

ORONO Weekly Times

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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.

Room for improvement

We had the pleasure last week Friday afternoon to attend the Ontario Community Newspaper Association's annual convention. While the annual convention always brings with it the opportunity to connect with our peers, we faced this year's convention with mixed trepidation.

When the call went out early in the new year for member newspapers to submit copies for a critique session by newspaper design guru Tony Sutton, we respectfully declined. When the call was re-issued a month later we decided they had a shortage of willing participants, so we succumbed. Of the ten papers critiqued in Friday afternoon's seminar, we were by far the smallest, but by no means were we the worst. In fact, when all was said and done, we didn't come off too badly at all. Our headlines can always be more imaginative, lead lines can be more enticing, and we can make the paper more reader friendly.

We of course sent in two of our best editions for critique, none of those with glaring errors and the stories that didn't continue where they were supposed to. It was not all good though. Mr. Sutton said our name plate was 'really ugly'. The town hall image was too small and the price and dateline too big. Another thing we learned was the readers don't like drastic changes.

We do of course strive to put out a good paper every week, but on the heels of the annual convention, we are more inspired than usual.

We will be making small changes in our design over the next few weeks, which we hope will be subtle enough not to be disruptive, and as always we value input from our readers.

Letters to the Editor

"The money has nothing to do with it"

I would like to add my letter of disgust to the many letters that have been sent to the "Editor." Our political leaders must hear the message that the taxpayers will not stand for this out-and-out display of greed when they raised wages at Regional Council. Our Clarington Mayor with Councillor Schell voted to increase their wages by \$13,000. To Councillor Trim's credit, he voted against it [Regional wage increase].

These same two politicians with the help of the Mayor's campaign manager/relative voted themselves a 10% raise at the first meeting of the new board at Veridian. When you are elected to local political office, besides sitting on council, you can be appointed to other boards such as Regional Planning, Public Works, etc. The stipend received for this plus the increases they vote themselves makes being a local politician lucrative and rewarding.

There must be a number of

people out there wondering, "How can I become part of this?" This system works for some—not all.

You have to be elected. Then you must pick the right opportunity to vote yourself that large increase, this takes years of experience. You will become more proficient at it during your second or third term. Then try saying "OINK OINK" and cut a ribbon at the same time, "EUREKA" you have arrived.

An asset to speed up your income progress is to have "POINTY" elbows, this gives you more space at the public trough.

Throughout your terms in office keep repeating to whoever cares to listen—that you are accountable only to the constituents/taxpayers and have their interests at heart.

The money has nothing to do with it.

Yours truly,
George Van Dyk
Bowmanville

OUT WITH
THE OLD...



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As I see it... by Peter Jaworski

Spontaneous order

So why is it that centrally planned institutions do really poorly relative to ones that allow a significant amount of individual decision-making? Part of this reason is because knowledge is dispersed, and no group of experts could possibly know as much as is needed. Like how to make a pencil, for instance.

There is, however, at least one other significant reason why decentralized institutions do so well—spontaneous order.

The notion of spontaneous order is at the heart of a robust and sensible approach to market economics. That some kind of overall order can be the outcome, or result, of non-coordinated individual behaviour. That is, without central direction or control, we can have a fully functioning, ordered outcome.

The father of economics - Adam Smith - referred to it in his 'The Wealth of Nations' as the invisible hand. According

to Smith, each of us pursuing our own prudential interests results in the advancement of the general interest. That is, we are lead by something like an invisible hand to advance each others interests without actually looking to do so.

According to him, "It is not from the benevolence of the butcher, the brewer, or the baker that we expect our dinner, but from their regard for their own interest." The butcher is working to make money so that he can buy things he wants, he isn't doing his job so that you and I can get something to eat. Similarly, neither does the baker bake for our pleasure, but because it is what helps him get the things he wants. And yet the consequence of their individual behaviour is the promotion of the general interest—we all benefit from their self-regarding behaviour.

An overall order, without it being designed that way. It just, well, happened.

Part of this insight is a consequence of a recognition of our general ignorance. There are a host of things that we simply cannot hope to understand, organize, or design. The price function of the market is a good example of this. So, too, however, is the notion of us conceiving of things like 'civilization' taken as a whole or, more commonly, systems like language, currency, or institutions like the family.

We did not design language, we, each of us, made decisions about using words like "cat" to describe that there thing on the mat. Through socially emergent process, people in English-speaking countries remarkably agree on this convention. But it could have been otherwise. In France, for instance, the thing on the mat is a "chat," and not a "cat."

Similarly, we did not design currency—but it sprung up, and became popular

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