



## Viewpoint

by Alex Shepherd, MP Durham

### Crown corporations

Canada has a glut of crown corporations.

From the Small Business Development Bank, Via Rail, Canada Post, Central Mortgage and Housing to the Export Development Bank. The list could go on forever.

The appointment process to the boards of directors of these corporations, over the years, has been used as a plum to reward loyal political cronies, or to remove baggage standing in the way of others more favoured.

While some of us question the logic of crown corporations, i.e. why can't this be left to the private sector, the reality is their boards are dominated by people not necessarily chosen for their ability but rather for purely political purposes.

For large corporations, with significant resources at their disposal, the boards of directors and chief executive officers have huge responsibilities which require knowledge and training.

I have been flabbergasted over the years to discover that total mismatches occur between an appointee's ability and the requirements to do the job.

The bottom line is that we desperately need to change the way we govern. This means new ideas that reflect the sensitivities of the general public.

Crown corporation appointments should be vetted through the House of Commons committees. This would improve visibility and allow the opposition parties, together with the governing party, to ask questions of the competence of appointees. Of course coupled with this would be the power of rejection.

There should also be commitment to the crown corporation. In other words, it would be nice to see remuneration based on performance levels.

Some are suggesting there is a need to go even further and wrestle the appointment process out of the Prime Minister's office.

After all, we vote for a particular politician hoping he or she will be part of a government. I don't think we allowed our vote to extend to the point where we give governments the right to appoint their friends and companions to positions of authority.

Some suggest this will impair the functioning of the political process. But how about an interim maneuver that would ensure the appointment process would have to go before a committee of the

House and an independent tribunal as well?

The tribunal could be composed of people selected from outside sources, such as unions, the Law Society and Chambers of Commerce, who would focus on an appointee's ability to do the job.

This is the element that is missing. And because that element is missing Canadians

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## Council supports 407 completion

Clarington Council endorsed a Regional resolution Monday, requesting the Province complete the proposed Highway 407 to Highway 115/35.

The Region of Durham resolution passed by that council on February 11, requests the province 'proceed expeditiously' with, among other 400 series highway improvements, the extension of Highway 407 to Highway 115/35.

While the Region of Durham had always been supportive of completing the proposed Highway 407 to the

115/35, Clarington council was not.

Clarington council has taken the position that they would prefer Taunton Road be widened through Clarington east of the Courtice link, as an alternative to constructing Highway 407, in an effort to preserve Clarington's agricultural lands.

Council has changed their position says Mayor Mutton now that they have heard from the Clarington Agricultural Advisory Committee who would like the Highway built to the 115/35 as soon as possible.

The preferred route for the proposed highway yet to be completed, east of Brock Road in Pickering, is undergoing an Environmental Assessment (EA) process.

The EA will determine the best route for the new 400 series highway from Brock Road to the Highway 401 Courtice Link in the Holt Road area. For the final segment, from the Courtice link the eastward to the 115/35, the study will be revisiting the need for the 407 freeway at all.

According to Linda Gasser, 407 continued page 9

# MARCH BREAK MADNESS

## AT DARLINGTON NUCLEAR

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING FUN TO DO WITH YOUR FAMILY DURING MARCH BREAK?

Join Darlington Nuclear for great family fun. There is something for every child! Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Signs of Spring

MON., MAR. 15 9:30 A.M. - 2:30 P.M.  
Darlington Waterfront Trail **FREE**

Dress warmly. Explore the trails looking for signs of spring. Nature activities with Friends of Second Marsh. Horse-drawn wagon rides. Yummy treats around the campfire.

ABORIGINAL LEGENDS with Chief Topleaf

TUES., MAR. 16 9:30 A.M., 11:00 A.M. & 1:30 P.M.  
Darlington Information Centre **FREE**

Gather 'round and learn about aboriginal life through stories and legends. Limited seating, first come first served.

MOVIE

WED., MAR. 17 10:00 A.M. & 1:00 P.M.  
Darlington Information Centre **FREE**

10:00 A.M. Finding Nemo  
1:00 P.M. Spy Kids 3: Game Over  
Limited seating, first come, first served.

skating party

THURS., MAR. 18 9:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.  
Orono Arena **FREE**

Put on your blades and helmets and hit the ice for three hours of fun, friends and great skating!

MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL

FRI., MAR. 19 9:30 A.M. - 2:30 P.M.  
Purple Woods Maple Syrup Festival **FREE**

A fun day of crafts with Friends of Second Marsh, and baked beans around a campfire with Pickering Museum at the Purple Woods Maple Syrup Festival! Note: \$5 family admission fee to Purple Woods. All OPG activities are **FREE**.



For more information on our March Break programs, as well as other Darlington Nuclear Information Centre events, please call 1-800-461-0034 or e-mail [darlingtonnuclear@opg.com](mailto:darlingtonnuclear@opg.com).

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