

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Opinion | Examiner Letters to the Editor: Sept. 6

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Peterborough city council has nixed a plan by Peterborough Action For Tiny Homes to construct cabins on the former Humane Society site.

Clifford Skarstedt Metroland file photo

PATH decision caused reader to lose hope

On Aug. 27, I woke to a beautiful day of sunshine, a comfortable bed and a solid roof over my head. I basked in the memories of the past wonderful days with my loving family at a comfortable lake cottage.

I was then reminded that in my city, the City of Peterborough, lived those who are denied these memories, not even the most basic of a roof over their head or the luxury of a safe tent.

I felt certain, however, that I would soon get the news that the elected members of Peterborough city council would appreciate our collective responsibility toward the most vulnerable members of our community.

I did not doubt that council would honour the hours of work, commitment and donated dollars provided by concerned and compassionate members of our community.

I waited in hopeful anticipation to learn that the members of council would finally vote allowing PATH to begin immediately assembling the first 10 tiny cabins and the promise of more to come very soon.

I believed that this same council would express their gratitude to the PATH members for never wavering from a dream fuelled by the belief that housing is the right of all in a just and healthy community and they would support PATH going forward.

But, alas, the news came and I found myself swept back in time and place to the morning of the Trump triumph in the U.S. presidential election — a morning many believed could never happen.

I fear for the soul of our city as I look for signs of hope. I know they are there, but after council's decision, I am struggling to shed a veil of hopelessness.

I know that hope exists somewhere in this travesty of justice. I know we need to continue believing that truth, love and justice can and will triumph, if not in our lifetime, in the lifetime of our grandchildren.

JoElla O'Neill, Peterborough

Feeling tapped out

If Mayor Jeff Leal has his way, 275 sugar maple trees will be planted alongside 14 noisy pickleball courts and a staggering number of exterior lights. [His plan is to someday have an urban sugar bush.](#)

The plan is obviously our mayor's way to distract and cover up his inhumane objective of placing a large-scale pickleball project and the associated noise directly across the street from a senior's residence.

This, coupled with abandoning two very popular baseball diamonds and paving over green space for a taste of maple syrup some 30 to 60 years down the road, is nothing but delusional.

After tapping the generosity of the taxpayers, the members of the Peterborough Pickleball Association will someday be able to try their hand at tapping the trees.

At a projected \$4.4 million cost, Leal's syrup will be liquid gold.

Vincent Dainard, Peterborough

Sugar maple idea 'goes against common sense'

The mayor's idea of [planting 275 sugar maples](#) as part of the redevelopment of Bonnerworth Park goes against any notion of common sense, never mind the damage this plan already does, and the extra cost.

Where to begin? Any ecologist will tell you the planting of a monoculture that size makes every single tree vulnerable to any infestation that might strike over their lifespan.

With climate change bringing threats to many native tree species, it's almost guaranteed to happen.

To think the park could support 275 mature maple trees in half a century is dreaming. Thinning will be required that will reduce that number significantly.

Let's not forget the city's abandonment and resulting death of many of the trees it does plant.

It is unfortunate that the city closed the public Bonnerworth consultation on Aug. 21. (Oh, I forgot, the city's consultant at the Aug. 13 arenas, parks and recreation advisory committee meeting stated work with the pickleball community would continue for another month.)

We have now missed the opportunity to suggest locations for the sugar shack and space for the mayor's first pancake breakfast. It is scheduled for March 2064, assuming any trees are left.

Renée Scott, Peterborough

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