

**AM 1220**

**Lorne Wiebe Commentary**

**The following commentary represents the opinion of the writer only and does not necessarily reflect the views of the management of Corus Entertainment.**

**The Inquiry's Final Report**

It is a massive report - 2,400 pages in all documenting nearly 200 witnesses who testified at a sweeping public inquiry which took four years to complete. The scope and cost (\$53 million) prompted the Province to announce restrictions on future inquiries. But the question out there today is did the Cornwall Public Inquiry "clear the dark clouds hanging over our city"? We heard that phrase often prior to the inquiry being called. So did it clear the air? Mr. Normand Glaude's methodical analysis into what happened when accusations of sexual abuse came to light in our city has resulted in a total of 67 recommendations. Read them all on the special inquiry page on AM 1220.ca. But in a nutshell, here are a few of the highlights; The 1997 investigation by the O.P.P. dubbed "Project Truth" did not really answer the question of whether or not there was a pedophile ring operating in the area and Mr. Glaude says it is not in his mandate to figure out if in fact, there was one. Institutional response to allegations of abuse was often inadequate and didn't protect potential victims. There is no foundation, says the report, to allegations of a conspiracy at the Ministry of the Attorney General office. Former Cornwall police officer, Perry Dunlop, did the right thing when he revealed a settlement between an alleged sex abuse victim and the church to the Children's Aid Society. Mr. Glaude seemed to take particular pains in trying to ensure abuse victims will get the counseling they need and that they will be better protected in the future. I believe his document is thorough and goes far in explaining what went on here. It should "clear the air" but only time will tell if our city can move past this, while at the same time not leaving one more victim behind.