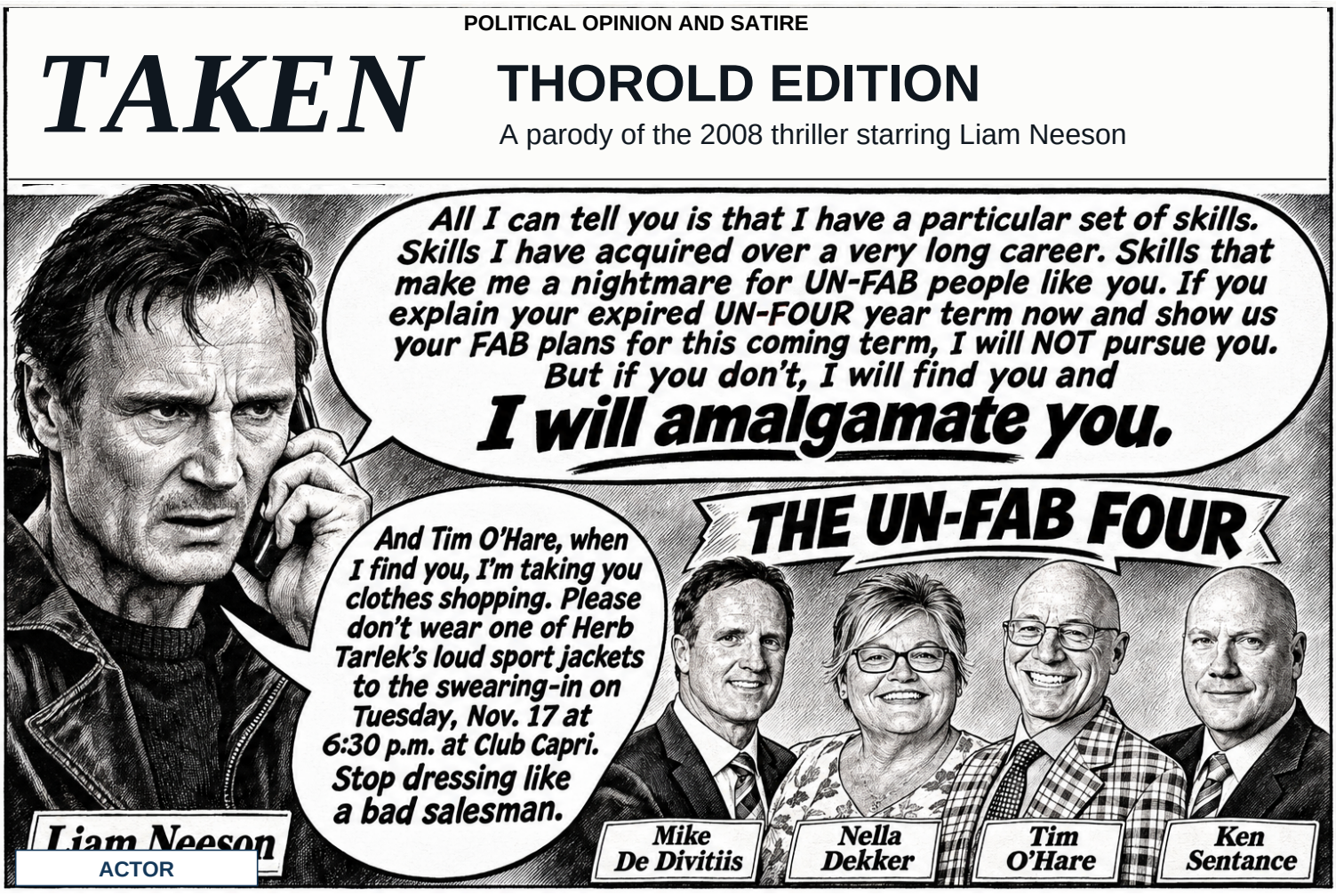
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FOUR IN ONE ARTICLE ABOUT THE UN-FAB FOUR

1) POLITICAL OPINION · 2) SATIRE · 3) FICTIONAL PARODY · 4) DISCLAIMER

I was going to stop at three, but around here the fourth one gives you a majority.

Estimated reading time: 1 minute 40 seconds at 300 words per minute

This cartoon and its dialogue are entirely fictional. Liam Neeson did not make this call or endorse this message. (Though if he ever wants to read it aloud, I'd love to be there to hear it.) "I WILL AMALGAMATE YOU" is a punchline about municipal restructuring. It conveys no threat of physical harm to anyone. As far back as eight years, people whose judgment I and others respect, and who are much smarter than me, were saying that Thorold needed to prepare for the possibility of amalgamation ASAP. I take that possibility extremely more seriously now as time is of the essence and remains to be of the essence. In my view, the risk is more than very high unless Thorold moves quickly on a comprehensive restructuring plan that everyone can read and comment on. I encourage readers to examine the public record and draw their own conclusions.

"UN-FAB FOUR" is a satirical label **"Made by Voters for Voters."** Aw, but I like it too. It has a bit of that Irish Spring flavour, don't you agree? The label reflects what voters see as a distinct pattern of these UN-four councillors voting together as part of the majority on important issues. In my own reading of the public record, the UN-four repeatedly voted together, and their votes formed the majority on key decisions. Many voters have told me they believe the UN-councillors have yet to adequately explain those votes and have sidestepped opportunities to discuss them. Those voters described the way the discussion was brushed aside as excessively rude, arrogant and high-handed. I make no allegation of an official caucus, a secret agreement, or unlawful conduct.

The entirely fictional, dues-free membership roll has exactly **UN-FOUR** names. They are Councillors **Tim UN-O'Hare, Mike UN-De Divitiis, Ken UN-Sentance, and Nella UN-Dekker–UN-D'Epiro**. Nella gets two UNs because I included both surnames. Whether two UNs cancel each other out is a question I'll leave to the UN-mathematicians. Even the disclaimer gets a turn at satire.

The "feet in cement" metaphor expresses my view that these councillors have dug in when residents ask them to explain their record from the last term and spell out their plans for the coming one. With Thorold's municipal independence and life as we know it here at stake, residents deserve clear answers on both.

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Please share Thorold Election Commentary and invite a friend to sign up

This Saturday, my bonus article brings together my post-mortem on the recent Thorold election. I'm going to lay it on the line, get to the point and use a little less political correctness. How politically correct can you be when you're writing about political incorrectness? Even the oxymoron needs a recount.

If you've been following the series, please forward this to a friend or neighbour and invite them to sign up for free. Once they confirm their subscription, they'll get an email when a new article goes up. **Sign up for free at Thorold Election Commentary**.

I've built a readership that checks in daily, and I appreciate it. These articles take a lot of time to research and write. How many people read and sign up will help me decide whether and how to continue my Thorold commentary as a registered third-party advertiser. If I keep going, I'll publish less often. That could mean once a week, after council meetings, or whenever an important issue warrants a closer look. A free subscription means you'll know when there's something new to read.

Thanks for reading, and please pass it along before Saturday.