan to create the necessary reserves for the replacement of our existing infrastructure, the reserve was 30% underfunded according to the CFO of the day. That is why those on full services have an annual 3 to 3.5%

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Local Builders Local Jobs

A letter of congrats is going out to the builders of Snow Valley. John and myself took a drive into that development. To my surprise the trades working were all local.

This is what a good development entails. The development abuts onto existing homes and is not on arable lands. They are providing jobs to local trades and, in turn, putting money into the local economy. Building on spacious estate lots conducive to rural living in Springwater.

Good work to the Snow Valley builders.

With Heart and thanks.

Donna and John Hawthorne, Anten Mills

Reference. Deputy Dan McLean's letter, Fear Mongering

Our council took great offence to the words "unethical" and "collusion", both said during meetings by councillors. Councillors had to withdraw word or apologize. Words, that was all it was. Deputy McLean was involved with both incidents.

Now, I read the word "fearmongering". I take great offence to this word. It is implying that the letters that are written in the paper are done so to get residents fearful and wary. My articles are written for no such reason. I have the time, being a senior, live close to the administration building and I am concerned and care how our tax dollars are spent. I feel it's my civic duty to attend and to keep other residents who do not have the time abreast on important issues. Personally speaking, your letter is the most negative and uninformative letter I have read in the *Springwater Newspaper*.

It is very difficult to remember anything positive this council has succeeded in when I read this letter. You are our deputy mayor, a position of status and authority. This letter does not become you. Taking pot-shots at residents that write in including myself is wrong. Please withdraw this word "fearmongering". We all make mistakes in haste or the heat of the moment. Withdrawing this offensive word will prove you deserve to be the deputy Mayor of Springwater.

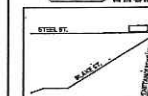
With heart

Donna Hawthorne, Anten Mills.

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compounded increase in these rates for years to come. Do you think it will get better when we add a \$100,000,000 facility that we have no idea what it will cost to operate?

His reference to the BMA Management Consultant Report is a little overstated. There were few municipalities in the comparison study that were the size and character of Springwater. Besides, less than a third of the Ontario Municipalities participated. Remember the township pays for the report.

I do agree with McLean's concluding paragraph in his letter. The next council has many challenges because of the leadership of the last 8 years. I agree that the upcoming election is not just about the Midhurst Secondary Plan. It is about transparency and the leadership void that exists. Do your homework. If this council and especially the Mayor and Deputy Mayor did as much research as I do they probably could comment and make more effective arguments. They definitely have more resources for information than I do. My opinions are based on fact not conjecture.

Let's elect a council that has a vision for the entire township. Let's finally choose a council that actually listens to the electorate! There will be many on the upcoming slate that will actually do that. I succeeded in business because I listened to everyone and as result had the good fortune to manage some of the best companies in their respective sectors. Yes I have strong opinions and have been accused of being "too opinionated" but those opinions have been formed by engaging many stakeholders not just a few that support my position.

Help me lead that vision!

It's your choice!

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EXHIBIT 2

Business Mind, Rural Heart

I was raised on a farm in Flos, moved to Elmvale in the 70s and for the last 17 yrs, lived on a small farm in Grenfel. The Stone side of my family traces its Springwater roots back to the 1800's. My wife Lorraine & I have 5 children and 10 grandchildren.

I want to be a good ancestor and ensure many generations will be able to experience a beautiful Springwater.

*"Bill is a born leader –
pure and simple!"*

Christine Bentley

Former CTV News Anchor

Business & Community Experience

- 40 years' experience in senior management positions including President & Executive VP of international companies
- Specialized business experience in economic development
- Business teacher at Georgian College for 10 years
- 5 yrs on Springwater Committee of Adjustment; 3 yrs Grenfel Recreation Board

ELECT FRENCH

ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, in-person
voting (polling locations):

Hours: 10 am to 8 pm

Springwater Administration Centre
2231 Nursery Road

Elmvale Arena
14 George Street

Minesing Community Centre
2347 Ronald Road

Beginning on Monday, October 20th and
ending on Monday, October 27th

ON-LINE AND TELEPHONE VOTING from
10 am to 8 pm daily

For more details on how to vote via online or
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www.springwater.ca

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information contact Bill:

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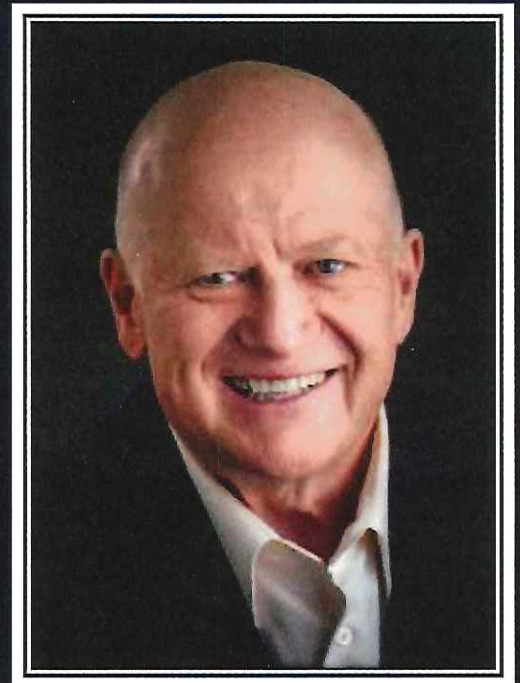
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The Leadership We
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Leadership

- Tighter fiscal management and re-energized economic development focused on creating more local jobs
- Build an accountable & transparent council: more council meetings, expanded question period & ensuring council works with citizens
- Provide needed leadership on Midhurst Secondary Plan by asking Province to reverse its special Midhurst loophole for developers
- Make growth pay for growth by reviewing development charges and fees
- A focused plan for development of small commercial and service businesses in Elmvale, Midhurst and Hillsdale
- **FULL EFFORT TO STOP THE MIDHURST SECONDARY PLAN**



ELECT Bill Mench for Mayor because...

"Bill has always been ahead of the curve, thanks to his instinctive ability to accurately size up any challenge, and process workable solutions quickly and collaboratively!"

-Christine Bentley, Former CTV News Anchor

"Bill has the necessary leadership experience from running several major corporations as well as experience with municipal government."

- David Strachan, Springwater Resident

"Bill is a hard-working, knowledgeable, focused businessman with an ability to see the big picture."

- Des Farell, Print Media Solutions, USA

"I can think of few people with Bill's compassion and dedication to achievement, team building and personal motivation. His talent and foresight would be a huge asset to any community."

- Ed Crain, CEO, Kingstar Media

"Bill is committed to providing his community with a bright and prosperous future in harmony with a healthy environment. He brings honesty, integrity, commitment and much needed transparency to municipal government."

- Gary Christie, President, Nottawasaga Steelheaders Association

Agriculture

- Protect farmland from urban sprawl and promote it as a key economic growth sector in Springwater
- Establish a farm action committee working closely with local farm organizations
- Advocate infrastructure investment such as drainage, access to low cost energy and food literacy
- Promote the many agri-tourism related businesses such as bed and breakfast, market gardens, farm gate sales and farm vacations

Environment

- Protect flood plain and source water sensitive areas from conflict with development
- Promote eco-tourism within Minesing Wetlands and provide leadership on the protection of its biodiversity
- Review the potential of the Township's involvement in Springwater Park

I want to be a good ancestor and ensure my children and grandchildren can enjoy the unique beauty of Springwater for generations to come.

Business Mind, Rural Heart

I was raised on a farm in Flos, moved to Elmvale in the 70s and for the last 17 yrs, lived on a small farm in Grenfel. The Stone side of my family traces its Springwater roots back to the 1800's. My wife Lorraine & I have 5 children and 10 grandchildren.

I want to be a good ancestor and ensure many generations will be able to experience a beautiful Springwater.

*"Bill is a born leader –
pure and simple!"*

Christine Bentley

Former CTV News Anchor

Business & Community Experience

- 40 years' experience in senior management positions including President & Executive VP of international companies
- Specialized business experience in economic development
- Business teacher at Georgian College for 10 years
- 5 yrs on Springwater Committee of Adjustment; 3 yrs Grenfel Recreation Board

ELECT FRENCH

**ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, in-person
voting (polling locations):**

Hours: 10 am to 8 pm

Springwater Administration Centre
2231 Nursery Road

Elmvale Arena
14 George Street

Minesing Community Centre
2347 Ronald Road

**Beginning on Monday, October 20th and
ending on Monday, October 27th**

**ON-LINE AND TELEPHONE VOTING from
10 am to 8 pm daily**

For more details on how to vote via online or
telephone methods, visit the Township
website at:

www.springwater.ca

**To get lawn signs, volunteer or for more
information contact Bill:**

705-718-7031

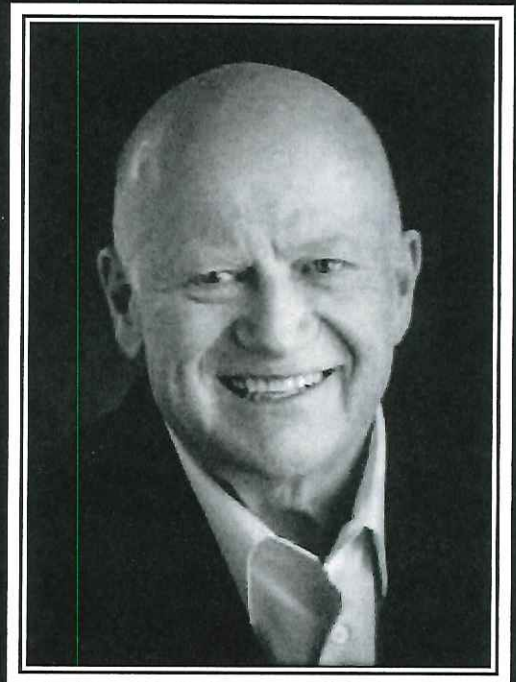
frenchformayor2014@gmail.com

WE NEED YOUR VOTE!

FRENCH

**FOR
MAYOR**

**The Vision We Need
The Leadership We
Deserve**



FrenchForMayor.ca

705-718-7031

Twitter: @frenchformayor

Leadership

- Tighter fiscal management and re-energized economic development focused on creating more local jobs
- Build an accountable & transparent council: more council meetings, expanded question period & ensuring council works with citizens
- Provide needed leadership on Midhurst Secondary Plan by asking Province to reverse its special Midhurst loophole for developers
- Make growth pay for growth by reviewing development charges and fees
- A focused plan for development of small commercial and service businesses in Elmvale, Midhurst and Hillsdale
- **FULL EFFORT TO STOP THE MIDHURST SECONDARY PLAN**



ELECT Bill French for Mayor because...

"Bill has always been ahead of the curve, thanks to his instinctive ability to accurately size up any challenge, and process workable solutions quickly and collaboratively!"

-Christine Bentley, Former CTV News Anchor

"Bill has the necessary leadership experience from running several major corporations as well as experience with municipal government."

- David Strachan, Springwater Resident

"Bill is a hard-working, knowledgeable, focused businessman with an ability to see the big picture."

- Des Farell, Print Media Solutions, USA

"I can think of few people with Bill's compassion and dedication to achievement, team building and personal motivation. His talent and foresight would be a huge asset to any community."

- Ed Crain, CEO, Kingstar Media

"Bill is committed to providing his community with a bright and prosperous future in harmony with a healthy environment. He brings honesty, integrity, commitment and much needed transparency to municipal government."

- Gary Christie, President, Nottawasaga Steelheaders Association

Agriculture

- Protect farmland from urban sprawl and promote it as a key economic growth sector in Springwater
- Establish a farm action committee working closely with local farm organizations
- Advocate infrastructure investment such as drainage, access to low cost energy and food literacy
- Promote the many agri-tourism related businesses such as bed and breakfast, market gardens, farm gate sales and farm vacations

Environment

- Protect flood plain and source water sensitive areas from conflict with development
- Promote eco-tourism within Minesing Wetlands and provide leadership on the protection of its biodiversity
- Review the potential of the Township's involvement in Springwater Park

I want to be a good ancestor and ensure my children and grandchildren can enjoy the unique beauty of Springwater for generations to come.

Response to the Guergis, Collins, McLean Attack Mailings

Having attended most of the council meetings of the last six years, I was awaiting for the true colours of Guergis, Collins and McLean to surface at some point in this election. The mailings in the last few days confirmed my thinking.

All three of them have made the Midhurst Secondary Plan the single issue, not me. I definitely oppose the current plan as it is really bad planning and will destroy the financial, social and environmental well-being of Springwater in the long term. Think about it. Does building a new city the size of Orillia on prime farmland make any sense to you? When the MSP was first passed by the township in 2008, the county objected 3 times as it did not meet the Places to Grow Policies. The Warden of the day was Guergis. Collins and McLean as County Councillors approved the plan in 2011. The Province appealed the decision to the OMB for the same reasons as the County rejected it the first time. The plan did not meet the Places to Grow Policies. The province only dropped part of the appeal after the developers lobbied and a letter from Collins requested special consideration which became the Midhurst Special Rule.

As far as the fear mongering lawsuit threat. I have never said a council led by me would stop the MSP. I have said in my writings and at all candidates meetings that I, with the will of the council, will request the Minister to revoke the Midhurst Special Rule. That is it. The province has full authority if they feel new evidence can be presented that illustrates the MSP is flawed. We all know there is plenty of evidence. The problem started in 2009 when Guergis asked for 31,000 people. Collins reinforced this request in her letter to the minister in 2011.

This election is about broken government and poor leadership.

The last 8 years first led by Guergis, and then Collins and McLean in the last four years have done this:

1. Taxes have increased by 25% over the last 8 years
2. Debt has grown from under a \$1,000,000, when Guergis and Collins came on council, to close to \$10,000,000 by the end of next year according to the numbers from Springwater finance.
3. The discretionary reserves, that are for unplanned needs, are being used to soften tax increases and will be gone at the current rate by 2016. There was close to \$6,000,000 as recently as 2012.

So if you think emptying your bank account and running up your credit cards works well on a personal basis then maybe you support this type of bad fiscal management. I don't.

There is a single issue in this election if you really think about it. It is called **leadership**. We have had eight years without it and that is why we have a deteriorating financial picture and the worst development plan that has ever been tabled in Springwater.

It is your decision. For a better Springwater with proper financial leadership, open government and controlled progressive growth - Vote Bill French for Mayor on October 27th.

www.frenchformayor.ca

frenchformayor2014@gmail.com

705-718-7031.

EXHIBIT 3



INVOICE

18 Wattie Rd
Midhurst, ON L0L 1X1
416.409.1953
info@fringemedia.ca

Date: October 14, 2014

Invoice No.: 20141001

Invoice for: Bill French Website

Billed to: Bill French
24 Yonge St. S
Elmvale, ON
L0L 1P0

GST/HST Registration No: 83345478 RT0001

DESCRIPTION	Rate	Hours Spent	AMOUNT	
Website design, set up	flat rate	5	\$	250.00
Wordpress Slider	ptc	na	\$	21.61
<u>Additional services</u>				
Site Maintenance	\$0*	10	\$	-
Content Management				
na=not applicable; ptc=pass through cost				
			Subtotal	\$ 271.61
			HST**	13.00%
			HST Total	35.31
			Total	\$ 306.92

We accept cash and cheque payments.

Please make cheques payable to Alina Wietzoreck. If you have any questions concerning this invoice, please contact Alina Wietzoreck, 416.409.1953, alina@fringemedia.ca

THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!

Paid
from "French for Mayor 2014"
Acct.
Cheque # 999711

(Phone/Internet)



INVOICE

18 Wattie Rd
Midhurst, ON L0L 1X1
416.409.1953
info@fringemedia.ca

Date: 16th September 2015

Invoice No.: 20141001 revised

Invoice for: Bill French Website

Billed to: Bill French
24 Yonge St. S
Elmvale, ON
L0L 1P0

GST/HST Registration No: 83345478 RT0001

DESCRIPTION	Rate	Hours Spent	AMOUNT	
Website design, set up	flat rate	5	\$	250.00
Wordpress Slider	ptc	na	\$	21.61
<u>Additional services</u>				
Site Maintenance	\$0*	10	\$	-
Content Management				
na=not applicable; ptc=pass through cost			Subtotal	\$ 271.61
*Additional services were donated to the Bill French campaign (10 hours @ \$50 per hour). **HST not applicable to pass through costs (ptc).			HST**	13.00%
			HST Total	35.31
			Total	\$ 306.92

We accept cash and cheque payments.

Please make cheques payable to Alina Wietzoreck. If you have any questions concerning this invoice, please contact Alina Wietzoreck, 416.409.1953, alina@fringemedia.ca

THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!

MILLER,INK**Illustration · Design**182 Codrington St Barrie ON L4M 1S1
705.722.8636 miller-ink@rogers.com*This is the Invoice
that was missed.***Bill To:**Mr. Bill French
3612 Grenfel Rd,
Barrie, ON
L4M 4S4**Date:**

Nov 10, 2014

Docket:

612-2014

Item:**Amount:**Web Hosting one year, August 01, 2014 to July31, 2015
Lordwill Consulting

\$150.00

Web Hosting one year, August 01, 2014 to July31, 2015
Critical Thinking Associates

\$150.00

Web Hosting one year, August 01, 2014 to July31, 2015
Bill French for mayor

\$150.00

Transfer Wordpress and configure billfrenchformayor.ca

\$150.00

*Campaign
Exp.
\$ 300.00***Please make cheque payable to Paul Miller****HST:**

\$ 78.00

Total:

\$678.00

HST Number 868518879 RT0001

*PAID - JAN 20/2015
Cheque # 133 (\$95.1)***Terms: Due On Receipt***non
campaign
expenses*

EXHIBIT 4



ELECT

FRENCH

for MAYOR

SPRINGWATER TOWNSHIP

FrenchForMayor.ca

VOTE

Bill French

Mayor of Springwater

A New Vision for Springwater

Leadership with Integrity

www.billfrench.ca

