The Long & Winding Bill CDA Games Final

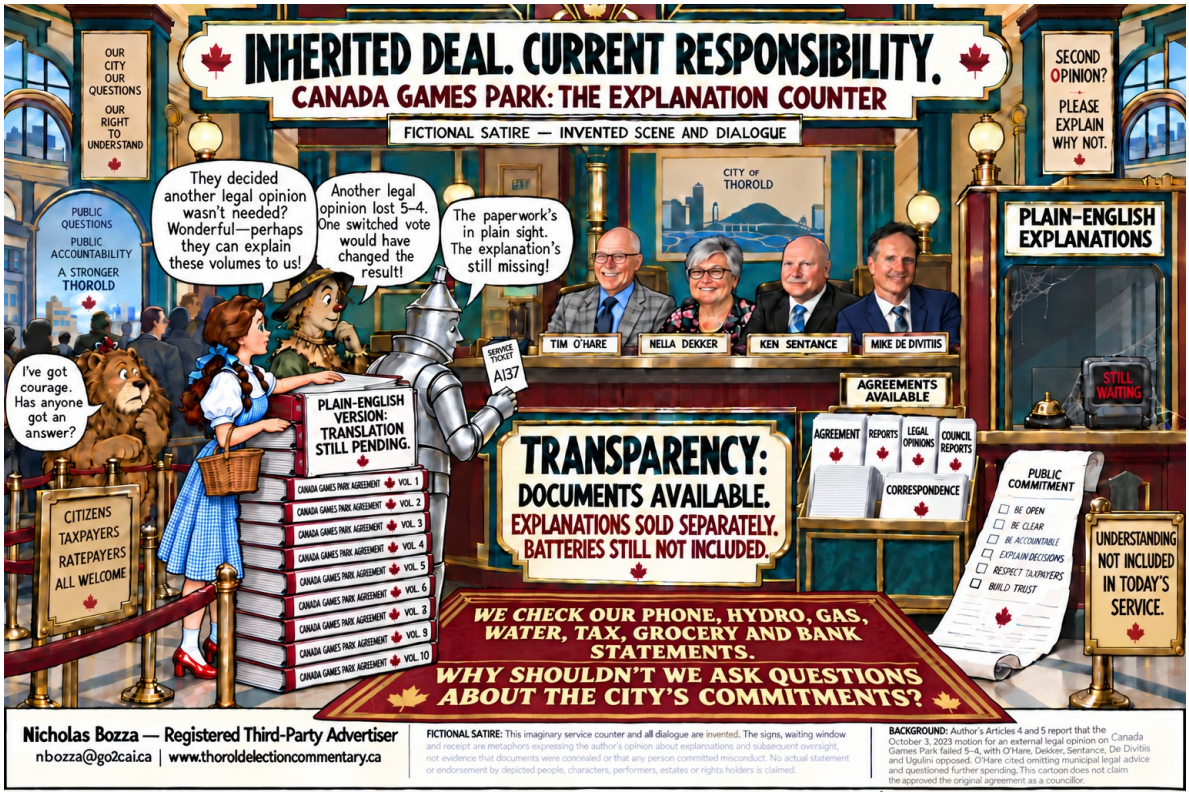
Executive Summary | Canada Games Park and the rejected legal opinion

Nicholas Bozza | Approximately 187 words | About 2 minutes, excluding cartoons, disclaimers and references.

Canada Games Park offers real benefits, but taxpayers still deserve clear explanations of Thorold's financial obligations and oversight.

Brock owns the land. Brock, Thorold and St. Catharines share operating costs and deficits in equal thirds. General committee voting and rental-rate voting differ, and some decisions require consensus. The initial legacy term is 38 years; subject to the lease, the buildings pass to Brock without compensation when it ends. [1]

The ribbon-cutting lasted a day. The commitment lasts considerably longer. Taxpayers deserve the full bill explained, not merely the opening-day photographs.



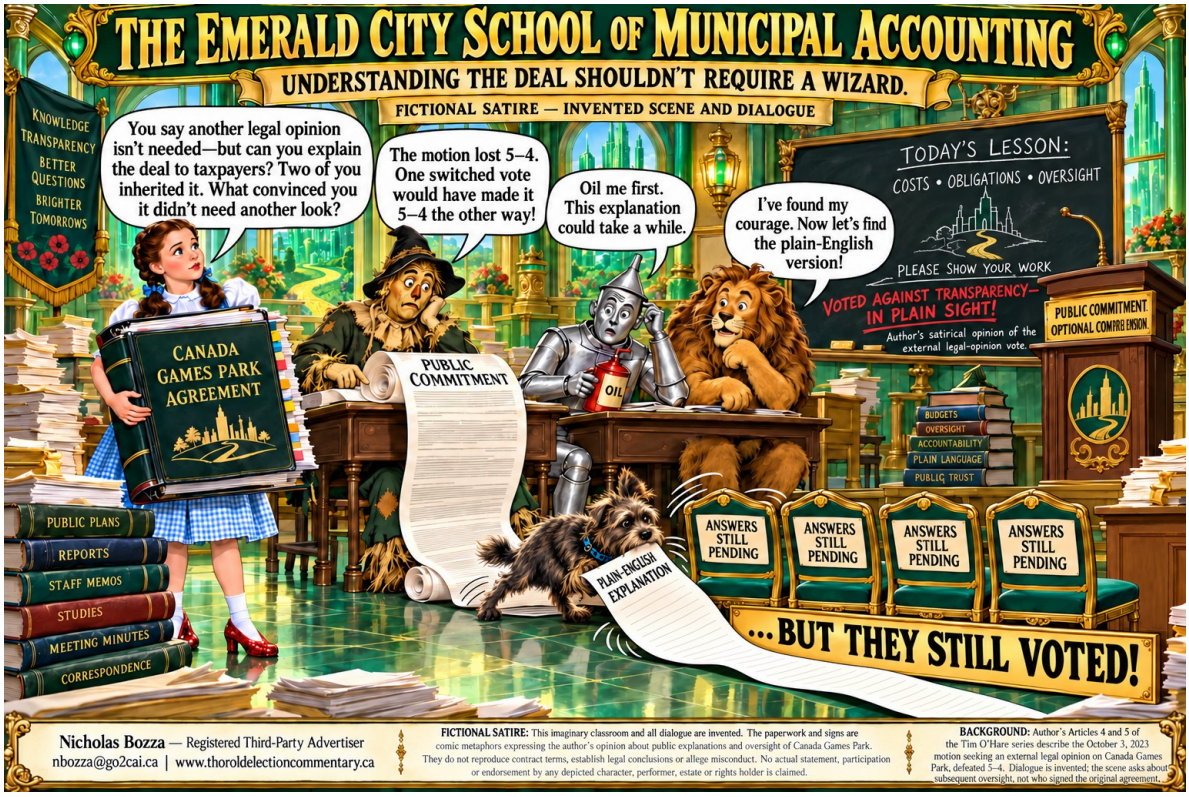
Fictional satire: extra volumes and the empty window are exaggerated props, not a document inventory or evidence that nobody can explain the agreement.

Four Matching Votes Four Explanations Please

On October 3, 2023, a motion for an external legal opinion was defeated 5–4. O'Hare, Dekker, Sentance, De Divitiis and Ugulini opposed it; Longo, D'Angela, DeRose and Handley supported it. [6]

Earlier staff review, management questioning and a later solicitor's clarification must also be acknowledged. O'Hare's stated concern was unnecessary additional legal spending. My question is whether the scrutiny was sufficient—and how each member reached that judgment. [4–7]

Matching votes do not prove a secret pact. They still deserve individual explanations. The UN-FAB FOUR can keep the chorus; taxpayers would welcome four solos on the financial fine print.



Fictional satire: the scene and dialogue are invented. The historical motion concerned an external legal opinion; staff review and management questioning occurred.

Nicholas Bozza
Registered Third-Party Advertiser — City of Thorold
nbozza@go2cai.ca
www.thoroldelectioncommentary.ca

Article disclaimer

This report contains political opinion, interpretation, attributed reporting and expressly identified fiction. UN-FAB FOUR and earlier lineup nicknames describe the author's perceived political alignment; they do not identify an official caucus or establish collusion. Shared votes do not prove coordination, and disagreement does not establish incompetence or improper motives. No finding is made that any councillor failed to read an agreement, deliberately manufactured election controversy, misused funds or concealed every document. No complete lifetime-cost calculation, comprehensive vote audit or legal opinion is supplied. Historic figures and questions should not be treated as current audited results. References permit readers to check the stated basis and consider contrary explanations. Documented corrections and responses are welcome. References to an election distraction or protective pact express suspicion or opinion, not a finding of deliberate coordination; an absence of evidence disproving a suspicion does not establish it. The suggested $1-million donation is a hypothetical comparison, not a verified available alternative or a costed substitute for the project. Accounts of private conversations reflect the author's recollection and have not been independently corroborated unless a source is identified.

All cartoon scenes, dialogue, props, receipts, extra volumes, invisible reports, painted curtains, trains and celebrity appearances are invented metaphors. There is no claim of a real emergency, secret arrangement, booking, concert, invitation, celebrity endorsement, parade participation or municipal payment. Artwork is satire, not evidence. "Translation pending" means a plain-language explanation in the joke, not that the published agreement is unavailable in English. "Against transparency" is the author's opinion about a specified vote against further external legal advice, not the wording of the motion. Source notes embedded in older cartoons may be abbreviated; the factual distinctions and corrections in this report govern its accompanying commentary.

Detailed reference sheet

References checked October 18, 2026. The full report's reference list is retained for context; some background sources concern passages not repeated in this short draft. News reports are attributed accounts of proceedings, not substitutes for a complete minutes-and-video audit. The agreement is the primary contractual text; this commentary is not a legal opinion.

[1] City of Thorold, Canada Games Park Consortium; Consortium and Co-Tenancy Agreement dated May 18, 2021, including attached Legacy Lease.

https://www.thorold.ca/recreation-culture-community/canada-games-park/canada-games-park-consortium/

Primary index and downloadable agreement. Pinpoints: definition of Legacy Period; sections 10.1, 11–13, 17, 23–24; Legacy Lease sections 2.1 and 3.3. Operating thirds, general voting, rental-rate exception, capital provisions, term, confidentiality and statutory-access recognition. Not proof of a particular total lifetime cost. Agreement: https://media-003-ca.cdn.govstack.com/thorold-ca/media/ncdnrnpd/may182021_consortium-and-co-tenancy-agreement-website-version.pdf
Legacy Lease: https://media-003-ca.cdn.govstack.com/thorold-ca/media/afdavsqt/may182021_csg-legacy-lease-execution-version-website-version.pdf

[2] Cathy Pelletier, ThoroldToday, UPDATE 2 Councillors weigh in on Thorold's partnership, December 5, 2019.

https://www.thoroldtoday.ca/local-news/update-2-councillors-weigh-in-on-thorolds-partnership-1901797

Reports December 3 partnership debate, conditions, stated benefits and concerns, and named 6–3 vote. Supports Dekker and Sentance's earlier support; does not establish later private motives.

[3] Ludvig Drevfjall, ThoroldToday, Thorold city councillors in heated exchange with mayor as Canada Summer Games agreement passes, May 19, 2021.

https://www.thoroldtoday.ca/local-news/thorold-city-councillors-in-heated-exchange-with-mayor-as-canada-summer-games-agreement-passes-3794439

Reports 6–3 approval, Longo/DeRose/Handley opposition, competing claims about disclosure and the mayor's response. Allegations in the debate remain attributed allegations.

[4] Bernard Lansbergen, ThoroldToday, City council orders financial review of Canada Games arena, January 18, 2023.

https://www.thoroldtoday.ca/local-news/city-council-orders-financial-review-of-canada-games-arena-6395399

Important contrary evidence: staff financial review was requested; management attendance sought. Historic unused-ice concerns are not a current audit.

[5] Bernard Lansbergen, ThoroldToday, Canada Games Park management grilled by Thorold City Council, April 12, 2023.

https://www.thoroldtoday.ca/local-news/canada-games-park-management-grilled-by-thorold-city-council-6842804

Records management presentation and questions, including O'Hare on empty space. Refutes an absolute claim of no scrutiny; does not prove adequacy of all answers.

[6] Bernard Lansbergen, ThoroldToday, City council closes door on Canada Games Park investigation, October 4, 2023.

https://www.thoroldtoday.ca/local-news/city-council-closes-door-on-canada-games-park-investigation-7639427

Reports October 3 motion, named 5–4 vote, O'Hare's existing-advice/cost rationale, Dekker's objection to repeated criticism and finance director's disclosure limitations. It is not an October 25 vote and not a vote abolishing all review.

[7] Bernard Lansbergen, ThoroldToday, City Council still debating crappy Canada Games Park deal, October 25, 2023.

https://www.thoroldtoday.ca/local-news/city-council-still-debating-crappy-canada-games-park-deal-7734304

Reports October 24 presentation of municipal solicitor's ownership/lease explanation and continuing disagreement. Confirms later legal clarification occurred.

[8] City of Thorold, Election 2022; Bernard Lansbergen, Meet your newly elected councillors, October 24, 2022.

https://www.thorold.ca/council-administration/elections/election-2022/

Official election index plus contemporary reporting: https://www.thoroldtoday.ca/local-news/meet-your-newly-elected-councillors-5999876 . O'Hare and De Divitiis first elected; Dekker and Sentance returned. Results do not establish why anyone won or retired.

[9] The Beatles, The Beatles Anthology.

https://www.thebeatles.com/beatles-anthology-0

Official history identifies Ringo replacing Pete Best in August 1962. Used only to correct the lineup metaphor.

[10] Sheila Marikar, ABC News, Paul McCartney Says Yoko Ono Didn't Break Up the Beatles, October 29, 2012.

https://abcnews.com/blogs/entertainment/2012/10/paul-mccartney-says-yoko-ono-didnt-break-up-the-beatles

Reports McCartney's David Frost interview rejecting blame of Ono. Does not establish a single alternative cause of the breakup.

[11] The Beatles official song catalogue; John Lennon official Imagine material.

https://www.thebeatles.com/songs

Title references only: Help!, Taxman, Please Please Me, All Together Now, The Long and Winding Road, We Can Work It Out and Let It Be. Imagine is a Lennon solo work. No lyric reproduction or endorsement.

[12] The Beatles official Abbey Road album page.

https://www.thebeatles.com/abbey-road

Album released September 26, 1969; official page identifies the London crossing photograph. User's supplied cover used as composition reference, not reproduced as a new documentary Thorold photograph.

[13] City of Thorold, Index and Zoning Maps, Schedule A6D (PDF page 14); City zoning index.

https://media-003-ca.cdn.govstack.com/thorold-ca/media/4rim0wjt/zoning-by-law-60-2019-combined-maps.pdf

Schedule A6D labels Abbey Drive, Keefer Road and Decew Road. Current City index: https://www.thorold.ca/building-business-development/planning-and-development/zoning/ . This geographic reference does not verify a real zebra crossing at the imaginary cartoon location.

[14] City report PWCS2019-81, Thorold Community Arenas Strategy Canada Games Park Legacy Project, December 3, 2019.

https://media-003-ca.cdn.govstack.com/thorold-ca/media/vcjn3m5w/pwcs2019-81-thorold-community-arenas-strategy-canada-games-park-legacy-project.pdf

Contemporaneous staff recommendation and supporting rationale, useful context for evaluating the earlier commitment rather than treating every later cost as unexpected.

[15] Seven Natural Wonders, 7 Natural Wonders of the World.

https://sevennaturalwonders.org/7-natural-wonders-of-the-world/

The organization's seven-item list includes Victoria Falls and does not include Niagara Falls. This supports only the list distinction; the Eighth Wonder comparison is the author's joke.