

# Good government is visable

I've never been one to silently complain about the conduct of politicians in the obscurity of my own home. I've always believed that it is the profound duty of each citizen to participate in the democratic process. That means of course that sometimes you need to take sides.

As I have help campaigned from door to door this election I am always bemused when people express a strong inclination for my candidate but decline a lawn sign because they don't want their neighbours to know their preference. But I understand the reluctance.

I have a business in Caledonia that undertakes services throughout Haldimand County. Sometimes I think I should remove my lawn sign because it will certainly alienate some of my clients. And yet there always remains the admonition from my Sunday School teacher that one must be willing to stand up and be counted. And so should you. The events that have occurred in our County these past nine months require a response from each of us that least of all must needs place us all in the voting both.

For as long as I can remember I have voted for Craig Ashbaugh. I always imagined that he would provide the sort of responsible and mature leadership that I expect from my delegate to public office. But I was wrong.

There are two matters which have stabbed my conscience. The first is his failure in his duty to simply show up. Churchill said of government that "our supreme task and duty is to guard the homes of the common people..." No one I know has had this elected councillor show up at their door and seek their advice or learn of their pains. I do know (from his campaign literature) that on May 10 he was called by an "influential Caledonia

businessman" and compelled to take action. One is lead to suspect that if you have the good fortune to be a prominent Caledonia businessman that your concerns will be addressed. This is not the egalitarian service that one expects in our liberal democratic society.

The second concern is far greater and extends to all five councillors seeking re-election. I have not been able to remove the image of our County council walking up to those who were illegally barricading a public thoroughfare and shaking hands with them while thousands of their constituents were being harmed by the existence of the barricades.

More egregious were the actions taken by council to oppose the injunction sought by another influential Caledonia business to seek an injunction against those illegally occupying land owned by Haldimand County. Instead of offering the assistance that one would expect they opposed the actions taken by that family in court. The council should have acting on behalf of each of us to uphold the property rights of these taxpayers. In addition to Mr. Ashbaugh; Mr. Boyko, Mr Dalimonte, Mr. Patterson and Buck Sloat should have acted to defend the by-laws of the County, the contractual duties of the OPP, and the civil rights of each citizen in maintaining free and open publicly dedicated roads.

Their failure to act in pursuit of a legal and forthright manner should compel each voter to exercise their franchise and replace them all. Our duty to the ideals of peace, order and good government demand no less

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