

Metroland - Letter to Editor

Citizen upset at lack of opportunity to speak

Fri May 09, 2008

To the editor:

I made a delegation to Clarington council on April 21. I was prohibited from continuing my delegation until I retracted a statement directed at Regional Chairman Roger Anderson (and refused), so a motion was passed by council to ban me from speaking at council or GPA Committee until they received a written apology.

I firmly believe I said nothing untoward to any members of Clarington council. Given that my remark about Mr. Anderson being a bully was not slanderous or libelous, he could decide on his own and take proper action.

I was only speaking my mind and expressing my opinion. Last time I looked, we still live in a democracy and believe in freedom of speech. I cannot bring myself to an apology; I too have standards which guide me.

Surely council respects the rights of others, especially the public you were elected to represent, to speak their mind as long as what they say is within the realm of freedom and decency. Is that not what our Canadian boys and girls dying in Afghanistan are fighting for? I would like to have that muzzling motion rescinded. In my opinion, Mayor Abernethy is also acting the part of a bully with this latest round of cheap tactics. This is the same spin he has picked up from his hero, Mr. Anderson, and it's not appreciated by the general public.

I will not be shut down by anyone as petty as Mayor Abernethy.

Jim Richards

Orono