It’s a Wonderful Life

If Transparency Had Never Been Born

Christmas political parody • Executive summary

By Nicholas Bozza | Thorold Election Commentary

Article word count: 887 | Ordinary words: 0 | Satirical words: 887

6 satirical illustrations, including 2 Beatles car-tunes
No illustrations reused from earlier articles

All funny—according to the author, who also counted the words.

Estimated reading time: 6–7 minutes, excluding illustration viewing.
Estimated laughing time: 6–7 minutes, excluding recovery time.

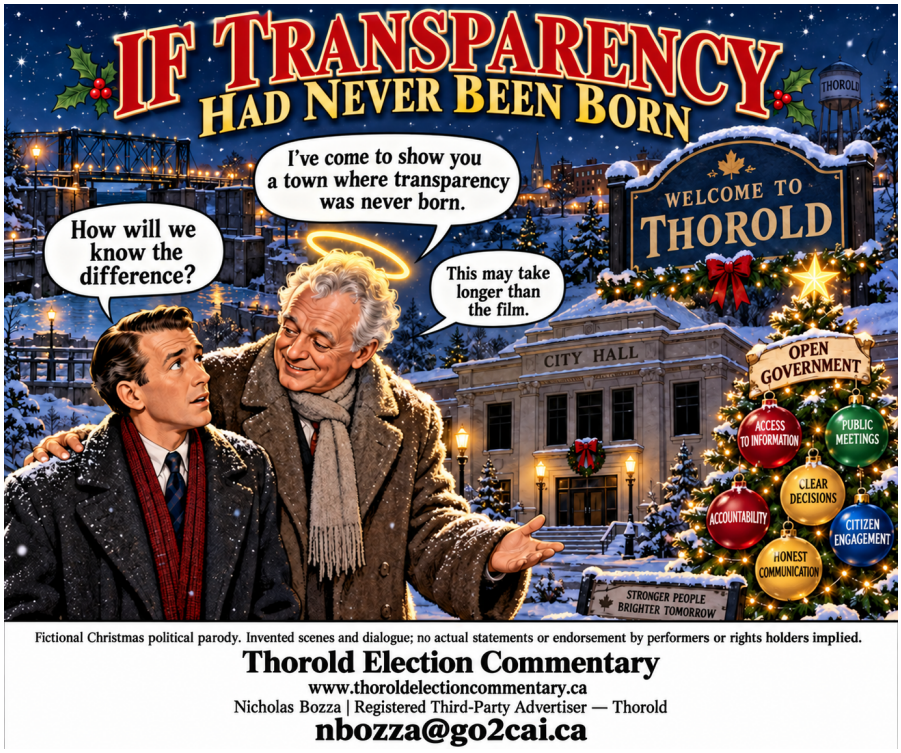
Fictional political parody: all scenes and dialogue are invented. The full satire notice and reference notes appear at the end.

Clarence arrives in Thorold carrying a lantern, a notebook and an application for his wings.

“I’ve come to show you a town where transparency was never born.”

“How will we know the difference?” asks a resident.

“Oh dear. This may take longer than the film.”



CARTOON SATIRE NOTICE: Fictional Christmas political parody. All scenes and dialogue are invented. No actual statements or endorsement by performers, creators or rights holders are implied.

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At imaginary City Hall, OPEN GOVERNMENT ornaments decorate a tree nobody can switch on.

“Who approved it? What did it cost? Who voted?”

“Season’s greetings.”

The Ghost of Decisions Past carries reports. The Ghost of Decisions Present poses for a photograph. Decisions Yet to Come arrives with beautiful campaign signs.

A bell rings. Has someone answered a question?

It turns out to be the Wi-Fi password.

The three ghosts take Tiny Tim O’Hare on a Christmas tour. Past brings YOUR COUNCIL RECORD. Present brings QUESTIONS STILL OPEN. Future brings a glittering tree promising openness, accountability and transparency.

“Beautiful promises,” says the ghost. “But future Christmas lights don’t illuminate your past record.”



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“Is Tiny Tim invited to dinner?”

“Of course. Bring an explanation of your record. We’ve already got stuffing.”

The ghosts are invited too.

“They’re truly transparent,” says Clarence. “You can see right through them.”

Everyone is welcome at the table. But a Christmas invitation doesn’t come with an exemption from answering questions.



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Tiny Tim returns with a box labelled EXPLANATIONS OF OUR COUNCIL RECORDS.

“Under the tree?”

“On the table, Tim. Open it before the election.”

The best early Christmas present the UN-FAB FOUR can give is a clear explanation of past decisions, current positions, votes and reasons. Future promises shouldn’t wrap up unanswered questions.

If those explanations don’t arrive, voters can take that into account when choosing the cast for the next term. The election decides who returns.



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John Lennon and George Harrison arrive as entirely imaginary musical ghosts.

“The record before the encore?” asks John.

“Each person’s own explanation?” adds George.

No real musician endorses anyone in this invented sketch. Even the afterlife has a disclaimer.

“Municipal Christmas,” says Clarence. “We’re waiting for the minutes.”



CAR-TUNE SATIRE NOTICE: Invented scene and dialogue. Lennon and Harrison appear as imaginary ghosts; any call to McCartney and Starr is fictional. No political views or endorsement are attributed to the musicians, estates or rights holders.

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John calls Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr in a fictional telephone scene.

“‘Yesterday’ needs explaining before ‘Tomorrow Never Knows’,” says George.
Paul suggests “‘We Can Work It Out’—start with the votes and reasons.”
“I can keep time,” says Ringo. “Who’s keeping the record?”
“‘Come Together’ for the community,” I suggest. “Then think independently.”
This is a car-tune now. Even the paperwork has a musical arrangement.



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Independent judgment means examining the evidence, reaching your own conclusion and explaining your own vote. Agreement is allowed; matching votes alone don't prove coordination.

God's gifts of free will, independent thinking and transparency are part of my faith. In this parody, God sends Clarence to help Thorold use them.

Zuzu Bailey represents our next generation. Those are flower petals—not "Zoo Zoo Pedals." Please don't refer her to the cycling committee.

She wants a future of independent minds, disclosure and clear answers.

"Everyone wants Clarence to get his wings," says Zuzu. "It will make this year's Santa Claus parade the best ever!"

In our fictional ending, the bell rings and Clarence gets his wings.

"Finally. Something approved without a referral."

The angel can earn his wings in a story. The councillors must earn their votes in real life.

Clarence remains Thorold's guardian angel forever—remotely.

"No ward office?"

"Cloud-based."

"Even heaven is within remote reach with technology—we have the cloud everywhere!" says Clarence. "That includes wherever Handley goes for warmer weather. If the work gets done and residents are served, yes, it's all good."

From my review of the council recording, I understood O'Hare to be questioning Jim Handley spending a couple of colder winter months down south while serving remotely. This is my interpretation, not a verbatim quotation; the wording has not been independently verified here.

In this fictional Christmas review, Clarence sides with Handley on that point: judge the work, accessibility and accountability.

HOLY SMOKES! Handley got an endorsement from an ANGEL! Does it get any better than this?

That endorsement is invented, limited to the remote-service joke and not a ruling on council attendance.

"Upstairs asked the questions and reviewed the arrangements," says Clarence. "The work gets done. It's fine."

A candidate's record of solving major issues remotely should speak for itself. The proof is in the pudding.

"Christmas pudding?"

"Naturally. We're assessing results—not where the spoon was sitting."

"Selfies required?" asks Zuzu.

"No. The work should speak for itself. The halo is not a ring light."

Inclusion should mean fairly considering arrangements for health needs while maintaining service and accountability.

For Thorold's next generation: independent minds, clear records and answers we can understand. Wings optional. Accountability essential.

"God bless everyone," says Zuzu.

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Share the laughter. Pass along the questions. Help keep Thorold thinking independently.

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Word count covers the parody body only; title, metadata, satire notice, signature, reference notes and illustration lettering are excluded. Satirical classification and laughing-time estimate are comic presentation, not a promise of continuous laughter.

Full satire notice

Satire notice: This fictional political parody combines It's a Wonderful Life, A Christmas Carol and imaginary Beatles scenes. All scenes, dialogue, gifts, supernatural events, the phone call and Clarence's wings are invented. UN-FAB FOUR expresses the author's opinion of a perceived alignment involving Tim O'Hare, Mike De Divitiis, Ken Sentance and Nella Dekker, not proof of coordination. Tiny Tim is a satirical nickname for adult councillor O'Hare, not Dickens's child; no claim about disability is made. Lennon and Harrison appear as imaginary ghosts; McCartney and Starr as living characters in a fictional call. No political views or endorsement are attributed to any musician, estate, performer, creator or rights holder. Statements about God's gifts express the author's faith; divine intervention and parade predictions are fictional. The account of O'Hare's remarks about Handley is the author's interpretation of a council recording; its wording has not been independently verified here. Clarence's endorsement of Handley on remote service is fictional; the discussion states an opinion, not council attendance rules. Voters determine election outcomes. Song titles are used for parody; no lyrics are reproduced.

Reference notes

It's a Wonderful Life: Frank Capra's 1946 film starring James Stewart. American Film Institute: https://catalog.afi.com/Film/27682-IT%27S-A-WONDERFUL-LIFE. Dickens's ghosts and Tiny Tim: https://www.gutenberg.org/files/46/46-h/46-h.htm. Zuzu Bailey is George's daughter; "Zuzu's petals" refers to flower petals. The Christmas references are deliberately combined; the musical-ghost scenes and the little girl's closing blessing are invented.