

CROWE

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Keenan Aylwin

Ward 2 Councillor targeted for exercising his right to free speech



Centra Food Market

Liberal Minister Jean-Yves Duclos visits Centra Barrie for anniversary

www.barrienewstoday.com

Government deserves a place in the arts

The marketplace does not take care of everything.

“That government is best which governs least,”
– Henry David Thoreau, *Civil Disobedience*

Yes, and so the MacLaren Art Centre, for one large, ongoing City grant recipient, has some problems, and it has always carried with it, friends getting the gigs, who get the grants, who get to consult, who get their awards, and they keep it to themselves, and the City picks up the tab, and so on. And that is just one example. So let’s condemn any government involvement in the arts as interference, as the Libertarians do, and rely on the perfection of the jungle, the marketplace, to reward hard work and genius, and ignore laziness and hacks, correct? That is the way I felt about it. Not now.

Libertarians? The Ontario leader for the past few elections, Allen Small, was an Ontario high school teacher for thirty years; his wife is a teacher and their kids are teachers. They all work for the government and pretend to hate it. The federal leader, Tim Moen, with a few months before the election, is both absent and silent. It is a party of jokers and cranks, who never donated a dime to my campaigns, and only one person, from Toronto, ever volunteered for me, when I ran for that party. What they believe in makes sense...for the most part. Of the parts that do not make sense, I am distancing myself from them, and one of those beliefs is that the government has no business taking part, in the arts.

While I still believe in frugality and as much fairness as possible if the government is running something, if you look back on what the marketplace celebrates and ignores, it doesn’t always do a good job. If that imperfection can be tolerated, then we might as well allow for the government to participate, too, imperfect as it is. As with the vaunted marketplace, sometimes, the government also gets it right.

When I was told by the local, legendary music dealer, Big John Ritson, that Stephen Mosley aka Mose Stephenson had passed away, I immediately felt that Mosley had been cheated by the world. My

second thought was that the City of Barrie’s Creative Economy Department might be able to do something. And so off I went, asking for the Nanny State that I had complained about publicly for years, to make it all better. It did. It was an effort that I started, however, it was all Mosley’s talent and the decades of work he had put in, which gave the effort to create an award for him, the moral right to happen, along with people in the creative, and the larger community, who also appreciated Mosley’s contributions, and acted to support the idea that he should be officially recognized by the City he gave so much to, for so long.

Mosley never got a record deal, so he was never in the running for any awards. He had a stroke, which took away his ability to play the guitar and harmonica, then he got more sick, and died. No money, no fame and no recognition. Too bad, right? Wrong, thanks to the government, which worked with the community of creative people, to include him in last year’s Arts Awards. That is the Award, in the middle of the page. The five albums and their release dates are along the bottom of the page.

Mosley performed for decades, with one of those decades being mostly lost to drug addiction. He began releasing his albums at age of 55. People who pursue the arts often fall by the sidelines, and as others who are not pursuing creative paths, rise in business or just become more valuable at their regular jobs, artists, sometimes, get regarded by family and friends as idiots and losers if they are not making money. That is one of the reasons why the Barrie Arts Awards are so important, as they allow that stigma to be rebutted. One of those artists, Mosley, received an Award, albeit posthumously. Better late, than never.

Before, I had argued publicly against government involvement in the arts. Now, after the municipal government has done the right thing, beyond the Awards themselves, and played their part in rescuing the legacy of an exceptional, local artist, I have to do my part, and publicly disown the Libertarian idea, that government has no role to play in the arts.

–Darren Roskam



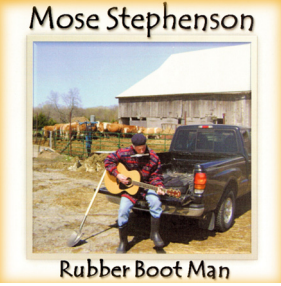
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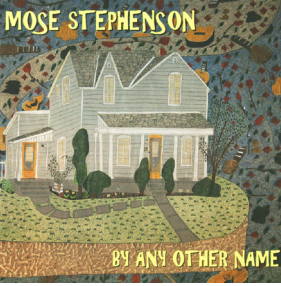
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Centra Barrie’s first anniversary



Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, Jean-Yves Duclos



At left: Centra Barrie Manager, Kevin Chen

Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, Jean-Yves Duclos, visited Centra Food Market Barrie to announce an increased Canada Child Benefit on May 6, 2019. That was also the first anniversary of the store opening, with the grand opening having taken place on the 12th of the same month, 2018.

For the video of that grand opening, go to www.thecrowe.ca and then click on the VIDEOS section.



Durian fruit: Centra brings more durian fruit to Barrie than anyone before, with fresh, frozen (shown) and snacks



The Ultimate Durian Challenge (2M Subscriber Special)
3,478,873 views 54K 1.8K SHARE SAVE

YouTube sensation Matt Stonie and his brother Morgan, eating durian fruit and snacks



Make Kraft Dinner different with Lucky Shing Co., LTD., Pho Spice Cubes from Vietnam that are only 79¢ each including tax for a box of four



Centra Barrie Grand Opening from last year, with two dragons bringing good luck to the store

Centra opened a year ago and has been busy ever since with more different kinds of fresh fruit than anywhere else in Barrie. They also have the largest selection of noodles, including very spicy kinds that you would have to go to Toronto for or order on Amazon so having them at Centra saves you money if you like spicy noodles. Centra has fresh sushi every day and specials on it every day after 7:00 PM. Go online at www.centrafoods.ca and sign up for their flyers which they will email to you with all the latest deals.

Council murders The Charter and the City’s motto, to play hitman for a heckling MP

If you decide to take a shot at politics, and you actually get elected, then you can expect that what you do and do not do, will be criticized publicly, because you have willingly become a public figure, and serve the public, or, at the very least, for party politics, you get to be the one who plays “follow the leader,” and represent what the party has to offer. You get paid a lot for what you do, too, at the provincial and federal levels, parroting what the party has already written for you to memorize and say, which is true of left and right-wingers. You should be able to take some criticism. The strong kind. If you cannot take it, and you feel that you have been libeled (written) or slandered (spoken), then take it to court, and see what happens. If you simply do not enjoy the criticism, then you probably will not enjoy the results. The complaint has to be pretty serious, and to say that anyone is “playing footsie” with any other person who has a reasonable connection to the comment, is not serious. It is not “this man does heroin,” or “maybe he does heroin, judging by his lean build.” If you write or say that, then you had better have strong evidence or lots of credible witnesses or both, to prove your bold claim, or your argument against anyone else.

Private businesses have codes of conduct. Step astray of them, and you can lose your job. Being the elected representative of the people of a riding or a ward, is a lot different. That man represents everyone who voted for him. If you dare to write a Code of Conduct with which to confront him as he represents the people who voted for him, then that Code better be exhaustive and strong, and the City of Barrie’s Code of Conduct is nowhere near that. When the Code speaks to not using City assets for your own purposes, it makes sense. When it tries to tell people who are elected, how they will communicate, as if they work at McDonald’s on the cash register, or else at the sole discretion of any so-called censor, they will be punished for it, the Code makes no sense. It makes less than no sense, it is nonsense, because as I told the City with my deputation request, emailed June 5 and filed June 6, 2019, the Code should not trump anyone’s right to freedom of speech. It took a lawyer, Sheetal Rawal,

Heckling MP says he's just doing his job

Barrie-Innisfil’s hockey-loving MP is proud to be a scrapper - even if it means being called out in the House of Commons

Feb 5, 2017 2:43 PM by: [Laurie Watt](#)



Barrie-Innisfil MP, John Brassard, loves to attack others on social media, and disrupt the House of Commons with heckling



Ward 9 Councillor, Sergio Morales, drops the mask of his fake smile, shares his angry side and utters the foul language of “asshole” in social media video, “How not to be an asshole”

another eight days to email a letter to the *Barrie Today* website to use the same “trump” language and say the same thing. It does not matter that the Integrity Commissioner used long and flowery language to make her decision against Ward 2 Councillor, Keenan Aylwin. She had junk to work with; a bad Code. To use computer “code” language, garbage in, garbage out. Whether the Commissioner had a bias or was just doing the best she could with the junk she had to work with, she was wrong. Council was just as wrong to accept the recommendation for a reprimand against Aylwin, because they were informed by myself with emails and letters delivered to them with copies I have stamped as received, that we have a Charter and a Libel and Slander Act, that every one of them had to knowingly ignore, in order to reprimand Aylwin. Everyone who voted for Aylwin and even those in his ward who did not vote for him, yet now stand with him, as I do, had their Charter rights violated by having their representative, reprimanded, with a Code not worth the paper it is printed on, used as a reason to diminish Aylwin’s voice and terrorize him with the threat of more reprimands and possible loss of income, to speaking less, and second-guessing himself.

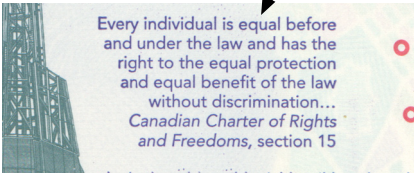
After having been reprimanded once, it makes it all the easier and faster to reprimand Aylwin again. The pity is, it was all for so little, the “footsie” comment. And now the little has vanished. It was all for nothing.

At about the same time Barrie–Innisfil MP John Brassard made his complaint to the City’s Integrity Commissioner, he also filed a claim for defamation in Superior Court against Aylwin, which was active when the Commissioner made her recommendations, and right until the moment when Council voted to accept the recommendation to reprimand Aylwin, and, when they did reprimand Aylwin. That date was June 12, 2019. Less than a day later, during business hours the next day, Brassard withdrew his defamation claim. He had said that he felt strongly about the claim. He lied. That is why he withdrew the claim. If you feel “strongly” about a claim, then you finish it. You do not drop it, before the settlement conference. Brassard didn’t really feel strongly about the claim, because he withdrew it, immediately after Aylwin was reprimanded. He never really cared, and the reason why he never really cared, was because even Brassard knew, it was not anything worth bringing to court. Aylwin could have called to witness anyone he needed, to make his defence, including Conservative Party Leader, Andrew Scheer.

It was all a cheap gamble, a roll of the dice costing no more than the price of the paper to file the complaint with the City, which then found its way to the same old



“You only have Constitutional rights if you are rich enough to go to court to enforce them.”
–Greg Vezina, *None of the Above Direct Democracy Party*



Part of The Charter includes this, the guaranteed right to:

(b) freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication;

cesspool poisoned with the remains of a self-serving band of fake Conservatives, including two of which who were chasing the Party’s nomination for the riding of Barrie–Springwater–Oro–Medonte: Ward 3 Councillor Doug Shipley and Ward 9 Councillor, Sergio Morales. Shipley was given the candidacy by the Party; both of these two, on June 24, voted to spend at least \$50,000.00 on a mystery consultant to study the feasibility of injection sites, at the behest of another Conservative Party member, Ward 10 Councillor, Mike McCann, who has already said he will not follow any recommendation that comes back, telling Council to approve of the injection site...! These game players are not real Conservatives, and neither is Brassard, because real Conservatives believe in freedom of speech. From the *Barrie Today* story written by Laurie Watt on Feb 5, 2017:

“A quick scan of Brassard’s social media pages quickly shows you he likes to hold the Liberal government accountable. Posts and tweets last week – first week of the new sitting – included two such attacks: one on broken promises, the other the effect of a proposed tax on health benefits.”

Attacks. On social media. Of course, when Brassard does it, he is merely “passionate.” Ditto the opinion from MP Alex Nuttall, who in the same story, approves of heckling in the House of Commons as “passion.” Brassard and Nuttall are hypocrites for suing Aylwin for having the same passion, when he expresses himself. Brassard says that when he is heckling at the House, he’s just “doing his job.” So it is pitiful that he used a strategic lawsuit against public participation (SLAPP), which is a lawsuit that is intended to censor, intimidate, and silence critics by burdening them with the cost of a legal defense until they abandon their criticism or opposition, to stop Aylwin from doing *his* job.

Brassard considers himself to be a “scrapper.” He is no scrapper, having pulled his claim after Council gave him what he wanted. I am the scrapper, not Brassard. I went in to fight for freedom of speech, along with others who wanted to provide emergency deputations against Aylwin being reprimanded. For the first time in the years that Jeff Lehman has been mayor, emergency deputations were not allowed. The reason is:

“When a true genius appears in the world, you may know him by this sign, that the dunces are all in confederacy against him.”
–Jonathan Swift

The dunces are: Ward 1, Clare Riepma; Ward 4, Barry Ward; Ward 5, Robert Thomson; Ward 6, Natalie Harris; Ward 7, Gary Harvey; Ward 8, Jim Harris; Ward 9, Sergio Morales; Ward 10, Mike McCann. Ward 3, Doug Shipley, removed himself from the final vote because he is the Conservative candidate for the riding of Barrie–Springwater–Oro–Medonte, yet he had already approved of the reprimand with an earlier vote. Ward 2, Keenan Aylwin himself, could not vote on his own reprimand.

There was one member of Council who did not vote against the emergency deputations: Mayor Lehman. He also said that he was surprised that all the other voting members, were not allowing them, with “I’m sorry to see this, I am voting in favour. I would be in favour of hearing these emergency deputations, I am a little bit surprised, but it is the will of council.”

Returning to the letter written by the lawyer, Rawal, she said that Council had failed, “Miserably. Embarrassingly. Egregiously,” to justify the reprimand. Councillor Jim Harris read from Aylwin’s post and then whimpered, “I wouldn’t want somebody to say that about me.” Okay, so there goes The Charter. Councillor Natalie Harris exploited herself and the people she has serviced as a first responder, trying to work herself into crying on demand with her *faux* drama, making the false connection between bloody violence and a few lines of bad policy in the Code that Aylwin was being reprimanded, for. Now she can be counted on to link bloody violence to the need for a stop sign, or a sidewalk. Or anything else council is able to vote for.

Great things, The Charter and the City’s motto of, “The people are the city,” were set aside for a cheap trick played by Brassard for purely political purposes, with the punch line coming when he withdrew his lawsuit. It is because Aylwin is gifted with natural charisma that the area Conservatives are both jealous and afraid of him, and they took their first, desperate shot to harm him, early. While it worked, it also showed how petty his bullies were, and how strong Aylwin’s support, is. The councillors who are not Conservatives, did it because Aylwin makes waves that are too strong for them. And while I do not agree with everything Aylwin says, he does not play games, like his enemies on Council, do. I respect Aylwin for that. –D.R.



Ward 2 Councillor, Keenan Aylwin, listening to the reasons for the reprimand



Mayor Lehman, not a dunce, wanted the deputations to be heard

The Battle of the Atlantic, remembered



WWII Veteran, Clifford Hall, who was thanked for his service by Captain(N) Steven Thornton, in his speech



Captain(N) Steven Thornton representing DND Headquarters



Canada's Naval Memorial - Dave Aspden member of National Council



“May 5, 2019 – Ottawa – National Defence / Canadian Armed Forces
On Sunday, May 5, Canadians from all corners of the country commemorated the sacrifices of the thousands of Canadians who fought valiantly during the Battle of the Atlantic from 1939 to 1945.”
www.canada.ca/en/departement-national-defence/news/2019/05/the-royal-canadian-navy-commemorates-the-battle-of-the-atlantic.html
Here in Barrie, we also commemorated the winning of the Battle of the Atlantic. If you want to watch the full video, please visit www.thecrowe.ca and then go to the VIDEOS section. At the 28:27 mark of the video, all the government representatives are introduced to lay wreaths. MP John Brassard; MPP Doug Downey; Katherine Wilkinson on behalf of MPP Andrea Khanjin and Jim Harris for the City of Barrie. MP Alex Nuttall used to attend. He did not, this time. It is not a coincidence that with Nuttall not seeking re-election, he does not show and does not send anyone to represent him. When Nuttall stops getting paid, he stops pretending to care. This shows he never cared to begin with. Shame.

This time, Conservative MP for Barrie-Springwater-Oro-Medonte, Alex Nuttall, did not attend, nor did he care to send anyone to represent him

The Skyliners perform at Barrie City Hall



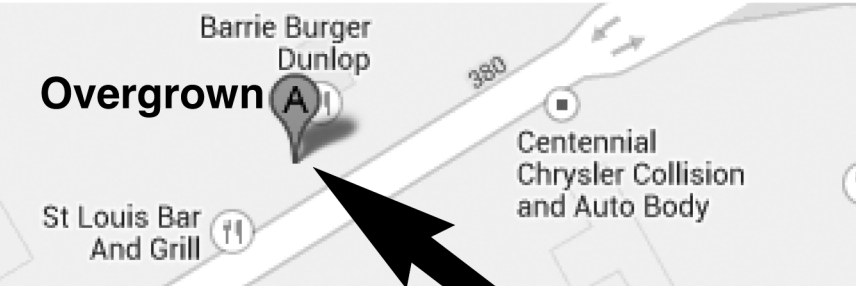
As part of the 24th annual Barrie Jazz and Blues Festival, the Skyliners Big Band played at Barrie City Hall, at the rotunda on June 15, 2019. Their vocalist is Jess Owen. For more than an hour of video of the performance, go to www.thecrowe.ca and click on the VIDEOS section.

Barrie City Council fails to save lives



On June 24, Barrie City Council again showed...at least some of the members did...that it has no intention of doing anything to save lives, aside from abdicating their responsibility to a third party consultant which doesn't even exist. Despite Mayor Jeff Lehman almost begging Council not to do so, a majority, including Barrie-Springwater-Oro-Medonte Conservative candidate for MP, Ward 3 Councillor, Doug Shipley, voted to spend at least \$50,000.00 to hire a consultant to investigate injection sites, nationwide, and then report back to the same councillors who are already refusing to follow the recommendations if the same consultant tells them, that they should endorse the injection site. In the words of Evelyn Pollock, shown at left, whose son Daniel died of a Fentanyl overdose, this is “insanity.”

To watch her video interview, please visit www.barrienewstoday.com



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