

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Out-of-country health insurance a necessity

My wife and I traveled to the Orlando area from Jan. 29 to Feb. 27 at an insurance cost of \$680. My wife had contracted a stomach "bug" and was about to consult a doctor when she became very ill. I called her insurer to place a 911 call and was authorized without question. In less than five minutes we had an ambulance, two fire and rescue trucks and the local sheriff, seven competent professionals. It was quickly determined that it was necessary for her to go to emergency. An hour later I was in private consultation with her emergency doctor. I called the insurer and told them she had to stay the night, which they approved. The next afternoon, she was back to her old self and was released 22 hours after she was admitted. The verdict was a bacterial infection of the digestive system. She was given an antibiotic prescription at a cost of \$33.95 US, which the insurer will reimburse.

I am writing this letter in the hope that I might save some people a lot of heartache and money. We received a courtesy copy of the hospital bill to the insurance company. It was for \$16,790.10 US plus ambulance, emergency personnel and doctors. It included such items as Post ICU \$1,806, EEG \$3,210.50, CT scan \$1,844.75, emergency room \$2,117.45, lab/chemistry \$4,028.40.

I know of various people who attending sporting events or go shopping (in the U.S.) without a thought as to the consequences. We heard of a gentleman who had a minor heart attack and had to have a triple by-pass (5 days, no insurance, cost \$140,000 US). I learned that a number of corporate travel insurance policies do not cover all costs.

It's a zoo in the good old U.S.A. So be forewarned.
Wilson (Will) Gardiner
Essex

New approach to civility in politics

Last May 5-7, the Civitas Society held its annual meeting in Ottawa. This group is an ultra right wing organization, closely allied with the Reform/Alliance factions in the Conservative Party and dedicated to creating a different Canada – small government, and a market economy under corporate control, with privatization the order of the day. All at the expense of our social democracy and our universal social programs, at least the ones we have left. There were many "high level" figures present, including Stephen Harper and his chief advisor, Tom Flanagan – also many other prominent members of his right wing government, like Baird, Flaherty and other caucus members. The keynote speaker was the infamous U.S. Republican campaign specialist Frank Luntz, an advisor to the likes of George Bush and Preston Manning, and who is known, along with Karl Rove, as the undisputed masters of right wing propaganda.

Luntz had a private meeting with Harper, and then spoke to the conservative

assemblage on strategies leading up to the next election – in effect preaching the tactics of negative imaging, the use of repetitive negative code words, innuendo etc. The negativity didn't have to be true; it just had to infer supposed truths. Many of the Conservative statements and ads that appeared in the ensuing months were almost carbon copies of Republican ads dealing with the same issues.

To illustrate, Harper's team actually announced they were going to air attack ads designed to demean Stéphane Dion; they then followed this by saying the ads were working and they were going to step them up in Quebec. They might as well have said, "You people are so gullible, we are going to manipulate your thinking and influence your opinion with a series of negative American style ads."

What is spewing forth from Harper's "team" far surpasses the bounds of civility, and in fact is doing great damage to Canada. To accomplish his goals, he is quite prepared to polarize the country, to create divisions and factions, all for short-term political benefit, in a

strategic attempt to achieve his majority. He is surely practising a different kind of politics, at least as far as Canadians are concerned – the Politics of Deceit.

John Garinger
Essex

County's endorsement of Bridge Enhancement Plan misinformed

The decision makers at County Council have shown themselves for the misinformed dolts they are. What's the excuse this time? Was it gullibility or political naiveté?

County Council's lack of knowledge when it comes to the border file, and the P.R. campaign of the Ambassador Bridge Company must have been a dream-come-true for bridge executives. The result of endorsing the Bridge Enhancement Plan comes with a cost, least of which is the annual billion dollar price tag the county will now fork out in health care costs for allowing this American corporation to pollute unimpeded.

There's the destruction of houses and heritage that hang in the balance, and the forced removal of 17,000 people from their Sandwich Towne homes.

The Council has shown themselves to be un-Canadian as well, in the face of American crony-ism. Was it not revealed that the bridge corporation's intention is to create an independent, corporate nation-state on Canadian soil? It will siphon off some of the \$500 billion in trade that flows through the Windsor-Detroit corridor each year. It's called embassy status. Separate. Immune from prosecution. Canadian law will no longer apply.

County consumers will have the added bonus of paying higher freight costs and tolls once the steel clamps of this border monopoly are realized. Diverting the tunnel traffic back to the planned, 200-booth plaza under the Ambassador Bridge is insanity in the extreme.

County Council got sucked in and stabbed us all in the back. What were you people thinking? You've made the lives of 17,000 people a lot more miserable. My citizenship is not for sale.

(Sigh) ... and people wonder why civic trust is at an all time low? An ill-informed public is a public at risk.

Terrence Kennedy
Windsor

Jobs worth fighting for!

While some areas of Southwestern Ontario appear to be having an influx of manufacturing jobs, the facts still speak for themselves. According to the Ontario Federation of Labour, the loss of over 250,000 jobs from the manufacturing sector across Canada has devastated many communities, especially here in Ontario where we have suffered over 50 per cent of these casualties.

Hospitals, schools, roads and infrastructure, garbage and sewage removal, fresh water supply, all depend on the efficient use of tax dollars. How has, or would the tax base in your community be affected by any loss to the manufacturing sector?

By recognizing how dependent Ontario's and therefore Canada's economy has become on a strong and vibrant manufacturing sector, we must call on all levels of politicians, including municipal, to put in place strong policies and agendas to stop the erosion of these good and well paying jobs.

Brad Brereton
I.A.M., District 184 DBR
St. Thomas, Ont.

**CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF KINGSVILLE
PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

Request for Proposal

The Town of Kingsville will accept proposals to operate the outdoor concession stand located at the Kingsville Recreation Complex for the 2007 summer season. Proposals will be accepted from service clubs, organized groups and the general public, by April 30th at 12:00 noon.

Send your request to:

Town of Kingsville
2021 Division Rd. North
Kingsville, Ontario
N9Y 2Y9

Clearly marked: Concession Stand Proposal c/o Dan Wood

**CORPORATION OF THE COUNTY OF ESSEX
NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF ACCESSIBILITY PLAN**

The Corporation of the County of Essex is committed to ensuring that the facilities, services and programs provided by the Corporation are available to all residents including people with disabilities. Essex County Council adopted the 2007 Accessibility Plan for the Corporation of the County of Essex on April 4th, 2007.

Copies of the Accessibility Plan are available at the Administration Office, Suite 202, Essex Civic Centre, 360 Fairview Avenue W., Essex between 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., at any branch of the Essex County Library or on the County of Essex website at www.countyofessex.on.ca. The Plan is available in alternate formats upon request.

Mary S. Brennan
Director of Council Services/Clerk
County of Essex
Telephone: (519) 776-6441 Ext. 335
Fax: (519) 776-4455
mbrennan@countyofessex.on.ca



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