

OPINION

Support seniors, build an economy for everyone

NICK SEEBRUCH
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This past week, Money Sense named Cornwall one of the top ten places to retire in Canada. Cornwall is a quality living space and is deserving of receiving recognition along side other towns like Burlington, Oakville and Ottawa.

We have very affordable housing and our residential tax rate is right in line with other cities on that list at around 2.4 percent.

The best way to build on this reputation is not to suddenly make it our brand. We should not become only a retirement community. Being only a retirement community will not benefit the City of Cornwall and especially not our seniors.

The best way to build off of this recognition is to build an economy with plenty of jobs for everyone.

In the most recent budget process, Councillor Andre Rivette reminded his colleagues time and time again that we cannot build a budget on the backs of seniors on fixed incomes. I agree with Councillor Rivette on this.

Like I said, Cornwall is a great place for seniors to come and retire, but Cornwall will have to spend more to provide adequate services for those seniors coming to live here.

Those senior services should not be financed off the backs of seniors who have earned their retirement and have earned their fixed incomes.

What is the solution? Innovation and economic development. Cornwall should not be known only as a retirement community. It should be known as a retirement community, a hub for innovation and a region with a growing economy.

Clearly, we are already attractive to seniors, so now we need to make Cornwall attractive to families and young people. Our seniors deserve well-funded support services and programs and seeing as how they have done a lifetime of work already, those services should not be built on their tax dollars alone.

Things like free Wi-Fi in our downtown cores would be a boon for business and would grow the economy. Free Wi-Fi promotes education, literacy and tourism.

Speaking of tourism, I was recently out in the



Bruce Peninsula and it was great to see all of the different restaurants, stores and tourism features that we dog friendly. This is a measure that anyone who wants to sit on Cornwall's Waterfront Committee should consider to grow

our tourism sector and promote economic development. After all, seniors love dogs too.

**What do you think readers?
Email me your Letter to the Editor at
nicholas.seebruch@tc.tc**

LETTER TO EDITOR

The importance of political rhetoric

Dear Editor and neighbours,
The reason for my letter today is because I received Mr. Guy Lauzon's recent campaign newsletter. It would be thoroughly appreciated by myself, as well as many others I am sure, if the type of name calling and gossipy rhetoric used to slander other parties was kept to a tasteful minimum. While I appreciate receiving these newsletters, and would like to hear what Mr. Lauzon is actually doing, I am uninterested in becoming infuriated with the lack of responsibility taken for the actions of all parties within the government.

To assume that any party would not incur debt, is to assume that one is God. Debt is a

common factor in every election, for every leading party, and in some ways can be used to alleviate future debts. Consider the debt students get into so that they can potentially get a job that would pay well, so that they can ensure a future good standard of living.

Contrary to popular belief, I rather enjoy paying my taxes. I like having social services available to those who need it. I like having police, paramedics, doctors and nurses who are able to live good home lives. I like to drive down my gravel road knowing that while I'd prefer a paved road other people who live on busier streets get to enjoy that instead. I do believe that incomes should inflate alongside the cost

of goods. Investing in social services like OSAP, childcare, and providing free medication to the public so they can be in a position to pay more taxes in the future is a good thing. I fear that a rhetoric of dislike towards taxes is brandished about without proper consideration of the great benefits.

As for the use of a quotation by Justin Trudeau, "rising gas prices are exactly what he wants" - rising gas prices suggests a greater demand than is available, and considering climate change and investments in bio-fuels, as well as the rise in availability of electric cars, is it not a good thing to discourage a necessarily bad thing?

Change cannot happen over night, it must be gradual, it must be planned and it must be encouraged. Rather than energy spent pointing fingers at each other, I'd like to see my municipal, provincial and federal governments come together to use their political ideologies and individual abilities such that good, progressive, and productive decisions are made in such a way that they reflect democracy.

To conclude, I am very grateful, Mr. Lauzon, for the hard work you do and the personal sacrifices you make every day to lead our district.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Eden Lewis

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OPINION

Don't forget the trustees

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There are only a few days left before the nomination period closes for municipal elections.

So far in Cornwall there are 14 people running for council and three running for Mayor, for the position of trustee however, most incumbents are running unopposed.

Sadly, this is the case for many school boards, where trustees face no opposition and are acclaimed. In the province of Ontario, around one-third of all trustees on all school boards are acclaimed.

There are four school boards in Cornwall and a total of five incumbent trustees. As of writing, all trustees in Cornwall are running unopposed.

I believe that the incumbent trustees should be applauded at least for putting themselves out there first and for serving their community, but I believe that our school boards would be improved if our trustees faced some competition at the ballot box.

The public deserves the best representation and that can only happen if trustees are challenged in elections. Other members of he

public need to come forward with their own ideas for education and whether those ideas are accepted or not, the system is stronger for having tested them.

The past two years have clearly shown that there are major changes coming to our schools both from the provincial level and from the school boards themselves.

Right now we are in the midst of a debate as to what our sex-ed curriculum should look like. Two years ago this fall, both of the local English language school boards in our area began a process that saw many local schools face closure.

It was during that second fight in particular that I saw many people come forward and get involved with the politics of their school board, many for the first time. Meetings about school closures, curriculum and class sizes were packed with interested and involved members of the public who demanded change, or a stop to the plans that would have closed so many local, rural schools. It is now two years later and where did all of these people go?

If anyone out there reading this was unhappy about their school being threatened with closure two years ago, or about not having



French Immersion programming at their school, or want to help shape the future of rural education, then they should be running. Even if they don't get elected, they should at least put their ideas out there and challenge the incumbent trustees.

The amount of school board trustees that are acclaimed is staggering and it shakes my confidence and makes me question whether the public is being best served by the current system. I am not calling out any particular school board trustee, but I think that all

incumbents would benefit from at least being tested in a competitive election.

This Friday is the deadline for anyone to get in their nomination papers for trustee or council. As stated we have five incumbents running unopposed for trustee and 14 people running for council. The public deserves to have more options when choosing its representatives for the next four years.

What do you think readers? Are trustees important? Are you happy with yours? Email me your input to nicholas.seebruch@tc.tc

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Conservatives offer nothing to combat climate change

Mr. Lauzon, MP

We are in receipt of your recent mailing to the public in your political riding and we are distressed by the dishonesty contained within the mailing.

Conservatives appear to be happy when looking inward at their own needs and rarely look with honesty at the needs of others. Your mailing is a classic example of this selfish attitude for it paints a clear image that you have no

compassion for the rest of the world that may suffer at the hands of global warming. The present government does have a plan to try and participate in dealing with global warming and the Conservatives, WITH NO ALTERNATIVE, only try to undermine the status quo.

As immigrants, we can attest to the reality that Canadians, generally, are not poor and they surely cannot afford to be with Conservative practices hanging over their heads.

Let us dwell for a moment on the Ontario scene for this truly demonstrates how dishonest Conservative policies are. The new Premier has scrapped a very sound cap & trade program and has NO ALTERNATIVE to replace it, saying, "we are serving Ontario taxpayers money." This Conservative Premier does not remind the public of the costs of any court cases that evolve when the Federal Government imposes a program or if businesses challenge the

government. With such costs coming from the provincial coffers Ontario taxpayers will be poorer not richer.

Little wonder the international media see this person as being a "troublemaker" – see the attached. Can the public afford such costly Conservative plans whether they be Federal or Provincial?

Respectfully,
Jan & John Milnes

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OPINION

Do you come from away?

NICK SEEBRUCH
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On my recent weekend vacation in New York City, I took in an off-broadway production of *Come from Away* at the Gerald Schoenfeld theatre. For those not familiar with the live musical, it is about the small Newfoundland town of Gander, and how their town of 7,000 people welcomed 7,000 refugees from all-over the world on 9/11.

On 9/11 when the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration closed North American airspace after the attacks in Washington, Pennsylvania and New York every plan in the sky in the area landed at the airport in Gander, NFLD.

Watching how that town reacted to welcoming strangers they did not know, in a situation that might be dangerous, could not help but remind me of our own recent situation in Cornwall with asylum seekers.

Last year, I wrote a column about the 240 asylum seekers that were housed for a little over a week at the Nav Centre. In that column I wrote that those who were criminals or bad

actors would be filtered out by the federal government and that those who truly needed help, would get it and that all we had to do as hosts, was to show them the best of Canada.

A little under a year later, we've found out that the Nav Centre in Cornwall again could play host to as many as 500 asylum seekers.

If they come at all, any asylum seekers who come to Cornwall have already been deemed eligible for refugee status by the Canadian Border Service Agency (CBSA). This means that they have been interviewed by the CBSA, that their photos and fingerprints have been taken and that they have had health, security and criminal background checks.

Additionally, not all, or possibly any, of the asylum seekers who might stay in Cornwall would have crossed illegally. So far this year, 21,596 asylum seekers have crossed into Canada according to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. Of that total, 56 percent crossed over at a legal port of entry.

If Cornwall hosts asylum seekers again this year, they will have already gone through extensive vetting by the federal government



and will face more screening before they are accepted.

Like Gander in 2001, Cornwall's task is to serve as host and to show the best of our community and our country to these people who are afraid and looking to settle a better life.

On 9/11 a community of 7,000 welcomed another 7,000 into their community, schools, and homes. They gave them food, drink, and a friendly ear to help put them at ease. They

held parties at their legion for the so-called "Plane People" and community BBQ's. Cornwall could do at least that much, and if any of those asylum seekers are welcomed into Canada, maybe we'll be lucky enough that they call Cornwall their home.

If a community like Gander can handle doubling its population overnight, then Cornwall can surely handle playing host to a mere 500 asylum seekers.

LETTER TO EDITOR

Inaction on pensions

The Honorable M Guy Lauzon
MP House of Commons
647-S, Centre Block
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6 Canada
and
The Honorable
Prime Minister Justin Trudeau
House of Commons
647-S, Centre Block
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6 Canada

Dear Sirs,
Across Canada, this message is being sent to MPs by their constituents. We represent hundreds of thousands of Canadians who believe it

is past time for Parliament to act to change Canadas INSOLVENCY LEGISLAATION to protect pensioners.

Its been over 100 days since the federal government announced in its 2018/2019 budget that it would finally take action to address the critical need to improve pension protection in insolvency. Since then, we have seen no concrete progress. In the meantime, the financial livelihood of millions of Canadians remains at risk.

Were tired of broken promises and empty platitudes. We call on ALL PARTIES to act now.

Liberals, you won a decisive majority in 2015 with a promise to increase retirement security.

After three years, Canadians with corporate pensions are no more secure than they were then. Our message has been loud and clear we support extending super priority status to pensions deficits and encourage you to legislate this protection immediately.

Conservatives, you passed legislation giving super priority to current pension contributions. That was a great step, but it didn't go far enough. As official opposition we call on you to hold the governments feet to the fire, and commit to super priority for all unfunded pension liabilities as part of your 2019 election platform.

NDP we support Bill C384 introduced by MP Scott Duvall and encourage you to continue to

do everything in your power to bring bill C384 to the floor.

Please take this message to your caucus in Ottawa Prime Minister Trudeau ALL CANADIANS ARE IN URGENT NEED OF PENSION SECURITY.

Respectfully,
Mr Peter Vialls
Air Canada Retiree - Cornwall, ON

C.C. The Honorable M Andrew Scheer Leader of Conservative Party
The Honorable M Scott Duvall, NDP Party
The Honorable Mr. Francis Scarpaleggia, Lac Saint Louis, QC

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