

OPP allowed the violence to escalate

The events this past Saturday clearly demonstrate that at no time did the OPP take any steps to control the escalating violence used by the Native Protesters against OPP officers, residents and Gary McHale. Mr. McHale had been invited by Doug Fleming, the organizer of the event, to come and give support to the causes that concern the Residents of Caledonia. It was a completely peaceful event until repeated examples of Native Protesters physically assaulting OPP officers, residents of Caledonia, Mark Vandermaas and Gary McHale started to occur.

At no time did the OPP bring in additional officers to secure the police line but instead allowed Native Protesters the freedom to cross the Police Line at will to confront residents. At no time did the OPP take any steps to limit the violence that Native Protesters clearly were willing to use against residents.

Kyle Hagan, a resident of Caledonia, was standing approx. 40 feet back away from the police line and was not directly involved in the protest. The OPP singled him out for arrest as their method to intimidate residents. Serious crimes were occurring directly in front of the OPP and even directly against OPP officers and the OPP refused to arrest a single Native person for any of these crimes.

The OPP Brass willfully decided to allow the violence to escalate by their refusal to secure the Police Line, refusal to arrest those who were committing crimes, refusal to provide additional officers and by targeting residents who were peaceful rather than deal with the people who were escalating the violence.

Commissioner Fantino has clearly targeted law abiding residents and Gary McHale, instead of dealing with those who commit the crimes. Mr. Fantino has repeatedly and directly targeted McHale and Residents instead of upholding the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

It is clear the OPP wanted violence on Saturday as a means to divide the town against the fact that Gary McHale was moving to Caledonia. Mr. Fantino has become obsessed with Mr. McHale and as such has failed to focus on what his job truly is – being a police officer whose responsibility it is to enforce the law.

This Press Release is being sent because it is our belief that the OPP, who are now forced to arrest Mr. Clyde Powless for his many criminal acts on Saturday, will create a charge against Mr. McHale to appease Native Protesters. Also such a false charge against me would go a long way with making their boss, Commissioner Fantino, happy. We should expect criminal charges against Gary McHale within a day or two. By the time the courts refuse to go long with such false charges it was be several months down the road and the OPP will be happy to try to get bail conditions set to stop me from being in Caledonia.

Commissioner Fantino has already stated who is guilty... now it is up to the rank and file to find a way to fulfill Fantino's stated views. Truth, Justice and the Charter of Rights be damned because both Mr. Fantino and Mr. McGuinty want desperately to cover up for their repeated errors – arresting Gary McHale does just that.

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Canadian Advocates for Charter Equality

Gary McHale

Civil Right Activist

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