The Long & Winding Bill CDA Games Final

Canada Games Park and the rejected legal opinion

Full article | Nicholas Bozza | Approximately 370 words | About 3 minutes, excluding cartoons, disclaimers and references.

The ribbon-cutting lasted a day. The bills will keep arriving for decades.

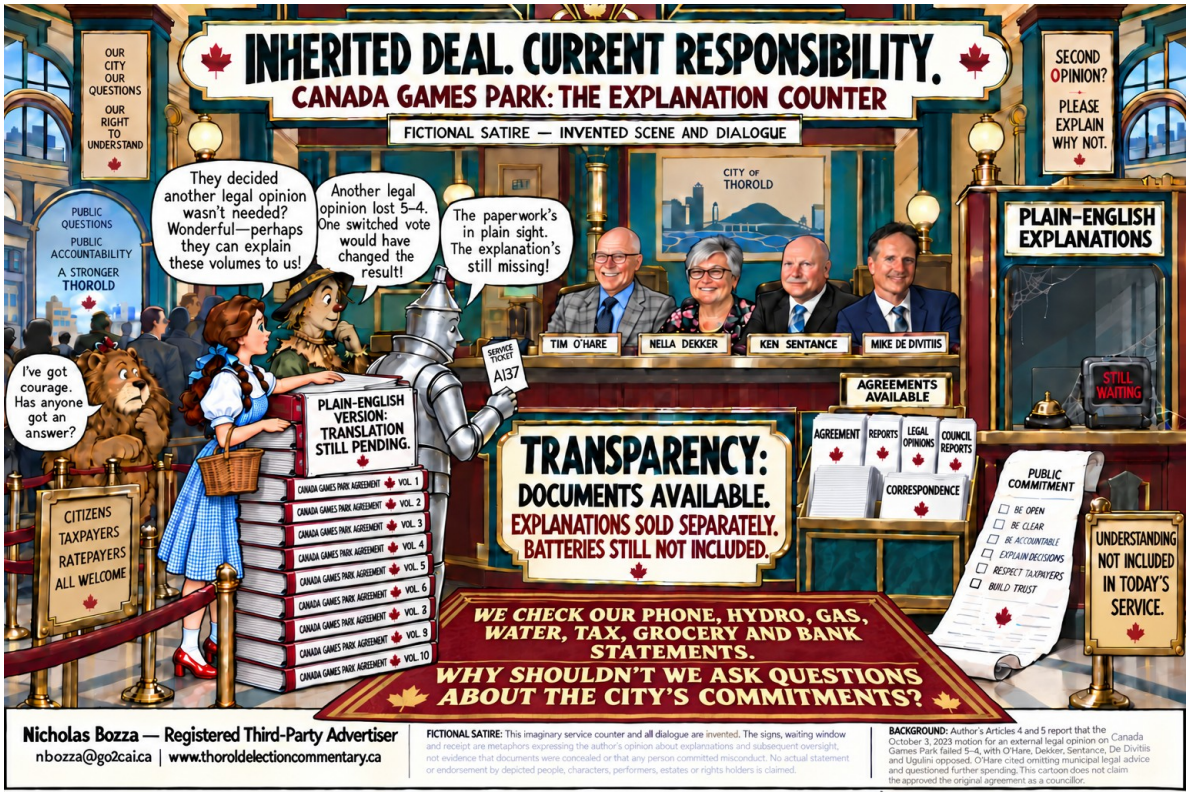
Canada Games Park is a real facility with real benefits. My question is about the deal: what did Thorold receive, what must we keep paying, and why was another external legal opinion rejected? A grand opening is lovely. It is also considerably shorter than a 38-year commitment.

The consortium involves Brock University, Thorold, St. Catharines and Niagara Region. Brock owns the land. Brock, Thorold and St. Catharines share operating costs and deficits in equal thirds. Each partner has one general management-committee vote, but Niagara does not vote on rental rates and some decisions require consensus. [1]

The initial legacy term is 38 years. The lease recognizes the tenants' building interests during the term; subject to its provisions, the buildings pass to Brock without compensation when the lease ends. [1]

The agreement and Legacy Lease are public. So the question is not whether the paperwork exists. It is whether residents have received an understandable explanation of their obligations and options.

In my imaginary explanation shop, the binders are in stock. The answer counter seems permanently out to lunch.



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

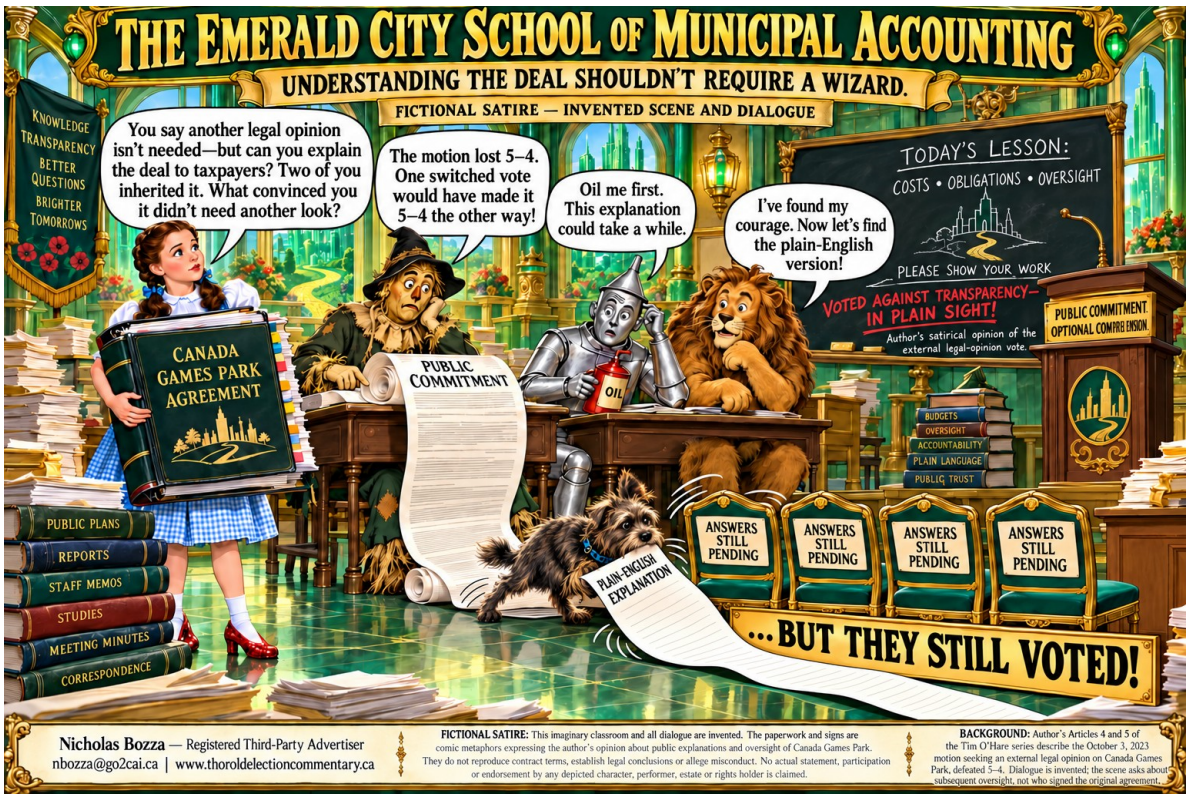
On October 3, 2023, Handley's motion seeking an external legal opinion about Canada Games Park financials and the consortium agreement lost 5–4. O'Hare, Dekker, Sentance, De Divitiis and Ugulini opposed it; Longo, D'Angela, DeRose and Handley supported it. One changed vote would have reversed the result. [6]

O'Hare said municipal lawyers had already worked on the agreement and further spending could be unnecessary. Council had also ordered a staff financial review, questioned management and later received a solicitor's ownership clarification. Those facts matter. This was a rejection of additional external advice, not every form of scrutiny. [4–7]

My question remains: what convinced each member that the scrutiny was sufficient? O'Hare and De Divitiis inherited the deal; they still own their subsequent votes. Dekker and Sentance should explain both their earlier support and their later opposition to more external advice. [2, 6, 8]

Matching votes do not prove a secret pact. They do give taxpayers four representatives to ask for individual answers.

The UN-FAB FOUR can keep the chorus. On the Brock deal, taxpayers are still waiting for four solo explanations —and a financial statement without musical accompaniment.



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

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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.