



Logic

By Joe Ingino b.a.
Editor/Publisher

"I live a dream in a nightmare world"

My Predictions For 2018

Prediction #1. - People of Oshawa prepare to be amazed by another tax increase in the range of 2 - 3%. Yes you read it here first. The level of incompetency of our municipal leadership will cost you 2 - 3% on top of the increase you had to endure last year. One has

to wonder with an influx of new housing that taxes would go down or stay the same... No and only in Oshawa. When we get more tax cash coming in due to development do our cost also go up. To me it means one thing.... "Poor management". Over spending and careless leadership.

Prediction #2. - I see a new regional Chair taking over the Region. Someone relatively young with a lot of municipal experience and a proven successful track record. A person that in part may be considered an insider...but with a difference. Most insiders only care about keeping their jobs. This particular since he has been out of the 'GAME' for a while is genuine and believe it or not cares about the Region. Not to mention that he out of all the serving/retired and or out of the 'GAME' has proven himself to have the qualification to lead the Region into a new and improved direction. I will not name anyone as that may be considered an endorsement to political office and since no election has been called it would not be appropriate. But stay tuned. The phoenix of change will soon rise in Durham.

Prediction #3. - Oshawa tax payers prepare to be amazed by a Federal fine of about 7 million dollars against the City of Oshawa for failing to develop the Lake front properties awarded by the Feds. Yes it has taken almost 8 years since the Federal Government has given Oshawa the Lake front property for development and Oshawa had done not a thing. Is this Mayor Henry blind of the optimal opportunity? Who is running city hall?

Prediction #4. - Oshawa airport will be sold and turned into a private enterprise for profit with little or no public input. The airport will feel pressure from the Pickering airport project and the never ending operating cost. Therefore sale of the airport will be the last resource.

Prediction #5. - During the upcoming municipal election the status quo will be re-elected and Oshawa will continue to have the flat land developments we have. The key to development is not give out lands to developers so they make money and run. The key is to strategically allow developers to develop high rise buildings and change the landscape of Oshawa. Look at Aurora, Thornhill, Mississauga, Brampton. What has happened to Oshawa?

Durham region is a fast growing place. Unfortunately at least in Oshawa we have failed to take opportunity as we should.

We have an elected body that has no real experience in development. No real practical and tactical vision or plan... I remember years back attending the viewing of Oshawa's Vision for the future. It looked great on paper and in the very expensive model. Yet, it failed to show any clear guidelines on how this pipe dream could or would be attained.

Look at what our municipal elect have done so far. They built in conjunction with the Feds a new court house on contaminated lands. Great move. To add insult to injury they allow a friend of a friend developer to build a pathetic 5, 6, 7, 8 level condo building... deeming it 'LUXURIOUS', my ass. A luxurious condo on contaminated lands.

What the city should have done is fine a true developer and propose that they erect a 40 level building in the heart of the city. A super architectural monument exclusive to Oshawa. No instead they allow erection of another box type structure.

But wait, not to sound grumpy and ungrateful... In GM town... our beloved municipal elect can't even negotiate a deal with GM for the naming of our beloved John Gray's white elephant. Instead our city elect in the tradition of Celina St. Our city elected opted to lift Oshawa's dress and fornicate with a friend of a friend developer. Now the GM Centre is know as The Tribute Communities Centre. Yes, a 'TRIBUTE' to our incompetence and stupidity. How are we expecting these community elect to negotiate million of dollars worth of development when they can't even negotiate a mere sponsorship with the Nations largest company GM.



Regional Talk

By John Mutton

Today I write my column on another day where it's too cold for the road salt to work. Going from the bitter cold to what seemed like a balmy 12 degrees back to minus 30 degree weather will take a toll on roads and much of our concrete and asphalt infrastructure.

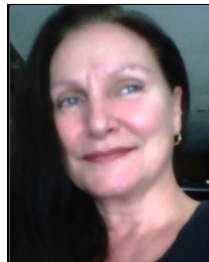
I am still amazed that in Durham, we have not been able to coordinate our local Municipal snow plows with the Regional snowplows so we don't have snow plows lifting blades or not dropping salt because they are simply on a local vs regional road or regional vs local road. That is the essence of duplication.

In Oshawa the Region and the City are trying to negotiate having some Regional Roads like Park St return to being the property and responsibility of the City vs the Region. Why has this never happened? Quite bluntly, the City do not want the ongoing maintenance and capital costs of the road. As long as this is something that needs agreement, I doubt it will ever happen. Where residents should be concerned is that if a road should not be a regional road, why should residents of Pickering, Ajax, Uxbridge, Scugog, Clarington and Whitby pay for a local road in Oshawa. It would work the same if the issue where in any of Durham's 8 municipalities.

I know duplication exists and I know common sense is sometimes rare when it comes to parochialism. I guarantee this will not exist when looking after the taxpayers of Durham if I have anything to do with it. It has been said many times, there is only one taxpayer.

Till next week...

John Mutton
President and CEO
Municipal Solutions - Energy and Infrastructure



ORGAN DONATION NOT A MORAL OR RACIAL ISSUE

By Diane Bujold

Just as disease is no respecter of race and culture, donated organs are not subject to moral issues or racial profiles. When the medical professionals treating Delilah Saunders made the sad decision to not place Ms. Saunders on the waiting list for a liver transplant, they did not do so out of moral judgment about her alcohol habit or addition. Nor did they base their decision on her race (Ms. Saunders Inuk).

There are many factors to consider when placing a person on a transplant list. Receiving an organ is not a normal type of surgery. You just don't go into a hospital, receive your new organ and walk out after a couple of weeks ready to resume your previous lifestyle. It doesn't work that way.

There are stringent procedures in place for good reasons in order to ensure the best possible outcome for organ recipients. People of all races, cultures and ethnicity are on transplant lists and none can jump the queue. Even then, not everyone on a transplant list is fortunate enough to receive a new organ on time to save their lives nor are there any guarantees that the organ donated will work in its new host.

However, when a person is placed on a transplant list, that person should be made aware of the life changing effects this operation will have on them (if successful) and be absolutely mentally, emotionally and physiologically prepared to accept those changes.

I have a friend, Jan (not her real name to protect her privacy) who received a heart transplant twenty-five years ago. She told me that not only did she comply with all of her medical team's recommendations before being placed on the transplant list, but she was also made aware of the aftermath of receiving her new heart.

Jan received her new heart at the very last of her struggle as she would not have lived another week otherwise. She was fortunate.

Jan is limited in all sorts of ways as to what she can and cannot do on a daily basis. But she has life. She was given a gift that she cherishes with every fiber of her being and never takes for granted. That is why she chose to follow to the letter everything her medical professionals advised her to do (including abstinence from life choices that could compromise her fragile health).

Jan concluded her story by telling me that, for her, there is a moral obligation to keep herself as healthy as possible by adhering to the doctors' advice in every way because someone had to die in order for her to receive what she called "the most precious gift". Jan said that organs are not harvested by the thousands and placed in cold storage just waiting for people who need them. She explained to me that most organs are donated out of someone else's tragedy.

In her own words, Jan said, "I often think of the family of the person whose heart is beating inside me now. They lost their loved, one probably through an accident as most are, and then they had to make the decision to give away their loved one's heart while they were in the midst of a grieving a terrible loss. I take good care of my heart. It would be inconceivable for me not to have done what I was told beforehand in order to receive it in the first place." I agree with that statement. After all, I would like to know that the person who received my loved one's heart was a person who respected and appreciated the implications.

Jan complied with all the medical professionals' requirements from the very beginning so that her new heart would have every chance of adapting to her body and not die in her chest and go to waste as a result of any carelessness on her part. "So, for me," she said, "there was, and still is, a moral obligation."

Medical professionals do not base their decision on moral grounds. They are there to perform a function to help enable a person to live but there are rules to follow for the patient. It is not a simple procedure.

After receiving her new heart, Jan was put on a slew of medication that she must take for life. She was made aware that her entire lifestyle had to change in order to allow the new organ to heal, to adapt and to function well. One of the medications is actually an immune system suppressor. This means that her immune system is more susceptible to infection than most people. Because of this, she cannot put herself in situations where she might catch even a cold. She cannot allow friends to visit her at home if they have the slightest hint of a cold or flu. She cannot travel to places where the risks of encountering foreign bacteria that could put her life in serious peril, more so than the average person. The reason for this immune system suppressor is because the body knows when a foreign object has invaded it and works to build a defense against it. Without this suppressor, the body would quickly develop an attack against the donated heart and kill it as a foreign object.

In speaking with Jan and doing a little research, I have learned that the liver is a different matter as it is not simply a pump, like the heart. The liver has a chemical function and therefore more complex in that sense. I do not know how successful liver transplants are as opposed to heart transplants and I would have loved to have the time to consult with a medical professional on the issue, but I would venture to say that the preparation for such an operation as a liver transplant should definitely entail total abstinence from alcohol at least six months beforehand and complete abstinence for life after the surgery. One cannot return to the same lifestyle and expect everything to function normally nor should anyone expect that drinking alcohol beforehand will not in some way affect the outcome of a liver transplant.

It seems to me that Ms. Saunders' family, friends and the Aboriginal community want to turn this into a racial and a moral issue. I can understand that in light of the situation, it may be easier to clutch at the proverbial straws and point the finger in an attempt to pressure the medical industry into making an exception in Ms. Saunders's case. But how fair would that be to those others on liver transplant lists doing everything they are told in order to ensure the best possible results?

After reading the above and perhaps doing some research of your own, my hope is that the reader will see the issue for what it really is; a complex procedure that cannot be left to chance as organs are very far and few in-between. They just don't grow on trees.

I truly hope that something will change soon for Ms. Saunders and that she finally receives the liver transplant she so desperately needs. Nobody wants the worst to occur. But let's not make this into a racial or moral issue when it simply couldn't be farther from the truth.

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