

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

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School Boards Should Be Abolished...

Recently, the provincial government was compelled to take control of one of Ontario's school boards and launch financial probes into several others. The Ford government has appointed a supervisor to temporarily take control of a London school board away from its elected trustees due to alleged financial mismanagement. Staff at Ontario's Education Ministry had previously undertaken a thorough investigation that disclosed what they determined to be a lack of proper financial oversight, resulting in a worsening financial position. This comes on the heels of a trip by board members to a luxury hotel in Toronto, all the while having to face a major multi-million-dollar deficit back home. One of the most glaring examples of lavish spending may be seen at the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic Board, which has had to dish out more than \$63,000 on a team of lawyers to help manage the fallout after details about a \$50,000 trip to Italy became public. During that trip the trustees evaluated and purchased about \$100,000 in artwork for two new secondary schools. Their expenses included upgraded airfare, a \$1,600 dinner and alcohol, all of which must be borne by local taxpayers. Over at the Waterloo Region District School Board, the details as to the cost of hiring and then suddenly firing their former Director of Education are still unknown. This person 'earned' \$300,000 per year, and would have accumulated almost \$1 million in salary during his 3-plus years as Director. Added to all of this is the ongoing political and social activism that has made the Toronto School Board a complete embarrassment both nationally and in press reports around the world. This newspaper recognizes there is good work being done by some of the school boards within Ontario, and they should be commended for what they do, however, when looking at the larger picture, we think it is time to consider abolishing school boards altogether, with a new model that seeks to promote the three R's in education, which has been sorely lacking in recent decades. What is your take?

51 Reasons We Should Surrender Our Sovereignty

Oh, Canada... as our national anthem begins... What are we thinking. Canadians wasted a golden opportunity for change. Instead of taking it. We pulled the old Turtle and Hare race move. Instead of taking the initiative to change our government. Most of you decided to stick their head back in their shells and hope for a better tomorrow. Meanwhile the American Hare is running circles around us and is slowly waiting us out... while crossed the finished line ten times.

It appears that the proposed surrender without a shot fired is making sense. Think about it. If we are so messed up as Canadians that we can't select a different leader. Is it not time to pull the plug on Canadian politics? Normally, when giving reasons. You have a long list. In this case. The reasons all lie on one. We the people of Canada have given up. What do you think? Can we afford, to sit and wait for another four years. Is there light at the end of the tunnel or is it just another thunder bolt of misinformation and confusion. What is your take?

Pride Toronto facing loss of corporate sponsorship dollars amid DEI backlash

Pride Toronto has confirmed the loss of two high-profile corporate sponsors under the cloud of an anti-diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) backlash, a situation that has the head of the 2SLGBTQ+ festival concerned. Is enough. Enough. Or do you think that the turn on DEI is to harsh of a punishment to what many deemed supporting a mental illness. What is your take?

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

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Letters To The Editor:

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

Dear Editor:

The Government of Ontario has announced on April 9th, 2025, an expansion of strong mayor powers to an additional 169 municipalities, effective May 1, 2025.

These powers allow mayors to unilaterally override council decisions, appoint senior municipal staff, and set budgets without the majority of council approval, undermining the principles of democratic governance; and whereas municipal governance functions best through a collaborative decision-making process where elected councils, representing the collective voice of their communities, work alongside experienced municipal staff.

There is no evidence to suggest that strong mayor powers have increased housing starts, contrary to the provincial government's stated justification for their implementation. The Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks, and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) has raised concerns that strong mayor powers blur the lines between political leadership and administrative expertise, threatening the neutrality of municipal public service.

The City of Orillia recently experienced a situation where its mayor unilaterally overturned a council decision regarding the hiring of a Chief Administrative Officer, demonstrating the potential for these powers to be misused; and

The Township of Rideau Lakes has also experienced governance challenges resulting from mayoral overreach, further highlighting the risks posed by concentrating authority in a single elected official. Democratic principles require that municipal governance remain a system of "one person, one vote," rather than granting disproportionate power to a single individual.

We call on the Government of Ontario to reverse this decision and uphold the traditional balance of municipal governance. We only have to look south of our border to see how far these overreaches of power can go. Preserve your right to have an elected official with a vote that counts.

Paula Banks's

Dear Editor:

I have a girlfriend that I have know since I was 4 years of age that lived beside me. There were days when playing with her was fun and then there were days when she would try to hurt me by throwing rocks at my head.

When my friend was tested the doctors gave her the diagnosis of Mental Handicap. What that looked like for me was not to go near her when she was angry, raging, laying in the middle of the street, over excited and ready to lash out.

The doctors also said that it would be better to put her in a home so she wouldn't hurt herself or others. They said she would never read or write past the age of a first grader. Marriage or children were out of the question.

Did I mention that my friend was adopted and her parents were definitely not going to let her go into a home! They put her in special classes within the school system that taught her to read up to a Grade 8 level and cook great meals I must say she would have me over when my mother would cook lol. My friend ended up being one of the best sewers with a love for making beautiful outfits for kids and summer wear for adults. She excelled at knitting as well making animals that stood 4 feet off the ground which were given to local charities to auction off.

My friend went to a local Highschool called Vanier where she learned some more in depth Life Skills on how to live independently, how to live on a budget, restaurant management so she could apply as a waitress, as well as physical activity to keep a healthy lifestyle.

Well my friend discovered boys in grade 9 you could say she became boy crazy as they said back then. This was very hard for her she couldn't concentrate on her studies most days and the advances of the boys that just wanted to get her to second base. Her parents had a heck of a time keeping her under control. This is when her rage started to appear in greater forms she didn't understand why she had to have a curfew or why she couldn't have sex at such a young age. She had no idea that she would ever have a baby. My friend would start with some rather disturbing temper tantrums that lasted hours if not days if she wasn't allowed to do what she wanted. Family members were brought in to help but more to guard the door and make sure she wouldn't hurt herself through the teen years.

In Grade 10 my friend found a boyfriend on summer break who got her pregnant and married her they had two children a boy and a girl. The marriage was like a volcano erupting with anger all the time. My friend also had a problem with creating drama no matter what, life for her was boring she hated the mundane lifestyle of looking after kids she wanted to be chased by all the boys not tied down by one. At that point my friend started going to Church and the change was significant love, peace and joy lived in their home no one could believe that it was possible for her to memorize hundreds of pieces of scripture and keep a beautiful house. Unfortunately her husband was not thrilled seeing his wife going out to Bible studies and quickly put an end to her Church activities.

After this her life went out of control there was physical and emotional abuse, created drama, drugs and alcohol problems stemming from their mental health problems which led to fighting with each other night and day. They finally separated and divorced but the children walked through a lot of brokenness from their parents.

My friend went onto an addiction with sex and drama that left her at times without a home just sleeping in the van. Her oldest child placed with the grandparents and her daughter place in a group home, with worse mental health challenges than her mother.

My friend went through 4 marriages all not very good. Her daughter now lives homeless in a city in Ontario after giving up her son to foster care, and her son has a decent job with his second wife and they live with their 8 kids in a remote place in Ontario.

My friend was placed in a long term healthcare facility in her early 40's by her mother struggling with cancer and no close family members alive any longer that could help care for her. This is the best place for her because she can no longer handle life on her own without help. She now has lung cancer and is undergoing care, her son still reaches out once a month and she may hear from her daughter twice a year. Mental Health is very hard on a family and a community unless they have the right resources do deal with it.

Kathy Cumming, Oshawa

Dear Editor:

I am beyond words when it comes to what is happening in Canada. No matter who you talk to. They seem to petrude a dislike toward our government. Everyone has an opinion, everyond wants change.

Then, we have an election. You would think that the Liberals wer pretty much done like the NDP. No, instead they come back with even more momentum. Who is doing the thinking here. Am I missing something?

How are we to expect change when we elect the same regime back. One, good thing about this new prime minister. He has so far made all the right moves. Got rid of the carbon tax. Introduced free dental care for most of the population. Bravo.

Keep the momentum of serving the people. Of taking care of the population at large. This next week he is to meet with Trump. Put it this way. I am not yet, putting my white flag away.

On the one hand I think becoming America would be good. On the other, I want Canada to be as good as America if not better. I know it is to much to ask. It is to much to expect.

Then again. We now all now know why our national anthem starts with 'OH CANADA'. Oh Canada you mixed bag of nuts... Gregory Pace, Whitby.