

OPINION & EDITORIALS



The CENTRAL NEWSPAPER

Founder & Publisher: Joe Ingino

136 Simcoe St. N., Unit 4. Oshawa ON L1G 4S7

Tel: 905-432-2657

Email: newspaper@ocentral.com

Well Written, Well Read - Time Tested And Proven - #1 Newspaper Across Durham Region - Supporting Local Businesses

WHY ARE OUR CHILDREN ENTANGLED IN FOREIGN CONFLICTS?

I was born in Canada and raised in Canada. Just like all of my family. I am not a Nationalist. I am not some far right wing person. As a matter of fact. I am more middle left. I believe that everyone should have a good fair life. That everyone should strive to maintain our laws, traditions, language and culture.

What has bothered me in the past few years is how foreign interests are using our society, our youth to gain support for conflicts in other countries. I do not think it should be legal for foreign interest to protest foreign conflict in our country. From the Ukraine war. To the Palestine conflict. Tired of watching the news and seeing disorder caused by fanatics pushing other nations conflicts. This is wrong and in my opinion it should be illegal.

What is your take?

IT'S TIME TO BREAK DOWN INTER-PROVINCIAL TRADE BARRIERS TO RENEWABLE POWER

Now that our MPPs are finally back to work at Queen's Park, the Ford government needs to make ending Canadian electricity separatism its first order of business. There's been lots of talk from the Premier about breaking down inter-provincial trade barriers over the past few months. Now we need action.

Premier Ford can break down these costly and counterproductive barriers by directing the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) to open up its procurement process for 9,100 megawatts (MW) of new electricity supply to renewable power projects in Manitoba, Quebec and the Maritimes. Manitoba and Quebec have the lowest electricity rates in Canada because they're primarily powered with water power. Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador have huge untapped wind power potential.

If we want to reduce our dependence on dirty imported American gas and high-cost (and high risk) American nuclear technology, we should work with our fellow provinces to create an efficient, resilient, renewable east-west electricity system that makes the most of our strengths right here in Canada.

A good way to start that process would be to direct Hydro One to upgrade its transmission links with Hydro Quebec to facilitate greater east-west electricity trade. Hydro One can upgrade an existing 20 km transmission link in Ottawa to increase our east-west inter-provincial electricity grid by 2,000 MW at a much lower cost than building American reactors.

By opening up Ontario's procurement for new electricity supply to inter-provincial proposals, we can lower our electricity rates and protect Ontario by ensuring we have a reliable low-cost supply of clean power to supply our homes and our industries that is not at the mercy of erratic White House decision-making. What is your take?

The SS Oshawa Is Sinking

I have a question. You hear all about politicians supporting local small businesses. All quick to press the panic button when it comes to tariffs. Have they forgotten about those front line Canadian business along our Oshawa downtown. Closing down faster than rain drops from the heavens. I am disgusted and in part ashamed to drive downtown our core and see all the empty buildings. Where are municipal representatives? Who are they? How is it that they are never heard from but only during an election. Do you believe that every municipality should have part of the municipal budget as an assistance trust fund to assist local small businesses... Operate as a bank of sort. Local small businesses can draw from it with no interest. Money that would go directly to paying utility bills. What's your take?

Exercise your right to vote...

Voter turnout among Ontarians during federal elections has been in slow decline over the course of the last decade, however the average number of votes cast in 2021 still saw a healthy 62% participation rate. This not only bodes well for our democracy and the highly organized process of conducting an election, it also legitimizes the mandate of the political parties and their individually elected members. There is certainly a well-founded debate as to the popular vote each party receives, and how that may translate into an uneven distribution of seats in the House of Commons. However, in our first-past-the-post system, Canadians must carefully consider how they wish to vote. Dean Hickey has written a feature article for this week's edition where he discusses this very issue. On the matter of establishing valid mandates for elected representatives, we would like to draw a parallel between federal and local elections. Voter turnout in the 2022 Oshawa municipal election was less than 19%. As an example, Ward 4 which includes the city's downtown, is home to slightly less than 30,000 eligible voters. City councillor Derek Giberson was elected on 1,497 votes, and Regional councillor Rick Kerr garnered a total of 2,467 votes. As a result, neither one of these men may be seen as having a solid mandate from their constituents. One may reasonably suggest the blame for this goes back to the electors themselves, which is a sad reflection of voter apathy and what was likely a lackluster campaign. This newspaper encourages everyone to get out and exercise their right to vote in every election, be it federal, provincial, or local. We, as citizens, must show our concern in the affairs of our nation and our communities.

Nuclear Energy Should We Not Get Tax Cut?

With all this talk of energy going to the U.S. Should we the people of Durham not get a tax break from the profits of selling energy to the U.S. After all we all live with the reality of a 1 in a trillion chance of something happening at any one of the two nuclear facilities we live with in our municipality. Would a property tax break show good faith for the risk?

The CENTRAL NEWSPAPER welcomes your submissions and letters...

As The CENTRAL works to provide an interesting and accurate reflection of the communities that make up Durham Region through our weekly news pages, we invite local citizens to participate in the conversation through submissions and letters to the editor.

We truly appreciate and support your efforts to make The CENTRAL your own.

Letters and submissions are welcome at newspaper@ocentral.com

Letters To The Editor:

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND? Send letters to newspaper@ocentral.com

Dear Editor:

The other day my child came home from school looking as if he had seen a ghost. At first he did not want to talk about. Then, he opened up. He told me of how he has become a minority at his local school. How, kids of color pick on him and threaten him. Call him all kinds of horrible names. I did not know what to say. I was shocked. I offered to go speak with the principal. He begged me not to as it would only make it worst.

My son is a good student and he is looking at attending University. I feel as this type of racial tension is harming his chances to a good education and his chances of getting in a good University. I remember 50 years ago. Yes, there was prejudice at schools. Mostly, bigoted whites against any one of different color.

It appears that the tables have been turned. I remember back then, being forced to accept different cultures and different colors. I am not prejudice and never were. I believe everyone should be rewarded for the efforts they put in life. I do not know what to do. Can't go to the principal. I can't go to the police. Is my son a sitting duck for possible violence.

Confused, Pickering resident.

Albert Hodge.

Dear Editor:

Congratulations on your re-election as the Member of Provincial Parliament for Brampton South and your re-appointment as the Minister of Transportation.

During the provincial election campaign, residents of Durham Region watched the PC Party's announcement to remove tolls from the provincially owned portion of Highway 407 between Brock Road in Pickering and Highway 35/115 with interest.

As the Member of Provincial Parliament for Ajax, I am writing to urge the Government of Ontario and your Ministry to uphold this commitment and expedite the removal of these tolls as soon as possible. This measure would reduce the cost of moving throughout Durham Region, for many residents who rely on regional travel for work, business, and daily life. At a time when the cost of living remains high and economic uncertainty continues to affect families and small businesses, removing these tolls would offer meaningful relief across our community.

In addition to its economic benefits, toll removal would ease congestion on the 401 and our many busy local roads by offering an affordable and efficient alternative for drivers. With the upcoming full eastbound closure of Winchester Road in Brooklin, from Durham Street and Chelmsford Drive to east of Watford Street and Anderson Street, our region will face increased traffic pressure. This project is scheduled to begin within a month and continue into the fall, making the removal of these tolls more important than ever.

On behalf of my constituents, I ask that the Government of Ontario consider these factors and provide this much needed relief as soon as possible and ahead of the Winchester Road project.

Sincerely, **Rob Cerjanec, MPP for Ajax**

Dear Editor:

I am writing to you on the subject of people with Mental Health challenges, as this is a subject near and dear to my heart.

Close by where I used to live as a child there was a hospital called Whitby Psychiatric where my mother and sister use to work. I would go there as a child and while waiting for their shift to end find myself looking around at the cottages, the bowling alley, the wood shop that made Adirondack chairs, and of course the barn and canning building. This was all part of a self-contained way of living for those burdened with mental health challenges.

On my way home last night I saw a man curled up on some stairs outside with a ratty old blanket over him and a wagon containing empty pop and beer cans that he would turn in to make some money. I don't know about you, but watching this scene for the last 20 years grow ever worse as fewer and fewer people have the opportunity to receive help at places like Ontario Shores is disheartening. Too many have been turned away because of a policy that says the community would be better able to absorb and help them than a psychiatric hospital could.

One has to wonder whether the community was in fact able to rise to such a challenge, as we have many young adults just wasting away, either on the streets or in group homes playing video games. We have people with addictions that have taken them to the streets, and we have another category of kind-hearted adults with challenges who can barely afford to find a room. Their community comes together at a local food kitchen or other such charity, provided they have a room somewhere around the downtown area so they can access these places.

Oshawa and Durham Region at one time had a lot of factories that would hire many local people, but with every passing year less and less opportunities exist for local employment. Today it's the Amazons of the world that offer few jobs. So where does one go to find work or live with the challenges we face today?

Kathleen Cumming

Oshawa

Dear Editor:

I would like to comment on recent social media posts showing large crowds at Pierre Poilievre's rallies here in Ontario and elsewhere. Crowd size historically does not always turn into votes, and I'll tell you why. I went to a Liberal rally in Vaughan when then-Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff was trailing badly in the polls. The ballroom was packed and overflowing to the outside, and yet they lost 11 seats in the GTA. Why? Jean Chretien was speaking and he had the room so high, then he turned it to Ignatieff and the room collapsed, and the Liberals fell to third place!

Pierre Trudeau packed Maple Leaf Gardens and lost.

My favourite story is when I was a little guy at Maple Leaf Gardens, packed to the roof, and a tiny speck spoke from way down, Tommy Douglas, and they won three seats if I remember correctly. When I read comments in the media such as "This is a movement like we've never seen", the first thing I thought of was the Trump campaign south of the border, then I got to what many call the 'Trumpian' effect.

Historically, the polls in Canada have been close to the final outcome. When people access '338' and 'Poll Tracker', they're getting an average of many different polls, not just one politically motivated poll often funded by the parties themselves.

Polls in the U.S. are orchestrated to make people believe the election is too close to call, so they will continue to tune into the big corporate media networks. If they released polls that displayed a given result, people would lose interest and their advertising money would stop flowing in. Nanos is doing this for CP24/CTV, making the election sound close even though their own numbers show different. They have to keep people interested and advertising dollars up.

Big crowds do not necessarily translate into a plurality of seats, as we may very well see come April 28th.

Bruce Borland, Oshawa