

# Fake outrage and other stupidity

*Chris Cooke - September 2020*

The drama queen has left the building.

Dr. Sudit Ranade, Lambton's Medical officer of Health hasn't left but probably should.

And Mike Stark will be leaving at the next municipal election.

First, let's begin with the departure of Clerk Dianne Gould – Brown and the “fake outrage” associated with the exodus of some 24 bureaucrats at Sarnia City Hall.

To begin with Brown had it coming.

Aside from my belief that she was overpaid and underworked I've discovered in life that when you dump on your employer usually nothing good happens.

Which was Brown's primary problem.

If you remember she gleefully charged Mayor Mike Bradley with harassment after he asked her at a public meeting why Margaret Bird's request to speak before Council was denied. Admittedly Bradley used his outside voice in his questioning but nothing that would warrant bringing in Integrity Commissioner Robert Swayze.

But with great fanfare and drama Brown felt slighted, brought in Swayze and \$20,000.00 later the Mayor was found guilty of harassment and had his pay docked.

Since then both Brown and Swayze have been sent down the road by a new Council and a new administration headed by Chief Administrative Officer Chris Carter.

Brown was a left over from the former drama queen administration of Margaret Misk – Evans who also charged Bradley with harassment and later fled to Tecumseh with two years' pay, a reported \$400,000.00.

While I really believe there is nothing to see here, Anne Marie Gillis and her friend Debbie Martin popped out a hole somewhere to express concern and outrage at the City Hall departures. Gillis who was crushed in her run for Mayor two years ago, is a left over from a previous regime and just won't go away.

What is really happening at City Hall is Carter, who is barely a year into his tenure is building his own administration with people he knows and trusts.

Obviously, Brown missed the cut and apparently for good reason.

Which brings me to Dr. Sudit Ranade, Lambton's Medical Officer of Health. At a reported \$300,000.00 he is among the area's most highly paid bureaucrats. Intelligent and well educated but like a lot of bright people seems incapable of making the tough decisions of everyday life in the midst of a pandemic.

Face masks come to mind here.

Due to his inability to make face masks mandatory he has left Lambton the only County in Ontario without such legislation. He has left municipal politicians and business people to do his heavy lifting. As a result, we now have a patch work of rules for the public to navigate. And we have maskers and anti-maskers fighting it out in the grocery aisles at some County stores.

I'm not a doctor and I don't play one on television but I think I understand the science. I understand that wearing face masks, social distancing and intense hand washing have the ability to control the virus and ultimately the pandemic.

But for some reason Ranade just can't get there.

He appears content to have me as a business owner in Wyoming do his job.

At Huron Web Printing and Graphics masks are mandatory but at the local grocery store they aren't because the fools that run Plympton Wyoming apparently follow the lead of a \$300,000.00 bureaucrat who seems oblivious to the science.

I wonder if Ranade wears a seat belt while traveling to and from work or does he need Sarnia traffic officers to remind him the science indicates seat belts save lives and they are mandatory.

Which brings me to City Councillor Mike Stark who apparently functions with his own science. The science of raising taxes in the midst of a pandemic.

His latest missive is a transfer tax on resale homes claiming the City needs the cash due to tax delinquencies.

He does know there is a pandemic, doesn't he? He does know unemployment in Sarnia is 15%, doesn't he? He does know Sarnians are struggling, doesn't he?

Since I know, why doesn't he?

Stark is an anomaly.

It is like he fell in from somewhere else and this is his first day.

Hopefully someone holds his hand and leads him back from where he came.  
If not resale of houses in Sarnia will collapse.  
I could be wrong about this but I'm usually not.

