

BEST EDITORIAL (LOCAL AFFAIRS)

The quality of the editorials was quite good as determined by the exact science of assigning numbers one to 10. Below six was weak argument, if any argument at all, and lack of purpose. The sixes were decently written and of some purpose. The sevens were well written with purpose but lacking particular passion. The eights were well-written, passionate and purposeful. The nine had all the eights did but was also likely to draw the most fire, hence required greater courage to write and publish. Long live the editorial.

Editorial Page

Think before you talk, type or try to hurt

STEVE BONSPIEL
THE EASTERN DOOR

Let's see if you recognize this: A woman stands up to protect herself and her family, in a difficult, tense situation that continues to escalate. She feels targeted, unsafe, and she fears for her two young children. Yet in the eyes of some she is the bad guy, and every positive thing she has done for the community falls by the wayside, as if she were a common criminal. All because she launched a lawsuit against the inept Mohawk Council to stop the threats, the harassment, and the bullying. Sound familiar? Sadly this is not an isolated incident here in Kahnawake. The only thing that changes is the details. Waneek Horn-Miller, a woman so many are proud of, who call her a hero, is under attack by those very same people. The group that launched the lawsuit (seven total) felt they had to do something because the taunts, verbal abuse, and name-calling against a number of Kahnawake'kehrónon who live with non-Natives has been downright childish – and scary, for those families. Horn-Miller lives in Ottawa at the moment, but will most likely move back one day. The Mohawk Council has done nothing to help the eviction debate, instead choosing to throw fuel on the fire by publicly supporting actions from the group, such as mailing out unsigned eviction letters with no legal bearing, along with a failed attempt to go door-to-door to deliver them. Believing in Mohawk Law's intent is one thing – we respect all opinions on this issue and can see merits in both arguments to allow or disallow non-Natives to live here – however, attacking and targeting people while using it as your backup is weak.



Allow us to explain: First off, at least two million – which are basically photos are posted (stolen, in this case) individuals on the Internet, complete with a credit underneath – were created to credit her and her partner. Not only is using their illegal (defamation) and clearly the kind of people would stoop so low. It is important to understand that regardless of whether you are on the eviction side or against it, this goes beyond that. And if you "like" them on Facebook, you are continuing this air of intimidation and ridicule.

What happened to respect?

GREG HORN
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IORI:WASE

Respect. It's only one word, but at the same time it's more than just a word. And it's also a word that most of us heard quite often while growing up. But, do we truly understand the word and how to apply it in our everyday lives? The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines respect as: a feeling of admiring someone or something that is valuable, important, or something that should be treated in a particular way; high or special regard; the quality of being esteemed. Looking around the community these days it isn't hard to see that many people have forgotten how to respect each other, themselves and those around them. In recent weeks it is easy to see that there seems to be a level of disrespect going on within the community not seen in quite some time. All one has to do is log onto social media to see the level of animosity expressed

passionate about because it is one that affects everyone. And everyone is affected by it differently. What happened to respectful dialogue? What happened to respecting the opinions of others? What happened to respecting each other – whether you agree with someone or not? But it would seem that we have forgotten how to debate things amongst ourselves in a healthy, respectful way. We have forgotten that it is okay to disagree with each other and have different opinions. With so many community members involved in this discussion it could be Kahnawake's golden opportunity to come to some sort of resolution on this issue once and for all. You could be surprised at what people can accomplish when they can sit down together and have a respectful discussion – instead of yelling back and forth about which side is right. Instead of shouting at each other from across the room more can be accomplished by putting our heads together to try to understand where people from each side are coming



Moratorium on Mixed Marriages, then the subsequent 1984 Mohawk Membership Law, which segments of this community, regardless of what list they may or may not be on, need to sit down together and discuss this issue in a respectful manner. In order to move forward, all segments of this community, regardless of what list they may or may not be on, need to sit down together and discuss this issue in a respectful manner. In order to move forward, all segments of this community, regardless of what list they may or may not be on, need to sit down together and discuss this issue in a respectful manner. In order to move forward, all segments of this community, regardless of what list they may or may not be on, need to sit down together and discuss this issue in a respectful manner.

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STEVE BONSPIEL

The Eastern Door

The best editorials take on the powers that be, state what's wrong and don't mince words. The Eastern Door did that in this editorial, standing out in front shoulder to shoulder with those under attack.

GREG HORN

Iori:wase

Much like the winning editorial, the Kahnawake News is talking to the mob, acknowledging differences, pushing the positive and condemning bad behaviour, taking no sides.

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EDITORIAL

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Editorial

Your opinion counts!
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Pontiac is under assault ... over to you!

If any of us felt our beautiful Pontiac has hit the bottom with virtually its entire economy shut down, well, the nightmare is just beginning. Our defenders, so we foolishly thought, election after election, the Quebec Liberals, have announced they are in effect closing rural areas down. Extreme statement? Hmm? Take a look at the bills just introduced by Premier Couillard: first, is there any good news here for the Pontiac and our future? None obvious. Second, why is this government throwing out the last thirty years of official efforts to repatriate clientele and to provide locally-run services in Quebec's rural areas? Decentralization and local control are the watchwords of democracy. Now, millions of dollars later, all the restructuring of health and local

governments later, this government announces this was a big mistake and Quebec is now going to swim in the opposite direction, clearly in tandem with Stephen Harper's slash-and-burn governance. The Couillard Liberals were never elected on this platform. They obviously hid their agenda – or else we the voters were so disgusted with the PO's attack on minorities that we didn't bother to examine Dr Couillard's plans. Plans much like Mr Harper's "hidden agenda". The key is in that last paragraph: we the voters did not do our homework. We stampeded one way, as we always do, without looking toward the cliff we would soon be approaching. That's egg on our faces. We dropped our own ball. Crying over past

mistakes never yields much, maybe further blindness, unless we learn something from those mistakes. It's time we do our own due diligence. It's time we actually pay attention to what our political leaders say they intend to do. And time we woke up our MRC, municipalities, and our MNA into action mode. Two years from now, with our economy and job creation further in the negative, our once-good health system shipped off to the city, our schools administered – maybe from Montreal! – youth centres shut, youth-employment aid closed, and much more – then it's too late. Tell our kids we're the ones who failed them. The Journal and other media are sifting out the real effects of the Couillard Cuts – it's time



ICE IS NICE! – A natural ice formation along the shore of the Ottawa River. The photo was taken by Virginia MacLachy, who enjoys the beauty of nature and the ever changing river throughout the seasons; she has a home along the Ottawa River, in Bristol and is a Riverwatcher with the Ottawa Riverkeeper, keeping an eye on the river and local activities that may affect it.

we actually read the fine print. Go to the notice on page 20 of this issue. Our continued murmuring is just wasting time. Fred Ryan

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FRED RYAN

Pontiac Journal du Pontiac

Good editorials raise the alarm, difficult to do on complex matters. In clear, colourful language, the Pontiac Journal du Pontiac exposes the dark machinations of the provincial government as a threat to the community and calls on the people responsible – the voters – to act.