

Subject: FW: McHale Communications

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From: Fantino, Julian (JUS)

Sent: April 7, 2007 5:09 PM

Cc: Ward, Katherine (JUS); Newman, Deborah (JUS); Dean, Tony (CAB);
Wilkinson, Peter (OPO); Lewis, Chris D. (JUS); Dennis, Bill (JUS); Cain,
John (JUS); McLean, D. G. (JUS); Howe, Angie (JUS); Morley, Chris (OPO);
Laing, Paul (JUS)
Subject: McHale Communications

Mayor Trainer and Members of Council:

I have been made aware of a deeply disturbing communication posted at 11:40am this date on McHale's "Caledonia Wake Up Call" web site apparently as a follow-up to an earlier McHale rant in which among other things he criticized Councillor Grice for a demonstrated lack of support to his cause on behalf of Caledonia.

In this latest e-mail, McHale also reported the full content of an alleged e-mail dated April 5, 2007 that he received from Councillor Grice in response to his criticism in which among other strange comments, Councillor Grice commends McHale on his efforts in Caledonia. In fact the comments are perceived to actually encourage McHale.

I have no intentions of entering into a debate with Councillor Grice about Charter rights and freedoms of speech and the like which he apparently framed in the April 5 e-mail to McHale. My primary concern is solely focused on preserving the peace in Caledonia and nothing more; a concern that very much includes preventing provocations that could lead to renewed violence such as has happened in the past. An informed and responsible person would understand all this and more.

In the context of a situation that is not of our doing and one that is not for us to resolve, I am also concerned about the safety of my officers, many of whom have already been injured in their efforts to preserve the peace in a very volatile and dangerous environment. It may not be apparent to our critics and those with special agendas of their own that the OPP, all of us, have worked tirelessly on the front lines and beyond to simply maintain order in an otherwise chaotic and very turbulent situation; made especially difficult every time McHale and his followers come to town.

It is also very relevant and worthy of note that I highlight the extraordinary policing costs that are borne by Ontario taxpayers every time the situation in Caledonia escalates. And now, apparently, we have Councillor Grice commending someone that he knows is a lightning rod for confrontation and potential violence. Just as troubling, Councillor Grice has now added another aggravating political dimension to his previous "anti OPP" rhetoric.

Be that as it may, in the context of the latest comments attributed to Councillor Grice which have the real potential of further inflaming an already volatile situation for the police, and on behalf of the men and women of the OPP I feel a sense of duty to advise you that going forward, in the event any of my officers are injured as a result of further forays into the community by McHale and his followers my position in response will be the following:

- 1) I will publicly hold accountable Councillor Grice AND Haldimand County along with McHale;
- 2) I will support any injured officer in the pursuit of civil redress;
- 3) I will forward the ensuing related costs of policing to Haldimand County, and
- 4) I will strongly recommend to my Minister that the OPP contract with Haldimand County NOT be renewed once the current contract expires.

As much as we, the OPP, sympathise with the Citizens of Caledonia and the difficult political position you face we believe that in the context of the situation that prevails in Caledonia, comments such as those attributed to Councillor Grice are gravely detrimental to the morale and safety of my officers and much more. When I appeared before you several months back I came away believing that we had a mutual understanding about the detrimental effect that McHale and his followers were having on Caledonia. I know that Councillor Grice has some personal issues that he finds particularly aggravating, however, we never expected that he would fall prey to McHale's propaganda and it is now up to you as a Council to deal with the fall-out.

Yours truly,

J. Fantino,
Commissioner