

October 24, 2008

To my friends and neighbors;

As you all know, I have been spewing some pretty negative things during this campaign against Mr. Bramble who is running for State Senate in our district. I have a friend who is on a private email list with Mrs. Hatfield and felt like I was getting the truth and real information that I should share. I attended a debate on Thursday night just to go see what this evil person looked like and to watch him in action "intimidate" Mrs. Hatfield. To my surprise, it was not like that at all.

I arrived a few minutes early and went down stairs to take a seat. Mr. Bramble arrived first, so I sat there and watched him hug his wife, kiss a few grandchildren, and greet me with a smile. Not what I expected from a tyrant. I took this opportunity to lay one of my negative pieces of information on him. I asked him about his campaign finances and why he was misusing the funds for personal expenses. He wrote down the website and told me he had accounted for everything and challenged me to go look and then give him a call on his cell phone if I had any questions. Well that was pretty painless, maybe I should go for another. So I talked with him for several minutes before Mrs. Hatfield arrived.

When Mrs. Hatfield arrived, she went directly up to Mr. Bramble and apologized for her aggressive behavior in their street meeting on Saturday. She said she was at fault and blamed it on her inexperience on the campaign trail. He said that was fine and that was that. No yelling, no nothing. She then went up to several members of his family and did the same and apologized for her aggressive behavior. But the damage was already done. Was she going to go to the media and say she was wrong? Well I waited for a few days and decided no she wasn't. Meanwhile the media has been attacking Mr. Bramble left and right for something he did not do. Is this honest or ethical? This is coming from a woman who claims to be running a clean campaign.

So I went to the "Pizza Girl" website to read the account for myself. For the last few weeks she has been blogging about her Mental Illness. She is bi-polar and suffers from severe depression. She takes medication but admits she is not real good at taking it consistently. I have a bi-polar mom. Some days we are not even on the same planet!!!! This is Mrs. Hatfield's credible source for some dirt. Anna even admits in her blog that Mr. Bramble apologized for the confusion and thanked her for handling this professionally. She has a comic blog—I think she wrote it for her own therapy not knowing what the consequences could be. Anyway, she is a young girl with her own set of difficulties. Why would you even use her like that? If anything happens to that young girl I hope Mrs. Hatfield can live with the consequences.

Then I got up this morning and found an anonymous negative piece on Mr. Bramble taped to my door in the middle of the night. These negative pieces are only hurting one person. It reflects

poorly on the Hatfield campaign, because they are the same things that she has been telling everyone through her emails and knocking on doors. Why her campaign has resorted to these tactics I do not know. What ever happened to running on issues. We are all human. I don't see Mr. Bramble sending out anonymous information on Mrs. Hatfield. In fact, I asked him what his opponents stand would be on an issue and he said I would have to ask her. That was it.

Back to the debate. By the end of the evening, Mrs. Hatfield had not given us any convincing facts on why to vote for her. The debate was kept to the issues that face all of us. Education, which should be an area that she knows a lot about, all she could say was all the money under my watch will go to education. What? No health & human services, no chip for kids, no roads to build our economy so we can have money, etc. All income tax goes to education now, so what taxes are going to be raised? Is she really that naive that she doesn't realize it takes a complete budget to run the state? The only one that got agitated or mean spirited was Mrs. Hatfield. Even when she would interrupt Mr. Bramble he never got mean or aggressive with her.

After I walked up to Mrs. Bramble and shook her hand and said I was sorry for all the negative things that had been going on. She said you know when we first got involved in politics I told my husband that at the end of the day I had to be able to look all opponents in the eye and know I treated them fairly. That is our motto and we live by that. I have to be accountable for the things I do and she has to be accountable for what she does.

I am coming to each of you late in the game and I hope it is not too late to make amends for what I have done. I have passed out negative information to all of you and want you to know I was wrong. None of it is substantiated, in fact most is very little truth and a lot of fluff. I have acted unethical and want you to know I was wrong. Please pass this letter on to anyone you have shared the things which I have told you. I am sorry if I have caused any problem.

I will be calling Mr. Bramble to apologize and let him know how sorry I am that I let it go this long. We are all human and imperfect or we would not be here.

Sandy Calder

P.S. Please pass this along.