

Comment

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That same circular logic seems to still haunt us

The much-ballyhooed redesign of Southdown Road traffic circle has been in operation for the past few weeks, and we're not impressed. There has been an improvement over the horrendous traffic conditions which existed before construction, but hardly enough to justify the expense and inconvenience, which the year-long project has inflicted on Clarkson and Erin Mills residents.

The \$1 million alteration of the traffic circle is intended to be a compromise between doing nothing and installing a full \$10 million cloverleaf like the Highway 10 exit. The city wanted the full cloverleaf, but were turned down by the provincial government with the disclaimer that these improvements would adequately handle the situation for the next 10 years.

They won't. Already the traffic circle is jammed during rush hours — not intolerably perhaps, but jammed nonetheless. As the population of Erin Mills and other planned developments north of Burnhamthorpe Road increases, the situation will doubtless deteriorate once again. The "improvement" will be ripped out and a proper cloverleaf installed.

The bulldozers and the hardhats will be back at it once again, ripping up the work that we paid for, to reconstruct a new interchange that we will also have to pay for. And, of course, at a much increased price, inflation being what it is.

The lesson is obvious: in highway construction as in life, you get what you pay for.

Housing figures tell story of reform council's effort

It's time the blame for Mississauga's "depressed" housing scene was taken away from the so called "reform" council elected two years ago.

Figures released by the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation show Mississauga had more dwelling units under construction (7,118) in August than any other municipality in all of Canada, North York was a distant second with 4,895 units.

It's true that housing starts are far below those of 1973, the boom and bust year for new housing in Canada, but the condition is universal.

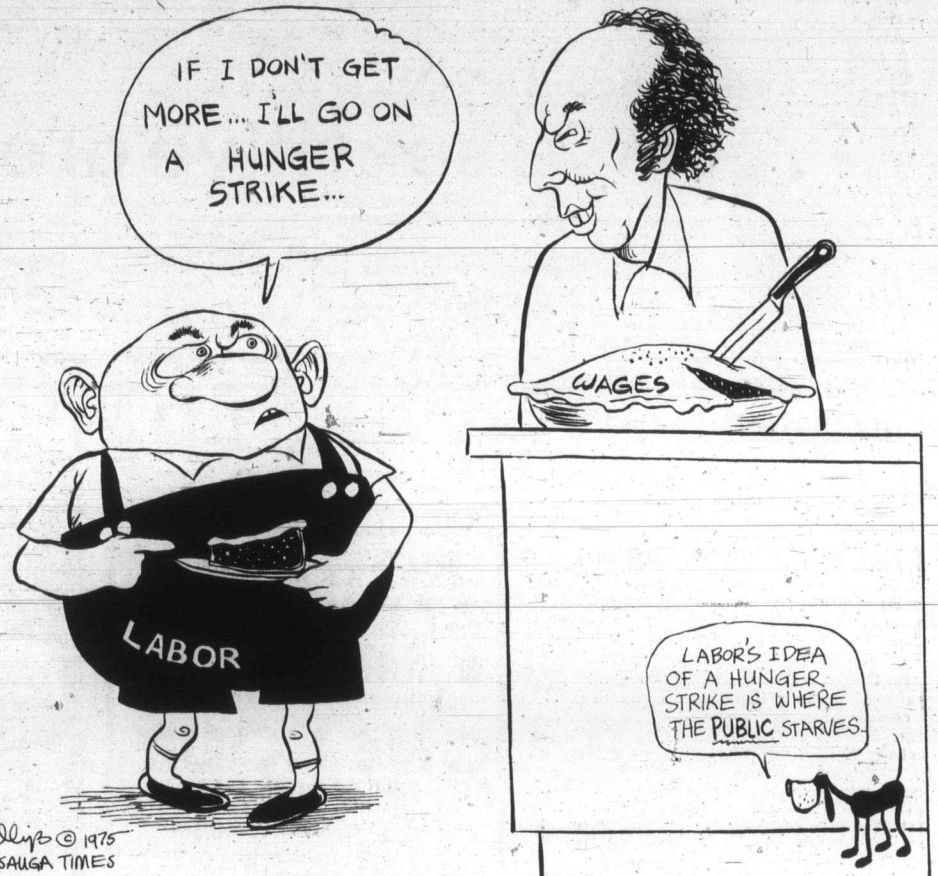
It is also true that some, but far from all, of the general cause for the reluctance of developers to build homes is the lengthening delay caused by red tape

and conflicting levels of government bureaucracy.

We're as guilty in Mississauga as any municipality but to center out today's council as being anti-developer in comparison with previous councils is simply a clear-cut abuse of statics.

Councillor Ron Searle sees the new figures as nothing more than proof of the ingenuity of private developers in overcoming obstacles placed in their way.

It may in fact show developers' ingenuity but it also shows Mississauga remains the main source of new housing for the middle class. Searle's antagonism toward the "new guard" too often approaches dogmatism in its disregard for the evidence.



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 MISSISSAUGA TIMES

'Abbott line nonsense'

Tony Abbott, our friendly Liberal party representative from Mississauga, is, if nothing else, consistent. We get the old party line ad nauseum. His column (The Times Nov. 5) is no exception, in fact it reaches a new low (or high depending on your bias) in apologetic nonsense. First of all he poses rhetorical questions:

Is democracy governable? Can capitalism survive? Then he unbelievably states as an answer to these questions that the government has introduced a policy of price and wage restraints. This is the answer to those questions? Come now Tony, that's even bad by your standards. Maybe first of all you should have cleared up the question: Is survival of these

two institutions an objective of the government? By inference it is, but there is too much evidence to the contrary and furthermore he must know that every dictator in history has suspended civil rights in the name of freedom. What co-relation democracy has to inflation escapes me as well. Surely Tony must know that totalitarian countries are suffering from

inflation as much or more than democracies. What are you trying to tell us? So much for democracy and capitalism and the way to save them. The little lesson goes on into economics and the causes of inflation. In the first stage we had "chronic inflation imported from abroad" and lo and behold "inflation that starts abroad ends up at home." How about that! But all is not lost "now that we have domestic inflation, we can, for the first time, fight it with domestic tools."

No kidding, that's our elected Liberal party representative from Mississauga talking. Reminds me of the Emperor who wore no clothes.

Only governments cause inflation by debasing currency, and in our case to finance a myriad of welfare programs. Government spending has tripled since Trudeau and now we face the possibility of a \$5 billion deficit. Now that's inflation. But somehow the people are to blame and not our leaders. Their leadership by example include the following:

- An aborted effort to vote themselves a 50 percent pay hike — reduced to 33 percent.
- A \$250,000 booze up to open Mirabel airport.
- Otto Lang's \$150,000 refurbishing of his office.
- Second reading of a bill to increase MP's pensions. The old plan is the most extravagant of any devised anywhere by self-serving greedy people.
- Announced plans for new boondoggles to spend more, more, more.

One thing for sure, nobody ever spent themselves out of inflation. What positive action has this group taken?

They have told their bureaucrats they can no longer travel air first class — it must be economy. Migaud! Just for a moment compare our track record with the U.S.

- Congressmen voted themselves a 5 percent pay boost.
- Time lost through strikes — less than half here

- Rate of inflation — 6 percent
- Current wage settlements — 8 percent
- Tax cuts before the house to be paid for through cuts in government spending
- Government share of gross national product — 29 percent compared to our 40 percent

This government has got to be the worst in our history, led by a man who marches only to his own drummer (even some Liberals recognize this) and is leading the ship of state to a destination that one day will surprise all. We have already moved from democracy to initial stages of anarchy and from there inevitably totalitarianism.

If all Tony Abbott has to fill his column with is party line pap why don't you move it to the entertainment section or better still, the comics.
 H. H. CLAPPISON
 MISSISSAUGA

Letters to the Editor

The Mississauga Times invites its readers to submit Letters to the Editor. Letters will be published as they are received. We ask letter writers to keep in mind the shorter their letter the higher the readership it is likely to receive.



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Thousands of cats and dogs are needlessly killed each year because public officials won't recognize need for public spay-neuter clinics, reader says below.

'Impound, kill, barbaric'

No public official in this nation can offer the slightest excuse or justification for planned continuation of the 'impound and kill' system for pet population and animal control. This only acts on the results of the problem instead of the cause — so each year produces a new and ever-increasing harvest of surplus puppies and kittens, born only to be killed and ensuring an expanding business in animal suffering for those who benefit from it.

The impound and kill system is a barbaric and primitive exercise in planned obsolescence, which must be phased out and abolished as quickly as possible. We must prevent the birth of surplus pet animals through the development and use of low cost municipally-operated spay-neuter clinics which are a humane and effective method of pet birth control with a proven record of success. Spay programs, however, can be as different as night and day. The low cost public spay-neuter clinics, which we support, are structured to end pet over-population as opposed to the private, limited type operated by humane societies and private animal groups to help some aged and poor people and are not structured to end pet over-population.

The following statistics are based on the actual operating experience of low-cost public spay-neuter clinics. The City of Los Angeles opened their first spay-neuter clinic on Feb. 17, 1971. It proved so successful that two additional clinics were placed in service by May and June, 1973. After approximately 13 months of operation the upward spiral of 15 percent per year of animals impounded and killed was reversed; impounded animals had dropped to 18 percent below the 1972 level, with a reduction in animals killed of 20.3 percent; the percentage of registered dogs altered had increased from 16 to 43 percent, considered to be the highest in the nation. San Mateo reported a decrease in animals surrendered of

39 percent and Santa Clara dropped 21 percent from the previous year. Reports show other non-profit operations with equal success.

The choice we make is vital to animal welfare. Do we spay to prevent surplus pet births, or do we wait until after they are born and then kill them. Low cost public spay-neuter clinics make it financially rewarding to be humane.

Killing pet animals for population control is a direct cost burden on the taxpayer, as opposed to spaying which is an investment for the taxpayer. Using an average charge-out rate of \$20 and assuming a pet life of ten years, the cost to the pet owner is only \$2 per year for safe and convenient birth control protection which actually improves the health of the pet. So based on cost, convenience and the animal's health, a fully equal alternative to spay-neuter procedures may not be available in this century.

We are fed up with vested-interest groups, who hand out a mixture of innuendo and propaganda to prevent the public from demanding an end to the impound and kill nightmare, which is both cruel and ineffective. We are fed up with their negative statements about the benefits of low cost public spay-neuter clinics, such as "the poor won't use them," "keeping a female dog is not a right," etc.

We therefore challenge those who make such statements to prove them before the public by making public their documentation and source of information. The lives of innocent and defenceless animals are at stake here. The public must know the whole truth regarding this spay or kill issue, for we believe, the truth will set our animals free!

D. B. MACDONALD,
 PRESIDENT
 PEOPLES ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY

Tony Abbott's column of Nov. 5 contained nothing more than apologetic nonsense, reader says in accompanying letter.