

The
Amherstburg Echo

Amherstburg ON
phone: 519-736-2147
fax: 519-736-8384
www.amherstburg.com

SUN MEDIA
A Quebecor Media Company

DON GAGE
Publisher
gagerom@bowesnet.com

TIM OLIVER
General Manager
toliver@bowesnet.com

RON GIOFU
Editorial
519-551-7936
echoeditorial@bowesnet.com

JOE PERZ
Sales
519-566-2879
echoprod@bowesnet.com

Advertising is accepted on condition that in the event of a typographical error, the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with a reasonable allowance for signature, will not be charged, but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate. In the event of a typographical error, advertising goods or services at a wrong price, goods or services may not be sold. Advertising is merely an offer to sell and may be withdrawn at any time. *The Amherstburg Echo* is not responsible for the loss or damage of unsolicited manuscripts, photos or other materials used for reproduction purposes.

"We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada, through the Publications Assistance Program (PAP) toward our mailing costs"

Canada

Member of the Canadian Community Newspaper Association
& the Ontario Community Newspapers Association

ocna

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Amherstburg Echo welcomes letters to the editor. All letters must be signed and include a daytime phone number for verification purposes. Send letters via email to echoeditorial@bowesnet.com, sent via fax at 519-736-8384 or through Canada Post care of The Editor, Dalhousie St., Amherstburg ON N9V 1W4

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

Advertising deadlines are Monday at 4 p.m., previous to the publication date. *The Amherstburg Echo* is protected by Canadian copyright. No material may be produced here without the written consent of the publisher. Reproduction without consent may result in legal action.

editorial

Creating buzz in the community

The United Communities Credit Union Complex has created a lot of positive vibes thus far and that was very evident this past weekend. An invitation-only gala was held Friday night for VIPs and sponsors with Premier Dalton McGuinty helping to cut the ribbon Saturday morning.

Sunday was "Family Day" at the complex with a variety of special events happening for people of all ages.

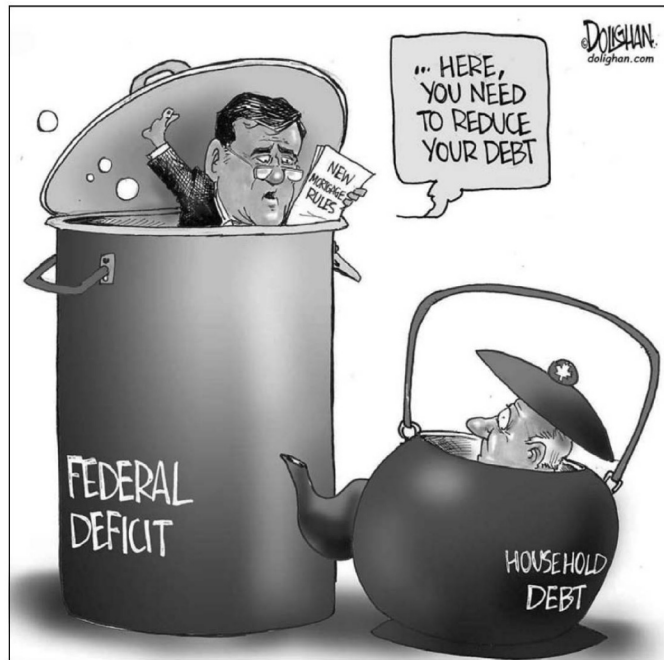
Much thanks was given to the federal and provincial governments. Kudos was given to the contractors, builders and consultants. Gratitude was shown to the sponsors and contributors. All of praise, thank-yous and compliments were well deserved indeed.

The complex is a credit to the community and everyone should be proud of their work.

This was also another chance to thank and honour the town's user groups. The user groups were well represented at Saturday's ribbon cutting and it is through their hard work and dedication that this project became a reality. Without successful sports organizations offering quality programming for youth and adults, there would not have been such a need for such a wonderful complex to begin with.

Special thanks goes to Ken Grant, who not only worked tirelessly through the course of this process but for over a decade. Grant was a main advocate for a twin-pad arena over ten years ago and believed in that cause all the way through. There wasn't always smiles and best wishes when discussing such a topic as a new facility. There were definitely bumps in the road and for while, it didn't look like there would ever be a weekend like the one Amherstburg just had. Grant never wavered, stuck to his beliefs and was rewarded.

The United Communities Credit Union Complex will serve the town's needs for, as dignitaries relayed Saturday, at least two generations. The twin-pad arena, indoor soccer facility, community rooms, premier baseball diamond, the Miracle League diamond and the outdoor football/soccer field will be staples of the community for years. There are items that have to be finished up and, undoubtedly, issues to iron out but this past weekend was a great way to enter into a new era of recreation in Amherstburg.

**Please don't tailgate me on bad roads**

As I type this, there are all kinds of dire forecasts for Tuesday and Wednesday in terms of how much snow will hit Windsor and Essex County.

A county council meeting scheduled for Wednesday in cancelled Monday afternoon due to these forecasts. The meeting was shelved because, I'm sure, members of Essex County council, administration and others didn't want to drive in bad roads. I'm sure they didn't want others who were planning to attend to trek to Essex for the meeting.

I can't say that I blame them. I wouldn't want to ask people anywhere and have them travel through falling snow and blowing snow.

I'm not a huge fan on travelling on snowy and icy roads. I've got better things to do than to slide off the road and into a ditch or into a tree, as do just about everyone else. I have braved the elements recently when going to assignments and have done so safely.

I would rather not push my luck, however. Others, it would appear, don't mind pushing their luck a bit farther than I usually do. On a recent foray into Windsor for work purposes, I calmly drove in the tire tracks of the vehicles ahead of me. Admittedly, I wasn't going the speed limit as I slowed up a bit due to the less than ideal road conditions.

**Idle Ramblings**

Ron Giofu

On the way to the city, I encountered more than one person who got in behind me and tailgated. I didn't want to speed so I didn't care if others wanted to get past me, nor did it necessarily bother me if I was slowing them down. I wasn't in a race.

The problem is others tended to get on my rear end and just stay there, even on four-lane highways that was most of the way.

I couldn't help but to wonder why the people didn't just pass me if they were in such a hurry?

When one of these back bumper riders finally turned off, another one quickly turned in behind me to take their place. Yeah, I was driving slow, but did the people driving behind me really want to risk rear-ending me?

Nothing happened, thankfully, and my stress level decreased once I got to my destination.

I don't plan on being on the roads when the snow is blowing unless I have to. Sometimes I have to, sometimes I don't. I encourage everyone to stay in when the weather is bad and the snow is abundant. There is no sense risking the health of yourself or your vehicle unless absolutely necessary.

If I am on the road, I ask but one thing. Please be patient around me and resist the urge to tailgate. I don't mind invited guests in my back seat, but other vehicles are not welcome.