

# Listening to Politicians is a Dirty Job but someone has to do it

Aug 14, 2007

In my mid-teen years I had the great pleasure of having to be the one who got up at 5:30 each morning to milk the cows and clean out the pig pen. Certainly I didn't think that such an experience would have such a comparative side to it as an adult. But last night's council meeting at Haldimand Council should have had a warning sign posted so the public could have been aware they were entering the pig pen of political life.

Don't get me wrong, I truly enjoy watching political debates and am one of the few who will sit and watch election results until the wee hours of the morning even if it is a US election.

It truly is a fine art that some politicians have that allows the best of them to lie without any expression of concern that you know they are lying. A good politician is one who can take a group of 100 people, sit them in front of a completely white wall and speak for 20 minutes and 50+ 1 will leave convinced the wall was black.

This is politics at its best or worst depends on who you want to word it.

But watching Haldimand Council is like watching the Keystone Cops of politicians. Truthfully, there were several times I laughed - I couldn't believe my ears. The main problem last night for the Tag Team Liars at Council is that each one wanted to be the hero – each were playing to the crowd and not focusing on their lying and therefore they slipped up.

Here is my review of the councillors.

- 1) **Dalimonte**: The wisest one in the room – why? He didn't speak during the email debate and even Proverbs admits that a fool looks wise when he is silent. Thankfully for the public the other councillors chose to speak.
- 2) **Sloat**: Experienced liar and quite good at it. The problem he has is his anger gives him away and the other councillors failed to cover for his lies. Sloat's self-righteous anger over missing email looked and sounded phoney. See Sloat lead Charge to Read Mayor's Email.
- 3) **Boyko**: Good at lying and very good at coming across as if his actions are pure, but logic, or rather lack of it, is his downfall. He gave a great speech about how bad the first motion to read the Mayor's email was and why the New Improved Motion was so good – problem, he was admitting that the people who brought forward the first motion were not doing it for the right reasons. In Tag Team Lying you don't admit your team mates were wrong. For more see Help Wanted: Chief Snooping Officer.
- 4) **Bartlett**: Too busy trying to cover his tracks to convince anyone council was doing the right thing. Bartlett tried too hard to force the Mayor to personally bring forward the exact same motion in 3 months – in fact he demanded it. It was clear council wanted this motion passed and with the increased public attention they wanted to be able to tell the public that it wasn't their motion it was the Mayor's and we all just supported her motion. Hope the public won't remember in 3 months that council was the one who forced the Mayor to make this motion.

Please Mr. Bartlett stop thinking we, the public, are stupid. Forcing the Mayor to bring forward your motion so you can hide your true intentions is a very low thing to try to do.

- 5) **Grice:** Did well playing to the crowd and did well at time of voting to play to the residents, but thankfully Grice is the weakest member in the Tag Team Liars. Message to Grice, when you're trying to present a united self-righteous front don't tell the public that Revenge is your motive. For more see Grice Reveals Revenge is the Motive.
- 6) **Ricker:** He did get one good point in that maybe tells us he is the more practical member on council. He asked, "How do we ensure we don't have duplication of services?" in referring to the new CAO reading and sending out email. Can't have the CAO & Mayor sending out the same emails to everyone when the volume of email is the argument presented for this motion. This point is quite true – having two people doing the same job is both costly and doubles the email.

Mayor's answer to this – "if this motion passes I won't be reading any of my email." We are paying someone else to do it so why would I, was her view.