

The Clearview Clarifier

Trying to make sense of local governance in Clearview Township, Ontario

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

Whenever a premises in Ontario is public land or when the occupier is a government body, any action taken by that public entity is subject to compliance with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (the “Charter”). The Charter guarantees certain rights and freedoms, which cannot be infringed unless it is by some “reasonable limits prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society”.

Has anyone at the Township of Clearview read that charter?

How does the new “Unacceptable Behaviours policy” fit with our charter rights?

The “UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOURS” policy

Leaving the future of Clearview to our staff-controlled, rubber-stamp council will be the downfall of this community.

The introduction of an “**UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOURS**” policy that fails to actually define ANY of the behaviours that the writer of this policy deems unacceptable, with total control of decision making apparently in the hands of a non-elected staff person and with the ability of the Township of Clearview supported by **OUR ELECTED COUNCIL** to ban those found “guilty of breaking the rules” is a frightening indication of what might be next from the Steve Sage, Doug Measures and Barry Burton “team”.

Two years ago I was banned by the Township of Clearview in yet another of their **SECRET** closed meetings and since then all attempts to find out why, who filed any complaint against me, what I did wrong and even trying to appeal, have met with the usual blank non-responsive ignorant silence that is the keystone of Clearview Townships Mayors and most councillors.

So that you know what to expect from this new “**UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOURS**” policy here is list of what the Township of Clearview has done or has refused to do that might represent a semblance of fairness in a civilised society and of what I believe will become the normal process to discriminate against anyone whom staff and council target, if this policy is implemented:

- Before being banned I was not given any prior notice or any form of request for me to change any of the ways in which I was exposing the way that staff members were breaching legislation and making assertions that they could not support when requested,
- I was not advised before or after being banned of any concerns by council related to my previous communications since year 2000.
- I was not advised of the charges against me,
- I was not advised of the identity of the parties preferring the “charges” against me

- I was not allowed to present any form of defence against the unstated charges or any evidence filed against me
- I was subsequently limited to only being able to request information through the FOI process which is under the total control of one of the parties (the delegated head/clerk/returning officer) I believe filed the majority of the unknown charges against me.
- FOI requests for the appeal process were deemed vexatious & denied by the delegated head.
- My attempts to obtain a copy of the minutes of the secret tribunal that imposed the ban was rejected **BY THE SAME INDIVIDUAL THAT I UNDERSTAND WAS THE KEY PARTY IN INITIATING THE BAN PROCESS.**
- Requests to council for copies of the Appeal process have not received any response **DESPITE THE FACT** that Mayor Vanderkruys asserted to the Stayner SUN that there **was** an appeal process.
- My FOI request for the list of allowed fiduciary processes was denied by the delegated head and deemed by her to be a “vexatious request”,

So anyone that believes that this new **UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOURS**” policy is going to be a fair and equitable way for this township to improve the quality of its services and our enjoyment of Clearview had better think again.

The BAN against me came from staff members, one of whom even admitted in a Freedom of Information response that she has “personal issues” with me. When council SUPPORTS STAFF in “personal vendetta’s” then everyone in Clearview becomes “fair game” for this new policy!

The very fact that this policy has got this far and there has been little or no sober thought applied to the need for such a policy and the wording that would make it understandable to **ANYONE** likely to be “charged” with the undefined offences by COUNCIL is a frightening glimpse into what the Sage, Measures, Burton administration is working on next!

We pay a very high cost for our police , let’s leave them to deal with these kinds of issues IF they are as serious as the need for this policy seems to infer!

The OPP is trained and has the sworn authority to deal in a fair and equitable way with the public, based upon laws, rules and regulations that are explicit and well defined—**SOMETHING THAT IS TOTALLY LACKING IN THIS SECOND ATTEMPT BY STAFF TO CONTROL THOSE IN OUR MUNICIPALITY THEY CHOOSE TO TARGET.**

The real downside of this policy for taxpayers is when somebody is charged and banned in a process that is rejected by our legal system as being an infringement on someone's rights. That is what the taxpayers of Fort Erie found out when staff in that municipality took it upon themselves to ban an individual for following his constitutional right to free speech.

<https://www.publicsectordigest.com/article/how-municipalities-ought-not-trample-citizens%E2%80%99-freedom-expression>

In these cases it’s not staff or councillors who have to pay for the costs of litigation and potential settlements—**ITS YOU AND !!**

IT’S TIME TO TELL COUNCIL YOUR VIEWS ON THIS POLICY BEFORE IT’S IMPLEMENTED AND ENFORCED BY STAFF!

EMAIL council@clearview.ca and make SURE you get a **delivery receipt** or else your record of notification, like anything else deemed contentious by staff might not be found in the records by the clerk.

*Thank you councillors
Thom Paterson &
Doug McKechnie...*

...for voting against the latest Clearview STAFF-centric budget thereby confirming that only 1/3 of our **ELECTED** representatives have any understanding of the financial constraints in the “there is only one taxpayer” bank account.

The 2019 budget came down to being approved by just 4 **ELECTED** councillors (Measures, Christie, Broderick and Lamers)!

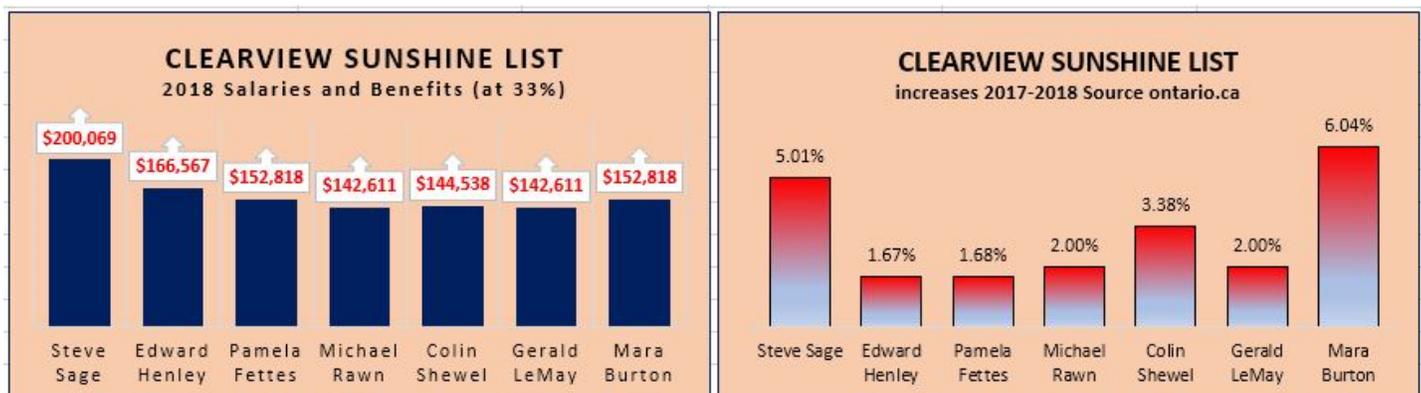
With one third of Clearview councillors not having been **ELECTED** by the residents of Clearview in 2018 (Burton, Walker and Leishman, who has **NEVER** been elected) but effectively put in place by the 25 parties signing off on their application to stand, its interesting to see who is front and centre in picking our pockets to maintain the questionable status shown below.

- **Currently FIRST** in 2019 for Highest municipal (only) tax increase in this area (**4.89%**), Springwater, DM Burtons choice of comparator, was just **1.93%** with not all comparators reporting on this date.
- **FIRST** in 2017 for Highest property taxes per household in the area (\$4,143)
- **FIRST** in 2017 for largest number of full-time funded staff per 1000 households (10.09)
- **FIRST** in 2017 for the highest staff benefits costs per household (\$243)
- **Second** (\$3,794) behind Tay (\$3,902.00) for “own use” taxes per household (2017)
- **Second** (\$3,573) behind Essa (\$4,818) for total liabilities (2017) per household (2017)
- **Third** (16) behind Springwater (17) and Tay (17) for the highest number of staff per 1000 households (2017)
- **Third** (\$144.36) behind Wasaga Beach (\$209.00) and Ramara (\$147.59) for the highest sunshine list salary costs per household (2017)

When the maintenance of these “bragging rights” takes precedence over providing the basic services (sidewalks for example) for residents, many of whom are on fixed incomes with inflation indexing far below the salary increases for staff and council, its time to re-evaluate WHY do we have a council that does nothing to improve the quality of residence for Clearview taxpayers.

Province announces 2018 Sunshine List members

And once again the increase for CAO Sage is far above better qualified lower staff and begs the question **WHY**.



Fresh FROM THE HORSES MOUTH – Ontario Government news

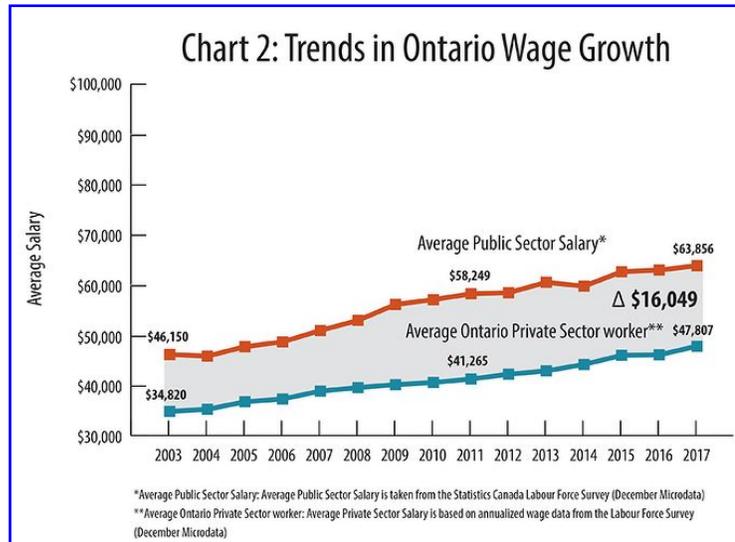
<https://news.ontario.ca/tbs/en/2019/03/2018-ontario-public-sector-salary-disclosure-reveals-unsustainable-trend-across-the-public-sector.html>

I've been a resident of Ontario for over 50 years and I have never seen a news release from any government that analyses, highlights and discusses the salary and benefits difference between the public and private sectors that finally puts some numbers on why our property taxes are so high.

Between 2003 and 2018, average salaries of all employees in the public sector, including those making less than \$100,000, increased by **48.1%**

By 2017, the average private sector worker earned \$16,049 less than the average Ontario public sector employee.

This income disparity has grown steadily since 2003 and the average private sector Ontario worker's salary in 2017 is now 33.6% lower than the salary for the average Ontario public sector employee.



⇒ Public sector average **\$63,856**

⇒ Private sector average **\$47,807**

⇒ So equivalent costs for private salaries is **74.87% of that for public**

Let's see what that disparity between the Private and Public sectors means to Clearview taxpayers:

The total wage and benefits bill for Clearview in 2017 (from the Financial Information Returns published by the Province of Ontario) was **\$6,805,821**

Using the Ontario Governments own figures in the graph above, the wage and benefits bill for an equivalent private sector organisation in 2017 would have been **\$5,095,306**

So, the difference that Clearview taxpayers are paying their public sector staff in total wages and benefits bill for 2017 over the equivalent salaries and benefits in the private sector is **\$1,710,515**

With **6,207** residences in Clearview this difference would mean a reduction in property tax of over....

\$275.00 PER YEAR

For years we've been told that we have to pay Clearview senior staff these high salaries to remain "competitive". Finally the province has disclosed WHY those "competitive" salaries & benefits packages are so high — It's nothing to do with "competition"!

Across Ontario, public sector employees are all being comparatively overpaid!