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## EDITORIAL

# Ups and downs

Thumbs-up to the Earlton Regional Airport, which seems to be on firm ground.

The airport recently reported earning a small surplus by year-end in February.

Airport Authority chair Jeff Laferriere told The Speaker that private plane usage has increased about 30 per cent since the pandemic and air ambulance use has remained about the same.

Even if you're not a frequent flyer, or a private plane owner, there's still a lot of value in the airport for all residents because of its air ambulance capabilities and its use as a centre from which to fight forest fires.

The municipalities in the area that support the airport deserve credit for their foresight.

As the chair said, "we're really dependent on their support and really looking forward to continue to provide service to our communities."

Thumbs-down to the never-ending campaign for prime minister that now permeates Canada.

The Speaker receives several emails every day from the Conservative Party where they tout their "common sense" is needed to counteract the innumerable offenses of the Justin Trudeau Liberals.

The latest on Tuesday says Trudeau is the reason there are more car thefts in Canada, which they say is now "a candy store for car thieves."

The Liberals counter-program with re-

leases about their own accomplishments and occasional broadsides against the Conservatives.

The Americans are always on an election cycle at some level. The presidential race ends one day in November and resumes the next.

We don't need that here in our country. The next federal election is scheduled for October 2025. Let's give it a rest for a few more months at least.

Thumbs-up to spring. It officially arrived on March 19 with below zero temperatures and a bit of snow.

After a relatively mild winter the transition to spring is less jarring than normal, but still welcome by virtually all.

# Time and work ... and dogs

Maybe it's the weather, or maybe it's just flipping through the 2024 calendar at an alarming pace.

But time has been on my mind, if not my side, of late.

I've been sending more sympathy cards than birthday greetings. When I call distant friends to catch up, I'm more likely to ask about their health than their work.

And we all talk about retirement. (My cousin chuckles every time he asks me, "What's your magic number?") That pie-in-the-sky unicorn sum promises good health and good fun in life after work.)

So it's been refreshing to talk to some younger folks who are pondering their first steps into the

workforce.

They're excited as they contemplate working in the field of their choice, maybe earning a little from a passion project on the side, or starting their own business.

I've had the opportunity to talk to people in mid-career, who are looking forward to their next projects.

That's one of the pluses of my job. I get to talk to people - of all ages, at school, in the workforce, retired - about the work and the interests that get their blood pumping.

Their enthusiasm and energy are infectious.

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On a completely unrelated note,

but something that gets my blood roiling, is the return of a seasonal gripe.

As the snow disappears, it's really fecally apparent that downtown New Liskeard is popular with the owners of dogs - big dogs.

I don't blame the dogs. A dog's gotta do what a dog's gotta do. But their owners?

Google "DNA dog waste," and 12.5 million results pop up.

It seems a growing number of communities around the world are cracking down on irresponsible pet owners by requiring them to have their dogs' DNA sampled and registered. Abandoned piles of poop can be tested, and their



owners identified and fined.

I don't know if the approach is successful.

But I can already imagine the protests from the faction that bleats about government interference in their right to privacy and freedom - and by extension, their dogs' rights.

And what a costly, bureaucratic solution this would be to a problem created by a handful of, to quote my old high school vice-principal, "social hazards."

It's ridiculous. But the next time I have to scrape a smelly mess off my shoe, I may reconsider.

# WEB POLL

Visit our website at [speaker.northernontario.ca](http://speaker.northernontario.ca) to vote.

**After last week's shelter-in-place warning in south Temiskaming, has your sense of your personal safety changed?**

1. Yes. I'm more concerned about my own safety and the security of my home. **50%**

2. No. I hope it was a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence, and I feel just as safe as before. **50%**

*The results of this poll are in no way considered to be valid or infallible.*

### NEXT WEEK'S QUESTION

**Spring officially arrived this week. What's your favourite part about this season?**

- It's not winter.
- It's getting warmer but still no bugs.
- Seeing the trees bud, the grass turn green and the birds return.
- I'm not putting away my snow shovel yet.