



**Gary McHale**

Passionate Leadership

Standing with the People

**Haldimand - Norfolk**



Shortage of Family Doctors

Needs of Farmers

Nanticoke Coal Power

Economic Development

Law & Order

[www.garymchale.ca](http://www.garymchale.ca)

## Federal Role # 2 – Illegal Tobacco

Diane Finley's government outright refuses to enforce the laws regarding illegal tobacco shacks and will do nothing about the unlicensed tobacco facilities on Native reserves.

It is estimated that the federal government is losing \$4 million per day in lost tax revenue and the illegal tobacco trade now represents over 20% of the market in Canada. It is the taxpayers of Canada that must continue to foot the bill for this lost revenue, and is particularly hard on tobacco farmers who are faced with the reality that 20%+ of the market is now lost to them due to criminal activity.

There are federal laws that are being violated and the federal government needs to be held accountable for allowing the illegal trade in cigarettes to flourish. If you or I were involved in an illegal activity that cost the Government \$4 million per day you can rest assured we would be arrested within seconds.

The impact of illegal tobacco is serious for Haldimand-Norfolk. Law abiding tobacco farmers have lost business which translates into lost jobs. Residents are impacted the crime that accompanies any illegal behaviour tolerated by police – in the case of Caledonia there was a shooting at a smoke shop by a madman who first threatened to kill a woman and child on the occupied Douglas Creek Estates, and several smoke shops have been burnt down.

Perhaps worst of all, children are free to purchase cigarettes without any of the controls imposed on law abiding sellers of tobacco products.

If elected, Gary will actively work to close down these illegal smoke shops and bring media attention to them so long as the federal government continues to refuse to uphold the law.

## Inhabitants of Twilight Zone

The Sachem – Sept. 12, 2008

...This was the lead in to the television show of the 1960s called - appropriately - the Twilight Zone. The show explored the edges of reality. According to some present for the event, a meeting Monday afternoon between county council and representatives of the RCMP also tested those edges.

The council session, which was closed to the public and, of course, the media seems not to have gone well. One councilor said he wasn't sure if he was in the Twilight Zone or had just had a meeting with Andy of Mayberry. Another councilor called the meeting "brutal."

The focus of the meeting, I was told, was tobacco shacks and unlicensed tobacco production facilities on the Six Nations reserve. The result of the meeting was more frustration for council. A councilor who agreed to speak so long as he wasn't identified said the RCMP spent a lot of the time talking about what they couldn't or wouldn't do.

For example, they will not fly a plane over the reserve looking for unlicensed tobacco production facilities because they feel the plane could be at risk.

They will not raid smoke huts looking for illegal tobacco because that could spark a massive reaction from the Six Nations community. They will not shut down the smoke huts for the same reason.

What they may do is stop cars off the reserve and leaving the smoke shacks to look for illegally purchased tobacco in the vehicle. But before that happens the RCMP want to have a marked RCMP vehicle in the area.

The idea of stopping non-native purchasers of untaxed and perhaps illegally imported or produced cigarettes is not new. It has been alive in the community for six months to a year as a measure to deal with the problem without confronting or targeting natives. But if it is to keep people away from the smoke shacks it would have to be conducted with vigor and that may not happen.

Needless to say, the councilors who spoke about the meeting are not happy. They feel the county and the region have been deserted by the federal and provincial governments... [Councilor] Grice added that if you listen to what the OPP and the RCMP are saying nothing much is going to change until there is a political solution to the land claims issues. But solutions to the land claims issues look to be years in the future or impossible.