

**Jennifer Allan**

S. 14(1), *Municipal Freedom  
of Information and Protection  
of Privacy Act*

**From:** Bill Longworth [ ]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 18, 2007 3:33 PM  
**To:** jgerretsen.mpp@liberal.ola.org; dmccuinty.mpp@liberal.ola.org; clerks; christine.elliott@pc.ola.org;  
jerry.ouellette@pc.ola.org; info@iog.ca  
**Cc:** John Gray; Maryanne Sholdra; Nester Pidwerbecki; Louise Parkes; Brian Nicholson; John Neal; Tito-  
Dante Marimpietri; Robert Lutczyk; John Henry; Joe Kolodzie; April Cullen  
**Subject:** Independent Review Needed of Oshawa's Change to General Vote

The Institute on Governance,  
Public Policy Think Tank,  
Ottawa, Ontario

Hon. J. Gerretsen,  
Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Hon. D. McGuinty,  
Premier of Ontario

Mayor and Council,  
c/o Oshawa City Clerk

Christine Elliot, MPP  
J. Ouellette, MPP



Good afternoon....The city of Oshawa of population approximately 160,000 has recently passed a bylaw to bring the "at large" or the "general vote" to the city for the election of its city council.

This will make the city the largest in Canada to use the general vote without the "formal" use of municipal political parties which are at present prohibited by the Ontario Municipal Elections Act.

This irresponsible, undemocratic, and self-serving action of Oshawa City Council cannot at present be appealed for review by any outside independent and objective body.

The general vote in a city the size of Oshawa is completely unworkable without political parties as it excludes the possibility of informed voters which the Supreme Court has said is a necessity in a democracy and a basic right of Canadians.

The resulting city council will be less accountable, less inclusive, less representative, and less democratic and will give all city politicians constituencies about twice the size of those of our Federal and Provincial Members which is untenable for a local government that is supposed to be closest to the people.

I am writing your organization today establish the possibility that it might provide independent review, comment, and critique of this matter which may help to apply influence and pressure to the powers that be to retain a sensible electoral system for Oshawa or to encourage legislative change to allow for civic political parties to make the general vote workable if the Province is going to allow Oshawa's General Vote Bylaw to stand.

**Bill Longworth,**  
**Founder & Chair of VOTES (Vote to Eliminate Self Serving Politicians)**  
[www.oshawaspeaks.ca](http://www.oshawaspeaks.ca)

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S. 14(1), Municipal Freedom  
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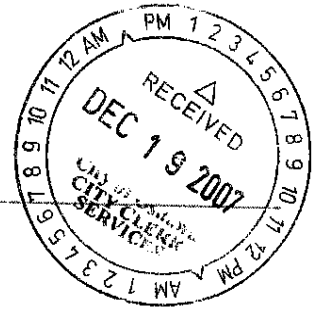
**From:** Bill Longworth [ ]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 19, 2007 3:13 PM  
**To:** clerks  
**Subject:** To the Mayor and Council

The following is directed as a courtesy to the Mayor and Council c/o Oshawa City Clerk

**Bill Longworth,**  
**Founder & Chair of VOTES (Vote to Eliminate Self Serving Politicians)**  
**[www.oshawaspeaks.ca](http://www.oshawaspeaks.ca)**

S. 14(1), Municipal Freedom of Information and  
Protection of Privacy Act

S. 14(1), Municipal Freedom  
of Information and Protection  
of Privacy Act  
**From:** [ ]  
**To:** mail@ccla.org  
**Subject:** Attention Mr. Alan Borovoy, General Counsel  
**Date:** Wed, 19 Dec 2007 00:41:01 -0500



# **Request to Canadian Civil Liberties Association to Assist in Preserving Democracy in Oshawa and Throughout Ontario**

Mr. A. Borovoy,  
General Counsel,  
Canadian Civil Liberties Association

Good afternoon Sir:

I write you in regards to the first decree of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association which is the protection of rights and freedoms fundamental to our democratic system.

The City of Oshawa of population approximately 160,000 has recently passed a bylaw to bring the "at large" or the "general vote" to the city for the election of its city council.

This will make the city the largest in Canada to use the general vote without the "formal" use of municipal political parties which are at present prohibited by the Ontario Municipal Elections Act.

This irresponsible, undemocratic, and self-serving action of Oshawa City Council cannot at present be appealed for review by any outside independent and objective body and Oshawa City Council took

12/19/2007

The general vote in a city the size of Oshawa is completely unworkable without political parties as it excludes the possibility of informed voters which the Supreme Court has said is a necessity in a democracy and a basic right of Canadians.

The resulting city council will be less accountable, less inclusive, less representative, and less democratic and will give all city politicians constituencies about twice the size of those of our Federal and Provincial Members which is untenable for a local government that is supposed to be closest to the people.

Oshawa did hold a "non-binding" plebiscite on the issue but designed an extremely flawed plebiscite process with a gerrymandered question designed to confuse the people and solicit a response favored by the majority of council.

Oshawa's Mayor stated publicly that City Council had no duty to inform the public prior to the plebiscite and thus voters were confronted in the voting booth seeing a question for the first time that they didn't understand and had not previously considered. Even the "technical" terminology used in the question was never defined for the public.

What is worst--the action of Oshawa City Council can be duplicated unilaterally by any irresponsible city council in Ontario without rebuke given the Ontario Municipal Act as it stands today.

I am writing you with the hopes that your organization might consider taking up action on this important issue.

You can find considerable background information about the issue at [www.oshawaspeaks.ca](http://www.oshawaspeaks.ca) and I am personally available at the pleasure of you or your staff at any time to discuss any aspect of this issue in depth or provide any details that you might require.

We ask that one of the following actions be taken:

- 1) Oshawa's General Vote Bylaw should be repealed, or,
- 2) That this kind of governance question should be appealable to the OMB, or,
- 3) If Oshawa is allowed to implement the General Vote, that the Province institute appropriate legislation in terms of fundraising, election expenses reporting, formal party approval of its slate of candidates as a requirement of registering as a party candidate, and an indication of party affiliation on voting ballots, and,
- 4) Failing the introduction of legislation to allow the growth of municipal political parties, the Ontario Municipal Act be revised to ensure that Oshawa's irresponsible and undemocratic actions cannot be duplicated in any other Ontario Municipality without citizen appeal to an independent, uninvolved, and objective body like the OMB.

The involvement of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association in this issue will apply influence and pressure on the powers that be to work to protect the basic premise of democracy--the "real" vote that allows the public to determine their political destiny. This is the basic "icon" of democracy and it is being undermined by Oshawa's General Vote Bylaw and by the undemocratic process City Council followed in implementing it.

We believe that governments exist to serve the people and that it is a degradation of Canadian democratic ideals when politicians can shanghai the system for their own self-serving purposes.

I think we have to be ever-vigilant to protect against erosion of our democratic rights and freedoms.

We look forward to hearing from you soon regarding this important question and pray that your organization will provide assistance in the preservation of Canadian democracy and freedoms in Oshawa and potentially in the rest of Ontario.

**Bill Longworth,**  
**Founder & Chair of VOTES (Vote to Eliminate Self Serving Politicians)**  
**[www.oshawaspeaks.ca](http://www.oshawaspeaks.ca)**

Jennifer Allan

S. 14(1), Municipal Freedom  
of Information and Protection  
of Privacy Act

From: Bill Longworth [mailto:Bill.Longworth@shelburne.ca]  
Sent: Sunday, December 30, 2007 2:59 AM

To: clerks

Cc: John Gray; Maryanne Sholdra; Nester Pidwerbecki; Louise Parkes; Brian Nicholson; John Neal; Tito-Dante Marimpietri; Robert Lutczyk; Joe Kolodzie; John Henry; April Cullen

Subject: To the Mayor and Council--Re: City Hall's New Years Gift to Oshawa Ratepayers

To the Mayor and Council  
c/o Oshawa City Clerk



## **City Hall's New Year's Gift to Oshawa Ratepayers**

At a time when city hall is struggling to get next year's tax increase below 9%, and you are struggling to make your property tax payments, City Council has delivered a New Year's Gift to you to "relieve" the pain.

At a "reported" cost of just \$30,000, city hall has hired professional writers and other "creative" people to prepare Oshawa's entry documents to the Livable Communities Contest. They have also seen fit to send Mayor John Gray and a city delegation to London, England, to "present" our entry.

So what is the present? Why Council has presented us with a gold medal as one of the most desirable cities of 75,001 – 200,000 population in the universe in which to live. Out of 9 competitors though, 3 got gold and all the others got silver. It's nice that ALL competitors can go home a winner, isn't it. This is a model that could be introduced into the Olympics or the NHL to make everyone a winner.

Myself...I find it hard to believe that Oshawa City Hall would want to spend our hard-earned tax dollars to communicate how great Oshawa is to the world when they repeatedly voted to refuse Oshawa citizens information about a truly important issue--the plebiscite question they asked about our city's voting system. They asked that question but repeatedly voted to deny giving citizens information about it.

I always understood that communication started at home. I can't understand why they would want to communicate to the world and yet deny information to the people here at home. I guess they just didn't want your informed opinion about the question they asked.

If they didn't want your informed opinion...why ask the question in the first place?

But we all know that this is a city where our politicians refuse to tell citizens important stuff like about the referendum question: defining the terms used in the question, the meaning of the question and the consequences of their choices, and they even worded the question in the most difficult way imaginable to confuse the public.

The Mayor said it was not the city's responsibility to inform the public about the plebiscite question if you could imagine.

I did see the visual presentation and while it highlighted the new arena, the new courthouse as an example of brownfields renewal, our creek valleys and bike paths, the second marsh, the lakefront, etc., they did not portray our embarrassing downtown, the pathetic South Simcoe Street main entrance to our city from the 401, the only Lake Ontario city not having a marina nor did they highlight the fact that city council has voted to make Oshawa the largest city in Canada and probably the world to have a general vote without the use of formal civic political parties which are at present prohibited in Ontario.

While the presentation did comment on some communication "highlights", it failed to mention the fact that City Council continually voted to deny the public information they

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...to make an informed and reasoned decision on the plebiscite question.  
Oshawa's delegation's verbal presentation to the competition panel was extraordinarily ordinary at the same time as being extraordinarily deceitful in what it didn't mention. But the \$30,000 citizen tax money was professionally creative in putting our best foot forward in the accompanying video...and provided the Mayor and staff delegation a well earned holiday in expensive London.

Oh what the Mayor will not do to "serve" this city!

And we learned a lesson...the "secret" of success lies in what you don't say.

Now Oshawa...go and convince your friends and neighbours nation-wide that you live in one of the most livable communities in the world.

After all, Oshawa politicians and civic administration gloated far and wide in press releases to every conceivable publication and website about this event where it appears that everyone was a winner.

With all of the efforts at communicating this stuff nation-wide and preparing all of the documentation required for the event, it just makes you wonder how city council has civic administration staff spending their time.

The cruncher though...I think the \$30,000 price tag for all of the time and effort, not to mention travel costs, is vastly understated and I intend to file a "Freedom of Information" request to expose the "real" costs of this folly including the cost of carbon offsets purchased by our delegation, they claimed to the judging panel, to offset environmental damage done by their air travel.

In the meantime Oshawa, have a wonderful holiday and a contented New Year as you contemplate your tax bills for the upcoming year. There may be more LivCom debacles and more travel junkets planned for the New Year.

My final assessment of this taxpayer expenditure? Indications were that there were few entrants, delegate presentations seemed to have been made privately to the judges with little public audience or other display of interest, that large cities like Vancouver, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, etc. did not enter, that potentially all entrants were shortlisted to the final--in short, the whole contest was about meaningless optics and possibly a "holiday abroad" at taxpayer expense for the delegations. I wonder whether a cost/benefit analysis was done on this extravagance?

**Bill Longworth,**  
**Founder & Chair of VOTES (Vote to Eliminate Self Serving Politicians)**  
**[www.oshawaspeaks.ca](http://www.oshawaspeaks.ca)**

*S. 14(1), Municipal Freedom of Information and  
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Jennifer Allan

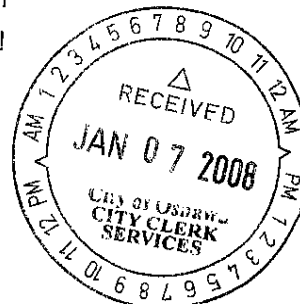
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re: File

**From:** Bill Longworth [clerks]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 04, 2008 4:58 PM  
**To:** clerks  
**Cc:** John Gray; Maryanne Sholdra; Nester Pidwerbecki; Louise Parkes; Brian Nicholson; John Neal; Tito-Dante Marimpietri; Robert Lutczyk; Joe Kolodzie; John Henry; April Cullen  
**Subject:** To the Mayor and Council--Re We Got Dat Smarter Council Dan You Got!

To the Mayor and Council

Local Press,  
Letters to the Editor



Dear Canadian Mayors:

Eat yer hart out Toronto, Montreal, Calgary, Edmonton, Victoria, Brandon, Winnipeg, Moncton, St. John, Yellowknife, Inuvik, Halifax, Barrie, Gravenhurst, Guelph, Hamilton, London, Kitchener, Kingston, Peterborough, St. Catherines, Sarnia, Thunder Bay, Stratford, Sudbury, Timmins, Windsor, Waterloo, Flin Flon, Charlottetown, Chicoutimi, Quebec City, Sherbrooke, Regina, Saskatoon, Whitehorse and my goodness, little South Algonquin, my favorite place, the location of my cottage. All yous guys still have da ward system cause yous guys not near progressive as our guys

We soon gonna get somethem you not got...a general vote for de election of our local council. We gonna have somethem that is rarer than spare change at Oshawa tax time. But then we are bigger dan many of yous guys and so it makes sense that our council smarter too.

We so progressive, guess we de only guys to see the light. Good thing we got dem council guys lookin after us. We jus let dese guys go do what they think best for us.

We got Tweedle dee and Tweedle dumb. We even got Tweedle dumber lookin after us. Tweedle dee, he just throw out motion and Tweedle dumb and Tweedle dumber jump up and dance, "We support that!" Sometime they jump up so fast dat their little pointy hats fall off. Along with Councillor Joe, we call dem de gang a four.

Councillor Joe--he even a mind reader. He know which way he gonna vote even before he hear da motion.... He say, "I'm never gonna support motion from dat guy!" Bet you other guys wish you had guy this smart on your council! He know what he not support before he hear it.

Us guys in Oshawa, we glad to have set forward thinking leaders...imagine us in Oshawa treaden democratically where no one else dare to go. I guess we set pattern for all yous other guy in Canada to follow our lead.

Oh! I know dat dere is one guy, Longworth in town...a real disturber who wants to keep our election system dat all yous guys in Canada use and maybe he so busy debunking and debating our grate Oshawa leaders that maybe he don't see the light. Maybe he should start using his energy to defend our smart guy on city council.

So eat your heart out Canada, and hope someday that yous get de smart guy wid the smart idea like we got.

If you want dese guys, I know they be free after next election and maybe come to help ya den.

Me thinks i gonna send dese stuff to all de Mayors and Councils in Canada that member of Federation of Canadian Municipalities and of Association of Municipalities of Ontario since are anal council belong to dese grups and so we gotta let em no of our grate guys leaden us hear in Oshawa.

Yous can reed lotter more on dis at de web at [www.oshawaspeaks.ca](http://www.oshawaspeaks.ca)

Signed  
"Pride" from Oshawa

**Bill Longworth,**

01/07/2008

**Founder & Chair of VOTES (Vote to Eliminate Self Serving Politicians)**  
[www.oshawaspeaks.ca](http://www.oshawaspeaks.ca)

Jennifer Allan

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From: Bill Longworth n]  
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2008 10:08 PM  
To: clerks  
Cc: John Gray; Maryanne Sholdra; Nester Pidwerbecki; Louise Parkes; Brian Nicholson; John Neal; Tito-Dante Marimpietri; Robert Lutczyk; Joe Kolodzie; John Henry; April Cullen  
Subject: To the Mayor and Council---advice to Durham College/UOIT students

**To the Mayor and Council--You may be interested in this advantage accruing from the general vote to large groups like Durham College/UOIT students...The item is reprinted from [www.oshawaspeaks.ca](http://www.oshawaspeaks.ca) but can be sent to approximately 100 Durham/UOIT related facebook sites of which I am a member. All they need is leadership to help them organize to seek political opportunity available with the general vote. Of course, this political leadership would not be available to them under ward voting. Maybe city council has given the students great opportunity to exercise their power.**

### **Durham College Students---Exercise Your Student Power!**

Hey Durham College Students...You live here for most of the year and have a city vote in municipal elections. **Did you know that if Oshawa gets the general vote, it will provide you with a wonderful opportunity to take over control of Oshawa City Council?**

By organizing a slate of candidates, and organizing your student body to vote for them, you can pass any bylaw you want to enhance your student life. You can provide permits for street parties in the student housing areas, or anywhere for that matter. Your leaders could even increase councillor salaries beyond the present exorbitant levels counting all of the perks, honoraria, expenses and allowances to make them richer than they've ever been. This would more than pay off their tuitions. As student politicians, they could even get into the student housing business with all the extra scratch?

With the general vote, councillors cannot be defeated so student politicians could do anything they want without fear of voter sanctions. **Why not close the downtown for street parties every weekend? You could have a real bash!** With 8 votes at the Region, you can be influential in getting taxpayer subsidized yearly student public transit passes. By "block voting" you can be the most influential "player" in Oshawa and Durham Region.

**Just canvas your student body to see what they want and make that your election platform. I'm sure that a platform promising perks popular to the students at the taxpayer expense will gain you city council control.** But, hey, don't take my word for it. Listen to Jack Layton's advice to college students in the video below about how he used student power to get both himself and his wife elected to Toronto City Council.

Even better, because many of you live out of town...you won't even have to cope as taxpayers with the havoc you're able to reap on the City of Oshawa. You'll just move on and move out...and the city taxpayers will pick up the bills. The general vote has tremendous opportunity for you.

Your fantastic gains through the general vote would be at the loss of Oshawa taxpayers. But don't worry about that. Oshawa should **"PREPARE TO BE AMAZED"** with the possibility of a student run Oshawa City Council. It could even function as your school "student council". **Yeah for STUDENT POWER!**

So students...how do you get student workers and voters to support your campaign? The answer is the universal student motivation...promise to throw a giant beer fest for workers and voters...if you win. That should be

01/09/2008



encouragement enough to get students to help and vote for you. With a little creativity, you could throw in some other motivating "entertainments" for students to multiply their efforts. Creativity is only limited to your imagination. The secret though...the party is only on if you win! This way you will be insured of a healthy and handsome city renumeration to pay off your supporters. If they don't get you elected...there is no cost! Sort of like buying votes...but it is no different from post election "victory parties" held at the federal and provincial levels and also by many municipal candidates.

One caution though. There has to be some overall student organization to insure that so many candidates do not run that you divide the student vote among excess candidates. If you run one candidate as mayor, for example, you will get all student votes and have a good chance of winning. If you run more than one candidate as mayor, you divide the vote and are less likely to win. Similarly you will only want to run 8 regional candidates and 3 local candidates so that you don't divide the student votes for these offices.

**Students...You should thank our forward thinking and strategic Mayor Gray, and Councillors Pidwerbecki, Kolodzie, Henry, Parkes, Sholdra, and Mariempietri all of whom are supporting a move to the general vote to give you this wonderful opportunity.**

Click on Jack Layton's video below to find out all about organizing and exercising your student power.



Posted by Site Administrator at 10:38 AM    
Labels: [block voting](#), [Durham College](#), [Jack Layton](#), [street parties](#)

**Bill Longworth,**  
**Founder & Chair of VOTES (Vote to Eliminate Self Serving Politicians)**  
**[www.oshawaspeaks.ca](http://www.oshawaspeaks.ca)**

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Jennifer Allan

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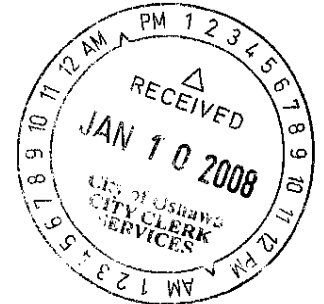
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**From:** Bill Longworth [mailto:bill\_longworth@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 10, 2008 1:33 PM  
**To:** clerks  
**Cc:** John Gray; Maryanne Sholdra; Nester Pidwerbecki; Louise Parkes; Brian Nicholson; John Neal; Tito-Dante Marimpietri; Robert Lutozyk; Joe Kolodzie; April Cullen; news@citynews.ca; news@ctv.ca; news@oshawaexpress.ca; newsroom@durhamregion.com; newsroom@kx96.fm; newstips@globaltv.com; newswatch@chextv.com; chris.theriault@rci.rogers.com  
**Subject:** To the Mayor and Council--LivCom Awards--Access to Information Request (REVISED)

From: bill\_longworth@hotmail.com  
 To: clerks@oshawa.ca

To the Mayor and Council,  
 c/o Oshawa City Clerk

Local and Regional Press



Please note that in the interests of fairness, truth and accuracy, the following has been revised in paragraphs 2, 3, and 4 in response to recent information from a city councillor. Earlier copies of this letter should be destroyed. I do strive for 100% accuracy on [www.oshawaspeaks.ca](http://www.oshawaspeaks.ca) and thus apologize for any inadvertent misrepresentation of the facts on this issue. Also link in para 2 regarding specific freedom of information data requested has been repaired. The link to past post in para 1 has links in turn to the full colour brochure and the video produced for the contest.

**LivCom Awards---Access to Information Request**

**As reported in an earlier post, Oshawa spent a reported \$30,000 of taxpayer money to enter the 2007 Liveable Communities Contest held from Nov. 22-26 in London, England.**

**I dispute the fact that they could fit everything they did in regards to this contest for the allocated \$30,000 and thus filed an Access to Information Request to the city clerk on Tuesday, January 8. I have attached a 6 page breakdown of requested costs to the city's Freedom of Information Form and the city is compelled to respond with the "truthful" figures within 30 days according to Provincial Law.**

Keeping our burgeoning tax increases in check in the face of escalating "apparent" budget shortfalls gave rise to calls for service cutbacks, increased fees for the use of city recreational facilities which potentially would have excluded many youngsters from healthy physical activity thus putting them on the street to "idle" away their time in an age when there is growing national concern about increasing child obesity, increased fees for animal adoptions which may require the euthanasia of greater numbers of animals, huge increases to administrative "fines" for such things as bylaw officers, animal control officers, etc., it seems hardly sensible to spend one cent on a "meaningless" awards program which was the brainchild of some cloistered and distant entrepreneurial spirit.

At the end of the day because of the popularity of the recreational programs and an overwhelming attendance of interested program providers and volunteers at the council

g, increased recreational fees were "deep-sixed," but the fee increases potentially resulting in more animal euthanasia and increased administrative "fines" for bylaw infractions all passed because opposition to these measures was not as strongly organized and represented.

While the council once again cries poor to justify massive tax increases, they could get their budgets and their burgeoning debt more in order by cutting out wasteful frills such as monies spent on the LivCom Awards. The monies spent on this ludicrous contest could well go to such worthwhile programs as keeping the price of animal adoptions down so that more healthy animals could go to good homes rather than being euthanized.

As we believe communication should start at home, it seems doubly outrageous to spend money on communicating the fine features of Oshawa to the world when city council repeatedly voted to deny Oshawa citizens information about the recent plebiscite question. While it was not at all important to ask the question, having asked it, they made an issue where none existed and had a responsibility to fully inform people about it. Surprisingly, though, the Mayor stated it was not the city's responsibility to do so.

The city entry to the LivCom contest surely is a bizarre, harebrained, daffy, incredible, and unbelievable misplacement of priorities and tax dollars for a city that is already the highest assessed municipality in the GTA. This is just another example of how the City of Oshawa's superfluous and extravagant spending "balloons" in relation to their ability to "squeeze" extra taxes from their already "bleeding" ratepayers.

It is well known that men are from mars...and women are from venus...but it appears that our "outer-space" politicians...both men and women who supported this ludicrous LivCom wastage must be from "far out" Uranus.

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