

CONSERVATIVES AGAINST RACISM
2011 Townhall Meeting (Haldimand-Norfolk)
Delhi Belgian Club
April 14, 2011

Opening Comments

Merlyn Kinrade

Caledonia Resident/Canadian Advocates for Charter Equality

On behalf of those in Caledonia who chose to fight back against the evil that tried to destroy our town, and on behalf of all Canadians who have supported our work, I would like to thank you -- for coming tonight to learn about Caledonia.

Tonight you will be listening to Gary McHale, Mark Vandermaas, and Doug Fleming, people who chose to risk everything they had to fight against the injustice of racial policing in Haldimand County that has affected our whole country.

Some may think the issues are limited to Caledonia. They are not. Currently the government is losing \$2 billion in lost taxes because of illegal cigarettes. That's \$2 Billion per year that cannot be spent on Health Care, Law Enforcement, Education or Job Creation.

People like you and I must cover the lost tobacco revenue because the Harper government continues to allow the RCMP not to enforce the law. The policies that have touched Caledonia are the same policies that the federal government supports nationwide in their refusal to shut down illegal smoke shops. Everyone knows where the shops are - just drive down the road! - but there is no political will to end this illegal activity.

The Harper government has failed to uphold the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and failed to uphold the Rule of Law. Harper has refused for five years even to visit Caledonia.

That is bad enough, but there has been no greater slap in the face to all law abiding citizens who value their freedom than the insult of watching Harper handpick Julian Fantino to be the Conservative MP for Vaughan.

Not only does Harper's appointment endorse the lawlessness in Caledonia, but it was the Harper government with the support of Diane Finley that paid

McGuinty 25 million in 2007 to cover half the cost of buying Douglas Creek Estates so that Native protesters could live free at taxpayers expenses - all water, hydro and gas are still being paid by the taxpayers.

Harper also paid for half of the OPP expense for policing Caledonia which means YOU paid to have OPP officers stand by and watch both police officers and citizens be attacked and hospitalized.

The people you will hear from tonight have fought hard to get the attention of Diane Finley and the Harper Government in the hopes they would help restore the Rule of Law and end racism within police policies.

During the last five years Diane Finley has been a disaster for my community. She has willfully hidden from the issues, avoided talking to the people and outright refused to take our concerns to Ottawa. As a lifelong, card-carrying Conservative Party member I can no longer blindly vote Conservative while my town and my country suffers.

Our first speaker will be Mark Vandermaas, a former UN peacekeeper, who will speak about Caledonia's victims and how the abuses they suffered were legalized by the Ontario government's decision to deploy an illegal - peacekeeping mission on Canadian soil.

Thank you.

Our next speaker is Doug Fleming, a Caledonia resident whose campaign to shut down smokeshacks led him to actually set up his own illegal cigarette business called Doug Smokes in what turned out to be a futile attempt to force the OPP to arrest him.

Our next speaker is Gary McHale, whose contribution to keeping Caledonia on the national and even international stage has been relentless. He and his wife Christine were honoured with an acknowledgement in Christie Blatchford's book about the Caledonia crisis, Helpless: Caledonia's Nightmare of Fear and Anarchy and How The Law Failed All of Us. Gary will be speaking about the protection of property rights, strategies for the next government, and more about our strategy – as Conservatives - in suggesting you consider voting for a non-Conservative candidate.

We'll now invite candidates or their representatives to speak for 6 minutes each, followed by a question and answer period.