



05 mai / May 5 2007

Mme Jeanne Charlebois  
Le maire  
Ville de Hawkesbury

Madame le maire:

It has, again, come to our attention that a "well-informed source" at City Hall has released information, selectively, to one of the local newspapers in Hawkesbury.

We refer to an article in the May 4, 2007 edition of the Tribune-Express, entitled: «La Ville de Hawkesbury suspend son directeur general»

As you know, Le/The Regional newspaper has, for the past twelve years, given extensive coverage to City Hall. Our journalist, Alain Demers, was at the last Council Meeting of Monday, April 30. The two hour, eighteen minute meeting, resulted in our article on page 8 «Il donne la médaille de son père» with accompanying photo.

It is noteworthy that the two days following the April 30th meeting, Alain Demers left messages at City Hall for M. Bonhomme. As a responsible journalist, he had questions concerning some important points raised at the council meeting. .

By Wednesday noon, without a response from City Hall, we elected to put a hold on those articles. Imagine our shock to read in another newspaper the «source bien informée» and «...que les choses n'allait pas pour le mieux ... entre M. Bonhomme et la mairesse [sic] Jeanne Charlebois».

We appreciate that personal matters concerning an employee of City Hall are usually «in-camera». Nevertheless, with the propensity for leaking to a select press, perhaps it would be wise to issue a statement in advance to all the news media in Hawkesbury.

Such a statement, succinctly written would protect not only the integrity of Council, but the rights of a free press to inform, accurately, the public.

Anticipating a response from you, Madame le maire, I remain,

Janet Perreault  
Editrice/Editor  
Journal Le/The Regional newspaper  
Hawkesbury, ON