

Flamborough, Ontario
JULY 13, 2005

The will of the people shall be the
basis of the authority of government
UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSAL
DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

“When you know that an injustice was done
and you find yourself in a position to fix it
and you choose not to – you inherit
responsibility for that injustice”

Report card on Amalgamation

This year, the City of Hamilton used \$75,000.00 of taxpayers' money to conduct a survey to indicate how the communities that were amalgamated undemocratically into Hamilton were accepting the changes. The survey had 79 respondents from Flamborough. The error factor in the report was plus or minus 11% and there were many inaccurate conclusions. Our Committee member, Mr. Stan Haworth on two occasions has appeared before the Mayor and council members to make them aware of these inaccuracies and has received assurance that his concerns will be addressed, the matter will be looked into and he will be advised of the outcome. With no response to date, those of us who live in Flamborough can only assume that this is another broken Hamilton promise over amalgamation.

The Committee to Free Flamborough therefore conducted their survey titled Report Card on Amalgamation. The survey questionnaire was published in the Flamborough Review and on our website. There were 312 respondents with the following results:

1. High taxes, indifferent delivery of services and general municipal malaise are symptoms that amalgamated governance are not working. Do you agree? Yes 97%, No 3%
2. Communities such as Flamborough, Dundas, Ancaster, Stoney Creek and Glanbrook should not be wiped out by amalgamation without first asking the people by referendum. Do you agree? Yes 98%, No 2%.
3. Do you believe that Mr. McGuinty should follow through on his campaign pledge to allow Flamborough a referendum on de-amalgamation now that our petition demonstrated substantial support? Yes 97%, No 3%.
4. Mr. McGuinty's failure to carry out his many broken campaign promises, cast a serious doubt on the credibility and trust in his Government. Could you vote for the Liberal Government in the next Provincial election? Yes 13%, No 87%.
5. To settle this matter once and for all, would you like to have a binding referendum in Flamborough to decide whether to remain or exit the Unicity followed by a restructuring in line with residents wishes. Yes 97%, No 3%.
6. Our MPP, Mr. Ted McMeekin, campaigned on Mr. McGuinty's commitment to allow a local referendum. Do you believe the Mr. McMeekin is doing an effective job to bring this about? Yes 7%, No 93%.

Flamborough had a referendum with 96% of the people indicating that they did not want to be part of Hamilton, a petition containing almost 13, 000 signatures was presented to the Ontario Legislature requesting separation from Hamilton, (one of the largest petitions every presented in the House), and now a survey with 97% of respondents indicating

dissatisfaction with Hamilton and still you the people of Flamborough are being ignored by both the Provincial and Municipal governments.

The Committee to Free Flamborough has brought their financial concerns to the attention of an experienced municipal treasurer and his verbal report concluded:

The Community of Flamborough would not be experiencing outrageous tax increases, in fact Flamborough would have had a tax rollback and would now be one of the wealthiest communities in Ontario had they not been undemocratically forced to amalgamate with Hamilton. Hamilton is draining money from Flamborough for their own agenda rather than investing our dollars back into our community.

The Committee to Free Flamborough is meeting bimonthly to prepare several restructuring proposals for consideration by the people of Flamborough. These plans will be presented at a future Town Hall forum later this year and the Committee will go forward with the plan found to be most appealing to the voters. Flamborough can be one of the most financially stable communities if we separate from Hamilton. Remember, Flamborough does not need Hamilton. Hamilton needs Flamborough. Your help and support is always appreciated.

The Committee to Free Flamborough

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