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2026 It Is Our Year.

By Joe Ingino BA. Psychology
Editor/Publisher Central Newspapers
ACCOMPLISHED WRITER/AUTHOR OF OVER 800 ,000
Published Columns in Canada and The United States

2026 is the year for change. We have suffered for too long at the hands of incumbents who change nothing except their own pay increases every year. These are the same people who continue to raise our taxes by an average of 3% to 9% annually. Has our quality of life improved? Are we better off?

Personally, I don't mind paying my fair share of taxes, as long as I see the quality of life in our community improving. That is not the case.

Inner politics and squabbling have to stop. Poor decisions that we, the taxpayers, end up paying for have to stop. Millions of dollars are being wasted without any consultation with the public. Fifty million dollars to extend an Oshawa hockey rink that costs taxpayers, on average, around \$600,000 a year to maintain. A downtown park Oshawa never needed — millions spent there. The Broadbent Park project, to the tune of \$30 million, is, in my opinion, a waste of taxpayer dollars. Not to mention the \$10 million spent on the Rotary Pool — an outdoor pool in Canada that can, at best, only be used four months of the year. It does not make economic sense.

The question remains: Why do voters keep electing the same old faces?

Are we to assume that those who come out to vote are simply voting based on name recognition? Scary.

How do you explain electing someone like Dan Carter for a second term?

The man allowed the downtown to fall.

We need new ideas and new leadership. We need to open the doors at city halls across the region.

Too many municipalities have become police states. Police states created by the incompetence of elected officials who, instead of dealing with difficult situations properly, would rather use force and issue trespass orders.

City hall and municipal offices should be inviting places — civil places that encourage dialogue. Staff must act as staff, not as enforcers for elected officials. In some cases, they have become persecutors through policy and bylaw enforcement.

This has to stop.

Councillors need to get back to basics and deal with constituents in a humane and respectful manner. It should never be a "them against us" mentality.

Answer your phones. Visit your constituents. Host town halls to stay connected with the realities of the community. 2026 is about change.

Are you ready?

JOE INGINO
Proud Member of:

- Royal Canadian Legion #43**
Member since 2014
- MASON LODGE No 649**
Oshawa Member since 2016
- Moose Lodge 2132**
Oshawa Lodge 2132/WOTM Chapter 1759 Member since 2015
- WING 420**
Member since 2017
- WE ARE OSHAWA**
Member since 2015
- ★ **Wheeling and Area Chamber of Commerce**
Member since 2000
- ★ **Weirton Chamber of Commerce**
member since 2000
- ★ **Wetzel County Chamber of Commerce**
member since 2000
- Former Kiwanis Westmount (Oshawa)**
- Former Kinsmen of Oshawa**
Member 2015 - of Courtice 2015, Secretary 2017
- Former Courtice Lions Club**
 - Member 2015 (Director)
 - Member of fundraising committee 2017
 - Chair of Membership 2017
 - Vice President - 2017-18
- Oshawa Naval Veterans Club**
Honorary 2025
- C.O.P.A. Canadian Owners and Pilots Association**
Member Since 2026
- City Of Oshawa Mayoral Candidate**
2014, 2018, 2022.
- City Of Oshawa Mayoral Candidate**
2025, Member of Provincial Parliament candidate for **The New Blue Party**

JOE INGINO IS A PROFESSIONAL JOURNALIST & ACCOMPLISHED WRITER/AUTHOR OF OVER 800,000 Published Columns in Canada and The United States



The World We Live In Now: A Test of Nerve and National Purpose

by Maj (ret'd) CORNELIU, CHISU, CD, PMSC
FEC, CET, P.Eng.
Former Member of Parliament
Pickering-Scarborough East

The world we live in now is marked by uncertainty, acceleration, and growing instability. Nations are confronting simultaneous geopolitical, economic, technological, and social transformations, all unfolding at a speed that challenges governments and institutions alike. This is not simply another difficult period in international affairs. It is a transition into a new global reality.

The assumptions that shaped the decades following the Cold War are steadily eroding. For years, many Western societies believed globalization would naturally expand prosperity, strengthen democratic governance, and reduce the likelihood of major conflict. That optimism has faded.

The recent conflagration in Europe shattered the illusion that large-scale war in Europe belonged to the past. Instability in the Middle East continues to threaten global security and economic stability.

Meanwhile, the strategic competition between the United States and China is evolving into the defining geopolitical contest of the twenty-first century—extending beyond military power into trade, artificial intelligence, cyber capabilities, and access to critical minerals.

The international system is becoming more fragmented, more competitive, and less predictable.

For middle powers such as Canada, geography alone no longer guarantees security or prosperity. The Arctic is emerging as a zone of increasing strategic importance. NATO allies are demanding stronger burden-sharing. Supply chains once considered dependable have proven vulnerable to geopolitical shocks and global disruptions. At the same time, democracies themselves are under pressure from political polarization, disinformation, and declining public trust. Yet the challenges facing nations today are not only external.

Domestically, many Canadians feel the social contract itself is under strain. Housing affordability has become one of the defining issues of our time. Young families increasingly question whether home ownership remains achievable.

Healthcare systems are struggling with shortages, long wait times, and burnout among professionals. Infrastructure expansion often moves at a pace that no longer matches demographic and economic realities.

Canada also faces a productivity challenge. Despite vast natural resources, technological potential, and a highly educated population, the country continues to struggle with regulatory complexity, internal trade barriers, and slow project approvals.

The world we live in now rewards speed, coordination, and strategic focus. Unfortunately, democratic systems often move cautiously precisely when decisiveness is required.

Overlaying all these pressures is the rapid emergence of artificial intelligence and advanced automation. AI is not simply another technological innovation. It represents a transformational force capable of reshaping labour markets, military operations, education, public administration, and the very nature of information itself.

For the first time in history, societies must confront the possibility that machines may outperform humans across a growing range of intellectual tasks. This creates enormous opportunities for innovation and growth, but also profound risks related to employment displacement, surveillance, cybersecurity, and social cohesion.

Governments are racing to adapt, yet regulation consistently trails innovation. Citizens are exposed daily to manipulated information, synthetic media, and increasingly sophisticated forms of digital influence.

Truth itself is becoming contested terrain.

And yet, despite these pressures, this period should not be viewed only through pessimism. History demonstrates that disruption can also produce renewal and reinvention. Nations that emerge stronger are those capable of recognizing reality early and responding with strategic clarity rather than complacency.

For Canada, this moment demands serious reflection about national priorities.

First, defence and national security must once again be treated as core responsibilities of the state. Investments in military readiness, Arctic sovereignty, cybersecurity, and defence industrial capacity are no longer optional. Credibility among allies matters in an increasingly dangerous world.

Second, Canada must address its internal economic fragmentation. Provincial trade barriers weaken competitiveness and productivity. A truly integrated Canadian economy would strengthen national resilience at a time of rising global uncertainty.

Third, infrastructure development must become a strategic national mission. Energy systems, transportation corridors, housing construction, telecommunications, and digital infrastructure are all interconnected components of economic sovereignty. Countries that fail to modernize will gradually lose investment and talent.

Fourth, education and workforce development must adapt rapidly to technological transformation. Future competitiveness will depend not only on resources, but on the ability to train highly skilled workers capable of operating in advanced technological sectors.

But beyond economics and policy lies something equally important: civic responsibility. Democratic societies cannot function effectively without a shared sense of purpose. One of the greatest dangers facing modern democracies is the gradual erosion of trust—in institutions, expertise, and sometimes even in one another.

History reminds us that nations endure difficult periods not simply because of government programs, but because citizens themselves maintain confidence in the larger national project. Canada has faced moments of uncertainty before. During the world wars, the Great Depression, the Cold War, and more recently the COVID-19 pandemic, Canadians demonstrated resilience, adaptability, and a willingness to work toward common objectives despite political differences.

That spirit remains essential today.

The world we live in now does not permit complacency.

It requires leadership capable of thinking strategically rather than electorally.

It requires institutions prepared to modernize rather than simply preserve outdated systems.

And it requires citizens willing to engage seriously with the challenges of our time instead of retreating into cynicism or division. This is not an era that rewards passivity.

It is an era that demands competence, resilience, and national purpose.

How do you think we can achieve that? And what can we as individuals do to help?