

OPINION
& EDITORIALS



The CENTRAL NEWSPAPER

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The Liberal’s budget continues to increase spending...

This newspaper wholeheartedly condemns the decision by Mark Carney’s Liberals to exponentially increase spending in their recently released federal budget. The debt continues to spiral out of control because spending continues to go through the roof in all its aspects. The Trudeau-Carney Liberals needs to re-think their ideology and actually start to get debt and spending under control - because every dollar Canadians pay in federal sales tax is already going to pay interest charges. At this stage, they’re not even close to balancing anything by continuing to borrow tens of billions of dollars every year. We’re a nation that lives day-to-day on borrowed money, and that’s not sustainable. Proof of that is the federal deficit that will increase significantly this year to \$78.3 billion. There’s no plan whatsoever to balance the budget and to stop borrowing money. The federal debt will reach \$1.35 trillion by the end of this year, and that’s a dangerous way to run a country. As well, debt interest charges will cost all of us a collective \$55.6 billion this year, which is more than the federal government will send to the provinces in health transfers (\$54.7 billion) or collect through the GST (\$54.4 billion). Budget 2025 increases spending by \$38 billion this year to a whopping \$581 billion. Despite promises to control spending in future years, Budget 2025 projects that it will continue to rise by billions every year. Regardless of what you’ll hear about “investing” in our future, Canada needs real spending cuts now. Incredibly, the budget commits to “strengthening” the industrial carbon tax and “setting a multi-decade industrial carbon price trajectory that targets net zero by 2050. All that will do is make it harder for Canadian businesses to compete, and it will certainly push Canadian entrepreneurs to set up shop south of the border. This newspaper believes it is time for the Trudeau-Carney Liberals to finally scrap all carbon taxes and end their voracious spending habit.

An act of betrayal against voters in Nova Scotia...

Nova Scotia MP Chris d’Entremont’s recent decision to cross the floor from the Conservative Party over to the Trudeau-Carney Liberals was a clear act of betrayal and a matter that should not be allowed to rest. Members of the Conservative caucus and the constituents in Acadie--Annapolis have every right to express extreme disappointment. Sources suggest the move stemmed from d’Entremont’s personal grievances with party leadership over the selection of the Deputy Speaker. He obviously felt that issue took precedence over the commitment he owes to his constituents and those who actually sent him to Ottawa in the first place. The move can clearly be seen as careerist in nature, and an affront to our democratic process. It’s no secret that Chris d’Entremont barely won his riding, having beat his Liberal opponent by only 533 votes out of a total of just over 48,000 votes cast. That would explain his less than sincere remarks as he tried to defend his decision by stating it was time to “lead a country, to try to make it better and not try to knock it down” and citing the Liberal government’s 2025 federal budget as somehow aligning with his constituents’ priorities. He also cited disagreements with Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre’s approach to politics, which is hardly credible considering he just betrayed almost 50% of those in his riding who cast their vote in support. Alex Marland, a Canadian politics professor at Acadia University in Wolfville, N.S., said d’Entremont’s move was surprising, given the timing, as it was announced at the same time as the federal budget. He suggested that crossing the floor normally sees a Member of Parliament choosing to sit as an Independent to express their discontent while still being able to vote with the government. Chris d’Entremont’s decision to cross the floor to the Liberals shows his motivation as entirely vindictive towards Conservative party leadership. Truly a sad moment in Canadian political history.


Mayor Carter’s proposed 2026 budget hits taxpayers again...

Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter presented his proposed 2026 budget to Council on October 31, a document that offers up a 4.68 per cent net property tax increase. This is on top of last year’s budget that already burdened Oshawa taxpayers with a whopping 7.8 per cent rise, a trend this newspaper sees as entirely unsustainable. A quick look at Mayor Carter’s overall spending proposals for next fiscal year reveals an increase of well over \$34-million since 2023. One Oshawa Council member told his constituents on social media that, “Due to (the) potential tax increase, the light at the end of the tunnel has been turned off.” To make matters worse, the Region of Durham has set its own targeted rate hike of 6.5 per cent, with some elected officials suggesting it may end up even higher. The Region will also be adopting a rate increase for water and sewer charges, which are expected to be at a similar level. While some members of Oshawa Council may be hopeful of encouraging the Mayor to somehow come to terms with reality and lower his projected increase, that prospect seems highly unlikely. At last month’s Special Council meeting - during which the proposed budget was presented - Mayor Carter left no doubt as to his views on any potential amendments, telling councillors, “On Friday November 28th, Council will have the opportunity to put forward amendments to the budget... I would caution that any reduction to the budget will have a direct impact on service levels, and any addition to the budget will result in an increase to the tax rate.” In other words, the Mayor has made his decisions and tough luck to anyone who fails to accept them as written. Dan Carter is on record as saying he has “fully embraced” the Strong Mayor Powers bestowed upon him by Doug Ford’s provincial government, and it certainly shows. As it happens, there is a Special Council meeting scheduled for Friday, November 14, at 9:30am to hear directly from the public on the Mayor’s 2026 Budget. We encourage residents to attend should they want their voices heard. Let Mayor Carter know that, regardless of his desire to push through his own fiscal agenda, we do still live in a democracy, and that all voices matter.

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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History In The Making



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Letters To The Editor:

WHAT IS ON YOUR MIND? Send letters to newspaper@ocentral.com
Dear Editor:

I am writing to formally demand urgent and decisive action regarding repeated reports of animal abuse involving a dog named Shadow, currently residing at 1050 Simcoe Street South, Unit 42, Oshawa, Ontario, under the care of individuals Kyle and Andrew Lyman. It has come to my attention that multiple reports have been made regarding the mistreatment and abuse of Shadow, yet no effective intervention appears to have occurred to date. This lack of action is deeply troubling. Despite the absence of video footage, consistent reports from witnesses and concerned community members strongly indicate a pattern of abuse that warrants a thorough and immediate investigation. Excuses referencing the alleged behavioral issues of the individuals involved—regardless of any medical or developmental conditions—must not be used to justify or excuse acts of cruelty toward an animal. Under the Ontario Animal Welfare Services Act, 2019 (OAWSA), it is a legal and moral obligation of the authorities to investigate and act upon credible allegations of animal abuse. The OAWSA explicitly prohibits causing or permitting distress to an animal and includes provisions for intervention where there is reasonable cause to suspect that an animal is in distress or at risk. These legal protections apply regardless of who the perpetrator is. Furthermore, under Section 15 of the Act, inspectors and police officers are authorized and required to take necessary actions, including entering a premises, seizing animals in distress, and laying charges where appropriate. Failure to enforce these laws represents a failure of duty on the part of law enforcement and animal protection services. I respectfully, but firmly, urge the Durham Regional Police Service to: Reopen and fully investigate the reports of abuse involving Shadow the dog; Coordinate with Ontario Animal Welfare Services to conduct a welfare check and ensure the safety of the animal; Hold the responsible individuals accountable in accordance with OAWSA and the Criminal Code of Canada, Section 445.1, which further criminalizes willful animal cruelty. It is wholly unacceptable for a vulnerable animal to remain in a dangerous environment due to inaction or misinterpretation of the law. This is not merely a community concern—it is a legal and ethical failure that must be addressed immediately. Please confirm receipt of this email and inform me of the actions your department intends to take.

Sincerely, Dina Halabi

Dear Editor:

I am writing this letter as it has been recommended to me to do so to best support and advocate for my mother who currently resides at Fairview Lodge Long Term Care in the Cullen Gardens wing.

On August 27th, 2025, a Family information night [meeting] occurred to share information about the upcoming changes to the Cullen Garden wing where it will become a lockdown wing for residents who may be a flight risk and/or are prone to be aggressive at times. We were told that the current residents in Cullen Gardens [about thirty residents] would be relocated to another wing/floor. My mother has been living in the Cullen garden wing for almost three years and now she is being asked to move from her room she now call shome. She will be taken away from the Nurses and Personal service workers [PSW] as well as the kitchen staff that know her and her needs and that she has a relationship with. My mother, along with many of the other residents and their families have also shared with me that they do not want to leave their home in Cullen Gardens. Some of these residents have resided there for more than three years.

What about my mother’s rights and the rights of the other residents? They were basically told that they have no choice but to move out or remain in Cullen Gardens where their health and safety could be in serious jeopardy if they stay. How fair is that? Where are their rights? This is not the first time that mine and other families have had to fight for our mother’s/father’s rights to protect their wellbeing. A resident that was previously from the current lockdown wing, was transferred to Cullen Gardens unit into the shared room with my mom, in 2023. This resident became progressively aggressive, hitting and swearing/yelling at other residents as well as my mom and staff. By early 2024, several complaints were presented to management staff at Fairview Lodge but nothing changed. It wasn’t finally addressed until Seniors Abuse Line/Services was contacted in October 2024.

This resulted in a Senior Abuse agent coming to Fairview lodge to observe the situation. Fairview Lodge received 2 infractions. Soon after, the resident was finally placed back into the lockdown wing. My mother along with many of the other residents began to feel safe again until recently...

Residents from the lockdown wing have already begun to be transferred to Cullen Gardens. I have observed some of them to quickly become agitated and verbally aggressive to those around them and at least one of them is receiving some one on one supervision. More are to be arriving soon and my mother, along with many of the other residents that are in Cullen Gardens are beginning to no longer feel safe. Many families are concerned for their parents' safety. My mother is wheel chair bound. She is legally blind and is hearing impaired. Iam very concerned for her safety and I feel that she is not being heard. My mother is not an aggressive or demanding resident. She does not want to leave a place that she feels safe, respected and heard in. It appears that she, along with all the other residents that are living in the Cullen Gardens wing, are not heard. They are being pushed aside and punished for wanting to live out the rest of their life the way we all want to live, being given a choice to live where they currently are, in a safe, respected and loved environment.

This concern has been made known to other community agencies as you do not appear to care to hear the voices of the residents, their families and the frontline staff.

Sincerely,
Marianne Johnson

Dear Editor:

So proud of our grandson, Griffin Taylor, age 15, in Grade 9 at Bowmanville High School who came 3rd in the Ontario Provincial Speed Climbing finals (Youth B Male category) held recently in Kingston ON. He is off to BC in January I 2026 to compete in the Nationals. He is on the right in the attached picture. Also shown is the rock wall they climbed.

John Crosbie

