

Examiner Letters to the Editor: June 20

Readers respond to St. Joseph's coverage, Gwynne Dwyer's column and, of course, Bonnerworth Park.

Updated 14 hrs ago | June 20, 2024 [📌](#) [🔗](#)



St. Joseph's at Fleming long-term-care facility in Peterborough.

Clifford Skarstedt Peterborough Examiner

Dwyer's article had one 'clunker'

Re: Enough with the Munich analogies, June 14, by Gwynne Dwyer. His article includes one real clunker. He notes that in the Second World War, after the defeat of France, Britain “managed to hang on alone” against Germany until mid-1941.

This canard has been knocked on the head many times but continues to reappear.

Britain stood alone in 1940, only if you discount the vast resources of the British Commonwealth and Empire. Canada, for example, had a complete infantry division in Britain in 1940, while a second division was soon to arrive.

New Zealand and Canada contributed many pilots to the Battle of Britain, while the Royal Canadian Navy joined the Battle of the Atlantic on the first day of the war.

Larry D. Rose, Peterborough

Examiner 'not meeting its mandate'

We are disappointed in the Peterborough Examiner's coverage of the closure of St. Joseph's at Fleming to new admissions.

The articles the Peterborough Examiner are printing too often manipulate the facts, rather than simply report the facts. For example, the story in the Peterborough Examiner on June 8 suggested it was possible that St. Joseph's at Fleming could face increased financial penalties and even the removal of the management, if not in compliance.

This information is factually correct; however, this information was juxtaposed with the information about the Family Council requesting the management at St. Joseph's be replaced. The story was written in such a way as to suggest that the Ministry of Long-Term Care representative was speaking specifically about St. Joseph's at Fleming; however, in reality, the ministry spokesperson made a broad statement about steps the ministry may take when any home is not in compliance.

There is already sufficient pressure on the staff and management from the Ministry of Long-Term Care, whose job it is to ensure compliance. While the Family Council has a role to play, it is not responsible for decision-making relative to the safe operation of St. Joseph's.

Ensuring that the public is accurately informed about what is happening at St. Joseph's is the responsibility of the media; however, the Examiner is not meeting its mandate.

Shirley O'Neill (resident) and Bernadette Peters, Peterborough

Mayor was not 'fulfilling his responsibilities'

It was amusing — if not so tragic — to hear the mayor speak of “fulfilling (his) responsibilities to all citizens of Peterborough” as his reason for not making an appearance at the June 10 Save Bonnerworth Park rally at city hall.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

If the mayor is so proud of what he is doing to Bonnerworth Park, he would have told those assembled how great his plan is for park users. Forget about the elimination of the tennis courts and baseball diamonds, loss of green space for unstructured play and the noise that hundreds of nearby residents will be exposed to.

The mayor is representing a small but vocal minority to ram one of Ontario's largest pickleball facilities into the middle of a residential community.

There is no way he doesn't know the impacts. Just look at the mental health issues endured by residents in countless other cities across North America.

Yet the mayor presses on, at all costs.

Leal has shown nothing but contempt for those opposed to the project. He dismisses their legitimate concerns, and continues to defend a hopelessly flawed process. His vilification of the redevelopment plan opponents has

imposed unneeded stress and worry on many of the citizens he purports to serve.

Is it any wonder that many of the 7,000-plus petition-signers have expressed anger at the slipperiness of the mayor and council on this issue?

A great leader brings people together to resolve issues. This mayor has done the exact opposite. He has made every effort to divide Peterborough residents to push through this project. He is pushing for a win-lose, not the win-win solution a good leader would seek.

Thank you, Jeff, for your great “leadership” and for “fulfilling (your) responsibilities to all citizens of Peterborough.” The damage you are inflicting on this city will be your legacy, lasting long after you’ve left office.

Victoria McFarland, Peterborough

What are the fees to play pickleball?

It is a great idea to build pickleball courts in Peterborough, but I have not heard a word about how much a membership will be to play on them.

Hockey players pay for ice time in the arenas. As golfers, we pay memberships or green fees to play a game. So, I expect the pickleball fees should be at least \$200 a season, and a membership fee of \$300-\$500 would be a fair price to pay.

I would expect the pickleball players to have some fundraising activities to help with the cost and ongoing maintenance of the courts.

Barry Wright, Peterborough

Vice-chair speaks about pickleball ‘fiasco’

I am the vice-chair of APRAC (arena, parks, recreation advisory committee) and want to add my perspective to the ongoing Bonnerworth — I’m going to call it, fiasco.

In August, 2023, city staff presented a version (artist concept) of 16 pickleball courts to APRAC, billed as a recommendation but with little supporting information. Therefore it’s unfair and misleading to say that APRAC supports this initiative. I for one do not.

Perhaps this project could proceed if proper protocol was followed. For example, show me:

- 1) The APRAC minutes capturing the discussion around this recommendation. Was there a vote?
- 2) The consultation process and results (when were the citizens informed and what was their feedback? When was the Peterborough Baseball Association informed and what was its feedback?)
- 3) The noise analysis study. (How will this impact the residents?)
- 4) The other options that were considered. (Surely, Bonnerworth isn’t the only option).

My advice to Mayor Jeff Leal, council and city staff is to listen to your constituents and conduct a proper study. You will never satisfy 100 per cent of the people, but if you do it correctly and thoroughly, then most people will at least agree it was a fair process.

Brad Robinson, Peterborough

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