UN-FAB Don’t Explain, So Don’t Complain: The Un-Fabbed Constitution?

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | Before asking for another term, explain the last one.

By Nicholas Bozza | Thorold Election Commentary

Estimated reading time: Approximately 2 minutes

A campaign sign tells me where you want to sit. Your voting record tells me what you did while sitting there.

My central argument is that incumbents should defend their difficult decisions before asking voters for another term. In my commentary, “UN-FAB FOUR” refers to Nella Dekker, Ken Sentance, Tim O’Hare and Mike De Divitiis. It expresses my perception of voting alignment; shared votes do not prove private coordination. Four alone were not a majority of the nine-member council.

Canada Games Park: explain the decision

On October 3, 2023, all four joined Mayor Terry Ugulini in opposing Jim Handley’s motion for an external legal opinion on Canada Games Park’s financial arrangements and consortium agreement. The motion lost 5–4. O’Hare cited existing municipal legal advice and concern about further spending; Dekker expressed frustration with revisiting the issue. [1] My objection is that those explanations do not settle residents’ questions about costs, rights, obligations and disclosure.

Being tired of a question does not answer it.

The cemetery: explain the process

My Lakeview Cemetery questions concern authority, consistent rules, compassionate accommodation and accountability. Who could authorize a burial in an unopened section? What council approval was required? How should an error be corrected? These questions require documented answers. They do not establish that a councillor directed an improper burial.

Public service: show your work

My criticism of O’Hare also concerns reported remarks about former mayor Mal Woodhouse, public credit-taking and my recollection of an encounter about criticism and hatred. The full article distinguishes recollections, reported accounts and opinion. My standard is straightforward: councillors should explain their votes, supply evidence when disputing criticism, acknowledge what they have learned and treat residents’ questions with respect.

My conclusion

I do not support returning the UN-FAB FOUR. I want independent judgment, clear explanations, willingness to reconsider and respect for residents who ask uncomfortable questions. The cartoons and roast lines express frustration; voting records and documents must carry the factual argument.

They are free to ask for four more years. We are free to say: Explain the last four first.

Opinion and satire notice: This summary presents the author’s political judgments. Comic scenes and roast lines are not factual evidence. The source below supports the Canada Games Park discussion, not the separate cemetery, Woodhouse, museum or canvassing accounts. Reported accounts have the verification limits stated in the full article. Read the full article for context and qualifications.

[1] Bernard Lansbergen, ThoroldToday, October 4, 2023, “City council closes door on Canada Games Park investigation.” Read source.

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