

LETTERS

Town could buy heritage home

Re: Senior, 90, denied change needed to sell heritage home, Feb. 25

The story about the 90-year-old senior who is trying to sell her heritage home that she and her husband had lived in for 70 years broke my heart. I'm sure when they bought it, never in a million years would they have thought it would become "heritage."

Since town staff thinks this house needs to remain "heritage," I think it's absolutely necessary that the town buy it off of this senior for the original asking price and help this woman live out her remaining days stress free or pony up and fix it themselves if it's that important to them.

R.J. Kovljenic, Ancaster

Show senior some humanity

The collective wisdom of the Oakville Heritage Advisory Committee (OHAC) deemed it prudent and compassionate to approve seven of the nine requested changes, but were unable to get past the brick and mortar issue — really! Have they no heart?

It is indeed a sad commentary when heritage designation — which, when the property was initially purchased 70 years ago, enjoyed no such status but was accordingly designated by the town in 2024 — takes precedence over the welfare of a 90-year-old woman.

I am appalled by this behaviour and suggest the OHAC display some evidence of humanity and reverse course and apologize to Sandy Cudmore.

I am hopeful that they will revisit the issue and lessen the economic pain and eliminate her excessive stress.

Johanna de Bruin, Ancaster

A wonderful role model

Re: Rudy's redemptive road, Feb. 27

Although I've never met Rudy Tjeringo, his is the perfect Lenten story. Wrong path. Meets God's all embracing love. Switches streams. He shares his story. Rudy wants to "bring light."

Rudy, you are a wonderful role model for all of us. Thank you.

Judy Pollard Smith, Hamilton

Canada needs to wake up

"The Cassandra complex" (or syndrome) is a psychological and social phenomenon where an individual's accurate, often dire predictions or warnings about a crisis are ignored, dismissed or disbelieved by others."

In a country that stubbornly refuses to recognize the sleight of hand that Mark Carney continues to perform, Pierre Poilievre is reduced to a present day Cassandra. What can possibly be done to wake this country up?

Neville Newman, Hamilton

Ford sounding like Trump

Re: Doug Ford takes issue with Toronto's 13-year timeline to build road safety measures, Feb. 26

Even though Premier Doug Ford has come out swinging against U.S. President Donald Trump and his tariffs, it appears that the apple doesn't fall far from the tree.

Anyone who deigns to disagree or have a different point of view from the president is insulted and automatically branded as "the radical left." Now, our premier has disparaged Toronto city council as "the radical left" over a difference of opinion regarding traffic-calming measures. Certainly not something you should be aspiring to, Mr. Ford.

Alice Marie Phillips, Hamilton

Redirect advertising funds

I'm sure we have all noticed all the advertising that our Ontario government has been plastering in the media the last while. It basically tells us where they are spending our tax dollars. This is all good and fine. But don't you think that all the money spent on advertising could be better spent in the healthcare system, schools, housing the homeless or helping the needy?

A sports coach in my past always said, "Show me how good you are by doing something. Don't stand there and tell me how good you are." What do you think, Mr. Ford?

Ric Shuker, Stoney Creek

Safety hangs in the balance

From a non-partisan perspective, I find the media posturing of both our Liberal government and Conservative MPs saddening. I hope Bill C-9, the "Combating Hate Act," will be passed soon. Our community safety hangs in the balance. Too many extremists are using religious exemptions to persecute Jews and LGBTQ+ people. That is why the Bloc supported the bill and secularism in Quebec.

Insert a basic clause exempting bona fide religious texts and get it done! Start enforcing hate crimes laws and basic criminal laws in the interest of community safety and national security. These delays are unconscionable. Justice delayed is justice denied.

Joanne Cohen, Hamilton

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A hockey player enjoys the open space of a frozen Lake Jojo, also known as the Dundas Marsh. Writing about Canadian hockey and the Olympics, Thomas Froese notes that such a scene is "another golden place to be."

THOMAS FROESE

A shared passion for the game



THOMAS FROESE
OPINION

"Here we go again."

That's all it said. The note came from an American friend from over the border.

It was just before overtime last Sunday morning, before Team Canada and Team USA were to finish their Olympic gold hockey battle in Milan Cortina. My friend Brian knew Canada's winning history in overtime, especially against the U.S. We knew how this would end.

But Jack Hughes didn't get the memo and scored America's golden goal. A week in, some of us are still processing the unfortunate truth that in 2026, Canada's Olympic hockey teams, both men's and women's, fell to the U.S. in overtime gold medal games.

Have we somehow slipped into another universe?

Apparently, if life can be a game of inches and seconds, then all the more in sport, especially in this game that's deeply etched into our nation's psyche. As one sportswriter put it, in Canada you can walk into any Tim Hortons anywhere and say, "You, you, you, you, you and you," and get a formidable team.

This understanding began in 1920 when the Winnipeg Falcons won

gold for Canada in Antwerp, Belgium, in hockey's Olympic debut. Most of those players were first- or second-generation Icelandic Canadians who'd settled around Winnipeg.

So Canada's game has always been shared, even in unexpected places. Dave Bidini's book "Tropic of Hockey: My Search for the Game in Unlikely Places" explores this nicely.

After last Sunday's game, Brian, who's a lawyer from Georgia, sent a second note. "Full circle from your house when Crosby had his golden goal." That was 2010. With other Americans fittingly gathered in my family's former Ugandan home, he'd watched, on a half-functioning internet feed, that Canadian overtime win over the U.S. in Vancouver.

Brian was also among the expatriates playing ball hockey behind that house in Africa. It took time to move a significant wall of earth, then build an asphalt pad. But what's a few years? From Yemen, I'd also brought heavy NHL-sized nets acquired from a Canadian there.

Locals and visitors alike then played. Hard. One day, a Canadian flew back home with a cracked rib. The Ugandans especially fell in love with it all, amazed when later discovering videos of NHLers "running with skates on."

And how Canada has run since 1920. Besides other world titles, Canadian men have won nine Olympic golds, five silver and three bronze, more golds and medals than any other nation. For our equi-

librium, it's good to remember as we continue this amorous relationship with ice and stick and puck.

The contenders deserve credit. Players from Russia and the former Soviet Union have won plenty of international tournaments, including the Olympics. Since 1920, the Americans have three Olympic golds, Sweden two, Finland and Czechia one each.

The subplot in 1920 was that Canada's gold honoured Frank (Buster) Thorsteinson and George Cumbers, who were killed in the First World War.

The subplot in Milan Cortina was that the U.S. win honoured the memory of "Johnny Hockey," Johnny Gaudreau, killed in 2024 with brother Matthew by a suspected drunk driver. His boy, Johnny Jr., at the game with family, turned two years old on gold medal day.

Then, as Brian wrote me, "And for the winning goal to come from the guy who had (parts of) his teeth knocked out. Hockey players are different."

America's first Olympic hockey gold, by the way, came 66 years ago today, Feb. 28, 1960. Player Bill Christian's son Dave Christian played on its next gold medal team in 1980. Bill's grandson Brock Christian Nelson is on the 2026 winning team.

So if the universe insists on unfolding as it should, maybe it's somehow bearable to share the game with opponents who can give you a good run and a good story, both. Otherwise it's just you with that stick and puck, by yourself, maybe in the soft light on some inviting lake. All things considered, that's another golden place to be on some Sunday morning, or any time, really.

FIND THOMAS FROESE AT THOMASFROESE.COM AND THOMASFROESE.SUBSTACK.COM.

Demand competence and accountability

KEANIN LOOMIS

In 2022, my mayoral campaign took me to homes, neighbourhoods and community events across Hamilton.

For six demanding and rewarding months, I knocked on doors in every corner of the city and spoke face-to-face with thousands of you. The message I heard was clear: Hamilton was ready for real change at city hall.

By election night, that desire had reached a clear crescendo. Hamiltonians saw that a campaign built on listening, honesty and personal connection could nearly overcome cynicism and the entrenched advantages of name recognition.

It proved that truth, trust and transparency aren't slogans, they're built one conversation at a time.

After the election, and following nearly a decade at the helm of the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, I continued to serve our province and our nation. I worked as a vice-president at the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, collaborating closely with Queen's Park and leaders from across Ontario's largest businesses.

In June 2024, I became president and CEO of the Canadian Institute of Steel Construction, leading a national industry critical to Hamilton at a time when American steel tariffs have threatened local jobs and

investment.

As my work has taken me across Canada and around the world, I've always felt fortunate to come home to Hamilton. This is where I'm raising my family, and staying closely connected to our city, including as a member of the board of directors of the Hamilton Port Authority, a growing contributor to Hamilton's economy.

Even as my experience and relationships have deepened provincially and nationally, my desire to serve my own community has never faded.

The need for strong, effective leadership at city hall has only grown over the past term, and the call to serve has become impossible to ignore. I am not a career politician. I am a passionate citizen, lawyer, businessman, husband and father who believes Hamilton needs new leadership. And for me, leadership is about service, not status or a paycheck.

Hamilton is a city with grit, heart and extraordinary potential, but it is being held back. Over the last three years, we have seen a lack of vision, listening and urgency. Incredibly, the city is now in worse shape than the one our mayor inherited.

I'm not naive about the challenges we face. No one person can solve them alone.

A mayor must prioritize collab-

oration and consensus-building over conflict. A council and community leadership that work together achieves better results for the people we serve. People must come before politics.

Residents want to see real value in the services they pay for, not watch millions of dollars be wasted on avoidable mistakes at city hall. Hamilton needs to get serious about building homes and being a place where young families can afford to live. Local businesses must be supported with an efficient, responsive and accountable city hall.

We have to confront the growing homelessness, mental health and addiction crises unfolding in our streets.

We have to ensure our downtown core is vibrant and thriving, while every neighbourhood feels safe, supported and valued.

We have to fix our crumbling roads and infrastructure. And we must navigate ongoing uncertainty south of the border, which continues to threaten local jobs, investment and industries Hamilton depends on.

Instead of managing decline, we can reclaim our momentum. But only if we choose leadership that matches our strength, ambition and potential. It's time to stop settling. It's time to expect better. It's time to demand competence and accountability.

That is why I intend to once again seek the privilege of serving as Hamilton's mayor. I believe in this city. I believe in its people. And I believe, deeply, that Hamilton deserves better.

KEANIN LOOMIS IS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF STEEL CONSTRUCTION.