

Jerry J. Ouellette, MPP Oshawa

Unforeseen Impacts of Legislation



It has been over a year since a number of pieces of legislation have been implemented and we have seen some of the potential impacts.

Around Oshawa, I take notice of the number of pit bulls that are now wearing a muzzle in compliance with the new legislation. My count is now up to sixteen without and only one actually wearing a muzzle. It appears our law officials are not actually out there enforcing this legislation. Then again, maybe they are where they should be – dealing with far more serious issues. While no one is opposed to practical laws dealing with truly vicious dog behaviour, this approach has been questionable and some loving family pets have been punished for no reason.

In case you did not know, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) is responsible for ensuring that all programming that airs in a jurisdiction complies with the laws of that jurisdiction. This is to prevent filming and promoting activities that are legal in the jurisdiction of filming but illegal in the airing jurisdiction. The new Fido commercial depicts a giant dog running through a community and leaving giant paw prints everywhere. The dog is a pit bull, it is unleashed and not wearing a muzzle. This could have the commercial in question and potentially be pulled in the province of Ontario.

Provincial same-sex marriage legislation is potentially having an impact on the Oshawa-Durham Symphony. Religious institutions are allowed to use their facilities in accordance with their faith; however, once it opens its facility commercially it must do so without discrimination. This removes the ability to say yes to whom they want and no to those that are counter to their beliefs. The Symphony has been using a number of acoustically sound local churches to perform but since this is considered a commercial activity, the church must be open to other groups without discrimination. This has the potential jeopardize the future of the Symphony in our community. Fortunately, the federal government has given the Symphony a one year extension until the legislation is fully interpreted.

Just wait and see the impact of the new non-smoking laws when they indirectly impact local charities, which is yet to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerry J. Ouellette". The signature is stylized and cursive.

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