



Logic

By Joe Ingino
Editor/Publisher

"I live a dream in a nightmare world"

WAKE UP OSHAWA

'WAKE UP OSHAWA'. The recent GM announcement of closing Oshawa plant in 2019 is a fact. The Union has desperately attempted to negotiate with no result.

The government at all levels have shown no interest in saving GM Oshawa. What does this mean to you and me. Taxpayers that go about our lives paying bills and at times ignorant of the realities of the impact of such decision made by greedy corporate GM.

Well, I can tell you. That GM closing and it's subsequent job losses and related industry economic impact is just the tip of a huge iceberg.

I say and Iceberg in that, we the people of Oshawa will be left with a huge environmental mess to clean up that we will be paying for decades to come.

YES, YOUR TAXES WILL GO UP DRAMATICALLY in order to pay for GM mistakes. As it is young families can't afford new homes. As most homes are in the range of 400,000 plus. Not to mention the additional taxes we pay as hidden services.... like Durham Region and OPUC. Have we not learned from the mistake we made and from the costs associated with the closure of the North plant?

Did you know that the City of Oshawa paid over 1 million dollars to clean up lands around the court house? And yes you paid for it.

The problem in Oshawa is we keep electing the wrong people into office. People that are not working in the best interest of the people but instead in the interest of upping their careers and or pay scale... not to mention some to cushion pensions...

With that aside. We as it stands have on the one hand the harbor lands for example. No one has come with interest in developing it...due to the fact that before you even dig one shovel.

Who ever takes over needs to spend 30 million dollars in cleaning the old GM dump by Lakeview Park. This is the main reason no one has yet shown interest in development.

The city as it stands now sits in a position that they may get fined up to seven million dollars from the Feds due to the negligence by the city to do something with these lands.... Guess whose pocket that is going to come out of!!!

GM closure goes way beyond losing 2,500 jobs. This is about GM pulling out and leaving Oshawa in total and complete chaos. They will have a major impact on the local economy. They will create a vacuum of people wanting out of Oshawa. GM will affect thousands of other associated jobs not to mention the impact of them closing or downsizing on the local economy.

This depression will only strengthen the influx of people from Toronto. People escaping the million dollar one bedroom homes.... to a 400,000 heaven. What this means is that new social changes will be coming to Oshawa. Changes that Oshawa is not prepared to handle. From the need of more policing... as now is evident in Pickering and Ajax. Both of those municipalities have seen and extension of Scarborough and the impact has been phenomenal.

Now you may ask. What is the answer to avoiding this calamity? Well, it is up to the union to step up and be a union. Stop being another layer of management. Shut down GM. Shut down the country for a month. Send a clear message that corporate Canada will not get away with raping and pillaging our communities. We can't afford to wait. As if we wait then it be to late and your job will be next. Can you afford to pay for others greed?

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

This was posted on Facebook....

OPEN LETTER TO OSHAWA GM WORKERS and the THOUSANDS OF WORKERS WHO WILL LOOSE THEIR LIVELIHOODS as a result of GM's heartless decision

Talk about adding INSULT to INJURY. After our Union Leadership met with GM prior to Christmas, GM says we will get back to you in a couple weeks (January 7th). They then push that off by a day, giving people hope in the fact GM needs more time to formulate their response. Raising the hopes of thousands of families in our community who had gone through a most gut wrenching Christmas. What the hell was that all about? Simply a ruthless no conscience employer playing head games.

I sat with a heavy heart last night as I digested in reality the second announcement of our Plants closing. I also watch as some in the general public and yes some of our own co- workers criticize our sit down actions of last night and this morning.

SCREW THEM and their misguided views of what you are actually facing. I support your actions and totally understand them. Your reaction is pure raw emotional response to the reality of General Motors attacking the well being of your family and community.

The time has come for a real strategy beyond rhetoric of GM is in for the fight of their life. We heard from Jerry Dias from the initial press conference at our Hall to thunderous applause that he had a very productive meeting with Justin Trudeau, crickets on any details on that productive meeting 6 weeks later. Matter of fact The silence of the Trudeau Government has been deafening. Not that I expect or want the Government to throw tax dollars at a Company making Billions of dollars on the backs of the Oshawa workers. Just stating facts. No updates.

Our National President said he was leaving our Hall to meet with the President of the UAW to discuss actions of International solidarity to inflict maximum pain and pressure on General Motors. 6 weeks later crickets. No update or planned International shows of solidarity.

The time has come to move forward with direct action. It's the only thing GM will or has ever understood. An attack on GM's bottom line is necessary and the ONLY way to do that is to have an affect on their production and sale of vehicles.

Before I go any further, I want to state I'm not being an armchair quarterback or simply a critic. I consider Greg Moffatt. (Oshawa GM Plant Chair) one of my closest friends and I have 110% confidence in him. As for Jerry Dias, let's just say I have 110% confidence in Greg Moffatt.

The time has come to inflict Maximum Pressure on GM and not to worry about the public relations war in the general public as no one totally gets what you are experiencing unless you are living it.

It's time to lean on the 300,000 plus UNIFOR members to support us by not simply wearing black t-shirts but rather by picketing GM dealerships from Coast to Coast.

I also believe we have reached the point where we may have to take over the Plant. This needs to be a well thought out process.

I will be traveling to Windsor on the bus Friday despite my personal feelings about this misguided strategy. This will be the second Windsor rally, for the love of God let's switch the focus to Oshawa. It would be nice to hear some support from CAMI Local 88 Leadership, your silence has been deafening and make no mistake if GM successfully shuts us down..... guess who's next?

We have reached the point of no return, t-shirts, signs and maybe even the ill fated tree of hope have been a necessary stepping stone to get us to this point. DIRECT ACTION is the only alternative

Mike Shields
Former President Local 222
Oshawa GM Retiree

THE EDITOR

The current refugee situation at the Bangkok airport where a young lady, Rahaf-al-Qunan is seeking entry to Australia highlights some of the complexities of this issue especially when social media is used to get the message out.

Although little is really known about the details of the case it must be treated as genuine, she must get immediate protection and the matter should be resolved swiftly although the last item seems to rarely happen.

The use of social media to bring attention to the case and the subsequent quite quick response from the U.N. refugee agency is unusual as many million refugees are still struggling to get support. Her case does need quick action especially as her father and brother have already arrived and any good intent from them must be questioned.

Think of the millions waiting years for a safe new place and what they have fled from and then consider what can be done to prevent people having to become refugees and what can be done to give them a new safe life.

Regards,
Dennis Fitzgerald
Melbourne, Australia

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