

# comment

**THE BARRIE EXAMINER**

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## Not many places can one-up Barrie

I am not a world traveller, however, since his retirement, my husband and I have been on several airline and motor tours visiting many cities and towns doing 'the tourist thing.'



**Bonnie Ainsworth**  
WARD 1

In my travels, I normally make a bee line to scour all shops (which normally line both sides of the main street). Jim wanders, or just sits on a nearby bench 'people watching' wondering when I will finally come up for air and suggest we go for lunch.

Recently, I called a friend and invited her to join me for lunch in our uptown. It was a lovely, sunny day. We had a scrumptious lunch and continued to make our way weaving in and out of many intriguing stores offering all sorts of goods.

She took home a beautiful dress to wear to a summer wedding (purchased at an amazing women's apparel shop), as well as a quilt kit from another store for a friend's newborn grandchild.

We looked at gadgets, laughed at napkin and greeting card humour, bought candles, tried on shoes and jewelry and ended our day with our feet up drinking lattes in the gorgeous surroundings of Memorial Square.

My friend turned to me and said "Bonnie, you are so fortunate to live in such a beautiful city."

She raved about Dunlop Street — its beauty and shops and said she had driven along Lakeshore Drive on her way to my house and could not get over the stunning waterfront parks and gardens along the way.

Since that day I have found myself pondering places I have toured and thinking about how Barrie stands up against other communities I have enjoyed.

I am sure many of you have heard the saying 'you are leaving a better place than you are going to.' My husband has said this to me more than once and in retrospect I have to say I agree with him.

There are not many places out there that can top Barrie.

Kudos to our horticultural department for their spectacular work beautifying our city, and thanks to everyone contributing to the magic of the downtown/uptown transformation; well done.

I encourage everyone to call up a friend and make a date to stroll uptown and take in this wonderful place to visit — right on your doorstep. On another note I would like to add I am very pleased with my decision to return to city council.



The citizens of Barrie sent some pretty fine people to represent them, including our new Mayor Jeff Lehman. Although we don't always agree it is obvious everyone's ambition is the good of the city. With the help of excellent staff — we come up with a right decision (for the most part).

Thank you Ward 1. I am proud to be your city hall liaison and public representative. Please don't hesitate to contact me at [bainsworth@barrie.ca](mailto:bainsworth@barrie.ca).

Enjoy the rest of your summer everyone.

Bonnie Ainsworth is Barrie's Ward 1 councillor.



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## our opinion

# Municipal leaders: listen to what Hudak is saying

Ontario's municipal leaders should listen very carefully to Tim Hudak's comments about uploading services.

They should be concerned with what the Progressive Conservative leader is saying, and not saying.

At this week's Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) meeting in London, some mayors said they feared Hudak won't honour the \$1.5-billion uploading deal between the province and local councils if he wins the Oct. 6 provincial election and forms the next government.

That's the agreement whereby the province gradually takes back the social program costs downloaded to municipalities during the Tory administration of 1995 to 2003, the Mike Harris/Ernie Eves days.

These services include Ontario Works (welfare), land ambulances, public housing and other elements of our social safety net that were always a provincial responsibility until the Common Sense Revolution.

That's when Harris and Eves looked at the provincial debt, looked at the debt of Ontario's local governments, and decided the latter could afford to put a great deal more on their credit cards.

So, the Tories downloaded the cost of these services to municipalities, draining away revenues

meant for local roads, parks, snow plowing, garbage pickup, recreation centres, etc.

The downloading was supposed to be cost-neutral for municipalities. It wasn't.

After Dalton McGuinty's Liberals vanquished the Tories in 2003, they began taking back the cost of those social programs, uploading them to Queen's Park.

By 2018, about \$1.5 billion is to be shaved off municipal budgets.

But that's seven years away and it's a Liberal, not a Conservative, plan.

Hudak has said there will not be a repeat performance of the province downloading these costs to local governments should he win the election. He did not, however, commit to honouring the total \$1.5-billion savings until 2018.

In other words, the uploading and municipal savings — could end with a Tory win in October.

Hudak says his government would increase health-care and education spending, but that he needs to find funds to balance the books by 2017 — about two cents on the dollar, he estimated. Ending uploading could be one source.

Ontario's mayors and other municipal leaders are right to be concerned, especially since Hudak is leading the public opinion polls (although that lead has shrunk, of late).

McGuinty, New Democratic

Party Leader Andrea Horwath and Green Party boss Mike Schreiner have all said they would honour the agreement with municipalities, should they form the next government.

There is already considerable pressure on local governments to pay for the services they provide. Taking on debt has become a reality.

Barrie's debt total, for example, stands at \$186 million, and it's committed an additional \$175 million for debt financing — for a commitment of \$361 million.

But it would be \$52.5 million less if the city did not have to contribute to the Royal Victoria Hospital expansion and cancer care centre.

Health care has become a municipal responsibility as well, and a very expensive downloading.

Many, many municipal governments need infrastructure improvements — such as roads, water and sewer systems — that they cannot afford now. This is why they must borrow the money.

If the provincial uploading agreement until 2018 isn't honoured by the next Ontario government, municipalities will have to take on even more debt.

Local leaders need to listen very carefully to what Hudak is saying, because it could come back to bite them at budget time in the coming years.

## Honourable Jack

Thanks to so many involved with Hockey Night in Barrie IV. This year's charity hockey game in support of the Royal Victoria Hospital expansion and regional cancer care centre was again a tremendous success.



**Patrick Brown**  
PARLIAMENT HILL

Raising just under \$200,000 in one night is a wonderful achievement, but there are many months of planning involved by so many dedicated individuals before the puck is dropped. These folks continually rose to the occasion and went well beyond the call of duty.

In the four years since Hockey Night's first game, our team has raised more than \$600,000.

Player liaisons like Gary Leeman, Hall of Famer Mike Gartner and superstar Dale Hawerchuk were so helpful in delivering the all-star lineup to the ice at Barrie Molson Centre.

Current NHL stars like Steve Downie (Tampa Bay), Bryan Little (Winnipeg), Bryan Cameron (Calgary), Matt Duchene and Ryan O'Reilly (Colorado), along with so many NHL alumni, gave generously of their time and they put on a terrific show for the thousands of fans in attendance.

The amazing Shayne Corson/Darcy Tucker family were once again so supportive of our fundraising efforts on behalf of our hospital, and I thank them from the bottom of my heart. Shayne understands firsthand how devastating cancer is, having lost his father to the disease at a young age.

Sadly, all Canadians have been touched by cancer this week. I was incredibly saddened to learn of the passing of Jack Layton. My sincere and heartfelt condolences go out to his family.

Although we are from different parties who often disagree on issues, there was no questioning Jack's commitment. Like the players who helped raise funds for our local cancer care centre, Jack fully understood that although we may suit up in different uniforms from time to time, in this fight, we are all on the same team.

His advocacy for increased health funding, his championing of eco-energy programs, his shining light on homelessness and his considerable contributions to the healing over residential schools were just a few of the many noble pursuits he worked tirelessly on throughout his impressive career in public service.

Jack was an avid fitness enthusiast and, over the years, we often crossed paths at the gym in Ottawa. I came to know Jack not as a partisan foe, but as a dedicated, caring family man who had a kind soul.

His father was a Brian Mulroney cabinet minister, and my father had run for the NDP twice. We used to joke that we were making up for past family errors. Jack was always in a great mood, he was forever the consummate optimist and he always appeared in incredible shape even when he was battling cancer this spring.

For those of us who knew him, we were obviously stunned by how quickly his health deteriorated in just a few short months. Although his physical appearance during last month's press conference was a shock to see, one could still see the fight in his eyes and hear the strength behind his weakened voice.

I fully support Prime Minister Stephen Harper's decision to pay tribute to Jack Layton with a state funeral this weekend. No one is more deserving of this honour.

His final letter to Canadians is a true testimony to the spirit of the man and the bravery he showed in his final days is almost incomprehensible. Especially poignant was his urging of those facing their own battles with cancer to fight on and his message of hope to young Canadians is inspiring.

His parting words are the stuff of legend that school children will recite for generations to come. "Hope is better than fear. Optimism is better than despair. So let us be loving, hopeful and optimistic. And we'll change the world."

Jack's story reminds us how precious and fragile life can be and how important it is for all of us to work together to make our world a better place.

Thank you Jack. You will be sadly missed.

Residents can pay their respects locally by signing a book of condolences in the Rotunda at City Hall Thursday and Friday this week between 8:30 and 4:30 p.m. There will also be a ceremony and reception Saturday beginning at 1 p.m. where local speakers will pay tribute to Jack.

A television will be set up so mourners can view the live broadcast of the state funeral for the Honourable Mr. Layton.

Patrick Brown is Barrie's MP.

## quote of the day

Now, it won't only be the fair... They'll need transportation, you can't just fly these people in on wings; they'll need cars, buses and motorbikes."

Dr. Werner Fabian, an Essa Township resident who voted against the new Essa District Agricultural Fair.

# Georgian Village sets senior care standard

Georgian Village is beginning to take shape this summer at 101 Thompsons Rd. in Penetanguishene, with the construction of the first buildings in the county's new 'sixty-plus' adult lifestyle housing and care campus.

Council is proud to introduce this development to the region. The concept is unique in Ontario and we believe it will set a new standard for seniors' housing with market value life lease garden homes and apartment suites, assisted living and affordable housing apartments and long term care facilities all together in one location.

I am excited to see the structures grow on the site after so many years of planning. In 2006, council approved the redevelopment



**Cal Patterson**  
SIMCOE COUNTY

ment of Georgian Manor and we are now hoping for full occupancy of Georgian Village in 2013.

It is one of the largest construction projects ever undertaken by the County and we have worked hard to secure funding from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Also, the North Simcoe Muskoka Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) provided \$2.8 million, allowing an

increase in the number of long term care beds to 144. Government and community partnerships enable us to make great things happen for our residents and Georgian Village is a terrific example of successful partnerships at work.

Our seniors' population in Penetanguishene and Simcoe County is growing at a rate that eclipses the provincial average and we know the demand for health care services will continue to grow.

The continuum of care that we are building will work for the greater good of the seniors' community at Georgian Village and in the surrounding area with a one-stop shopping centre for their health-care services and social activities.

This development has been designed to meet the current

and future needs of the community and to enhance existing health care services.

Our health and wellness centre incorporates space for services including physiotherapy, dental, pharmacy and primary medical care.

The Rendezvous Community Centre will be the central hub of the campus, linking housing and services. Amenities include a seniors' centre, adult day centre, workshop, community organizations such as the Alzheimer's Society and Red Cross and Hospice joining us at the Community Centre.

The County of Simcoe is proud of our record of providing exemplary care to seniors at our four long term care homes and through many outreach programs designed specifically to meet the needs of aging resi-

dents living in our communities. Georgian Manor has a long and proud history in Simcoe County since the doors opened with 52 residents in 1957.

Georgian Village is an exciting redevelopment of that long term care home and it will provide a full continuum of care to support aging in place and allow residents to continue living in their community.

I invite you to help us preserve our history by submitting an item for inclusion in a time capsule that will be sealed at the Georgian Village grand opening and remain closed for 25 years.

Please visit [georgianvillage.ca](http://georgianvillage.ca) for submission guidelines and more information about the complex.

Cal Patterson is the Warden of Simcoe County.