

ORONO Weekly Times

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Publisher/Editor Margaret Zwart

The Orono Weekly Times welcomes letters to the editor on subjects of interest to our readers. Opinions expressed to the editor and articles are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Orono Weekly Times. Letters must be signed and contain the address and phone number of the writer. Any letter considered unsuitable will not be acknowledged or returned. We reserve the right to edit for length, libel and slander. If your retail or classified ad appears for the first time, please check carefully. Notice of an error must be given before the next issue goes to print. The Orono Weekly Times will not be responsible for the loss or damage of such items.

The buck stops here

The municipal grant pot has truly dried up and councillors have decided not to open the flood gates by finding extra funds to meet the late grant requests.

In previous years money was left in the pot so requests for funding arriving throughout the year could be dealt with, but this year was different. At the end of the day, councillors had divvied up the \$76,000 pot (\$1 per capita), responding to applications made by the community's volunteer organizations. The mayor said at Monday night's council meeting, "I remember three times mentioning to members of council, 'if you spend the money I'm going to be the guy who said, I told you so'."

He got his chance to say "I told you so," on Monday night when councillors felt they had no choice but to deny two requests for funding. These requests, one from the Massey Show Committee, the other from the Terry Fox Run Committee, were not for a cash hand-out, but rather that council waive the rental fee for municipal property.

The rental fee for the Garnet Rickard Centre is \$820 and the fee for the two day rental of the Newcastle ball diamond is \$190.

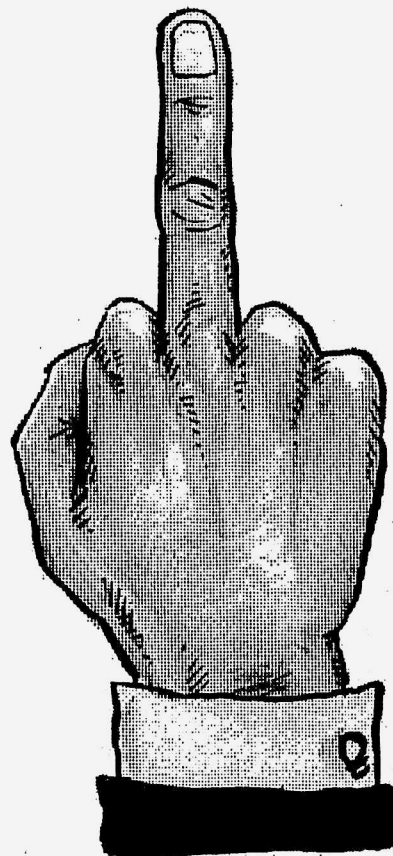
While the Massey Show is more of an exhibition, the Terry Fox Run is definitely a fundraising event. The \$820 the committee have to spend on renting the hall is money that they have to raise, which in turn will be paid to the municipality rather than go towards cancer research.

To date this municipality has spent almost \$38,000, flying the mayor and a staff member to Russia twice and France once, for ITER business, when they aren't even part of the negotiation process. That money might well have been better spent at home, supporting the work of the community volunteers which councillors are quick to point out, are the life blood of the municipality.

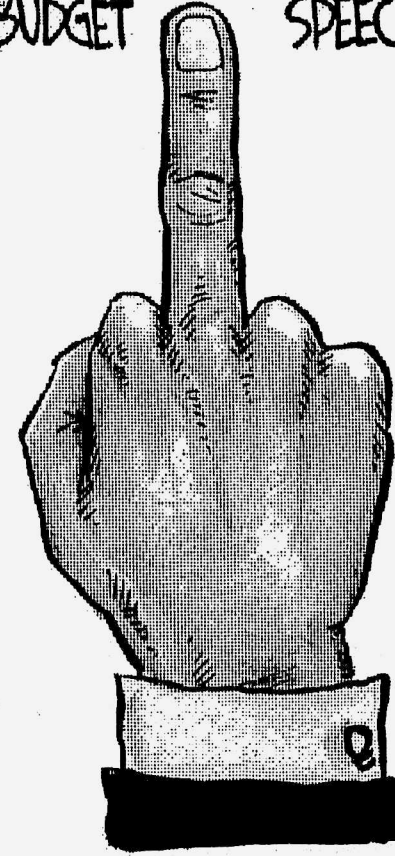
Councillors acknowledge there are problems with the municipal grant process and are taking a second look at how better to handle the cash grants they allocate each year.

It is well within council's power to give the municipal grant fund a one-time cash infusion of a couple of thousand dollars, to be allocated at their discretion to the many worthwhile grant requests they will receive for the remainder of the year.

EVES TO PARLIAMENT ON THE
BUDGET SPEECH

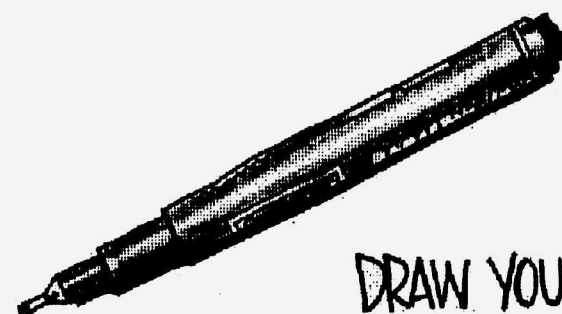


TORY MPP O'TOOLE TO NDP
HOUSE LEADER DURING DEBATE
OVER BUDGET SPEECH



...ONTARIO VOTERS TO TORIES
ON RE-ELECTION

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CONCLUSIONS

Letters to the Editor

Dogs in detention...

Dear Editor:

Re: "Mr. Dez Farkas of Moffat Road Newcastle will have to keep two of his ten akita/collie/shepherd cross dogs in an enclosed pen to prevent them from leaving their property and coming in contact with people and other animals" -- Dogs in detention (May 7, 2003).

Your article gave the impression Mrs. Zegers is the only one bothered by some cute puppies. In fact, many of her neighbours are just as upset as she is that Mr. Farkas has been allowed to flout the bylaws of this municipality. He has inconvenienced his neighbours, caused them to lose sheep, unnerved their livestock, not to mention what the constant noise of ten howling dogs chained in a bush lot have done to the movement patterns of

wildlife in the area.

Where is the hardship in being told your dogs may not run at large? I am unaware of anyone who is exempt from the bylaws of this municipality -- unless of course, Mr. Farkas is. Dogs are not allowed to harass domestic animals. This is a bylaw harkening back to the early 19th century and still stands. The definition of harassment of livestock by a dog can, but does not have to include biting. I do not recall Mrs. Zegers ever claiming the dogs were biting her horse, just harassing it.

As to the "puppies" themselves, "akita/collie/shepherd cross dogs:

Collie - a dog bred originally to herd domestic animals. Unfortunately, as a breed, it is noted for being unpredictable in terms of its

conduct and temperament when not around its master.

Shepherd - a highly intelligent dog bred originally to herd domestic animals. In the past sixty years or so, as a breed, its guard/attack dog capabilities have been intensified and thus, like the collie, when not in the presence of its master, can be unpredictable.

Akita - a dog bred in Korea for the purpose of hunting, attacking and killing bears. That's right, bears. They are very single minded and definitely one person dogs. They are also noted for very loud non-stop barking and howling when not in the presence of their master.

To my mind, crossing a bear killing, one-handler only dog with the intelligence of a Shepherd and the unpredictable temperament of a collie is asking for trouble.

Although Mr. Farkas'

"puppies" while in his presence may be friendly and manageable, I know from experience that when he is not around them, his ten "puppies" were definitely not cuddly, friendly, quiet animals. His dogs, by their breeding alone, may have a strong herding instinct, but from the Akita they also have a strong hunting/killing instinct and in this municipality, as indeed in many others, hunting dogs may be run off a leash only when accompanied by a handler. The owner must also have a special license and may not run the dogs at large at any time.

However, Mr. Farkas and his dogs are not the real issue here. The issue is why this municipality seemingly picks and chooses who must obey its own bylaws.

Leslie & Brian Wilson
Conc. Rd 4, Orono

"A fine column"

Reply to Alex Shepherd
Orono Times
May 7, 2003

Alex,

A fine column based on research and on "A bird in the hand is worth two of Bush" These Texas cowboys have wrangled, wheeled and dealt in the past, present and will in the future.

A complete article. You could follow with an action on ITER. The pipeline to your boss is through you. Let's secure this project for your riding OK?

Rolfe Wakefield
Orono