

over Tracks 20." me that "20" meant 20 er hour (because I know that 1958, Canada went by miles, d of kilometres), but 20 miles ur is only about 30 km/h. n't know why Ontario later ay with a speed limit when ng a railway track.

THAN DAVIES, Ottawa

Consider cycling funds

ally, six Ottawa residents, our hours, were killed in the rebus-train collision in Barrn. Not surprisingly, there has considerable focus on the circumstances associated with the collision. what some may be characteras a knee-jerk reaction, plans onstruct an underpass at the at the cost of somewhere in the 0-110 million range appear to be

unteers and those they served. Not only does it bring top of mind at there are less fortunate in our community, but also how the Ottawa Mission is there to help them. aving been a volunteer over the

within budget? Given what I have een so far, the answer is obvious. MURRAY KAISERMAN, Ottawa

Managers are accountable

This Citizen editorial concluded that "... no city official has stepped forward to take responsibility ..." for the challenges that have been faced with the Strandherd-Armstrong and Airport Parkway pedestrian bridge projects and that "Councillors ... are too weak to demand accountability."

This is incorrect. As the city manager, all responsibility for city operations and day-to-day management ultim-

TO US
wacitizen.com

ditor, which must be exclusive to s of verification, please include your mess telephone numbers. Due to space or less are preferred. We reserve the submissions. Although we are unable to ublish, we value the views of all readers o send us their comments.



Join us at facebook.com/OttawaCitizen Letters

costs. The Citizen reported that "Eleven cyclists have been killed on Ottawa streets since 2009." The Transportation Master Plan announced this week calls for the city to spend \$70 million on all cycling-related projects between 2014 and 2031, an 18-year period. It is important to learn from mistakes and oversights in the past and make prudent expenditures to mitigate risk. But if the goal is to reduce the overall risk to our citizens and fatalities in our population, perhaps it's appropriate to take a step back and consider additional expenditures on cycling-related initiatives rather than diverting a huge amount of funds to mitigate a recurrence of what may have (hopefully) been a tragic one-time event. NEIL COLLIE, Ottawa

years, it never ceases to amaze me how efficiently and thoughtfully each of the more than 2,500 meals is served. The meal and venue provides community to those who ate there as well volunteers. Bravo to the team at the Ottawa Mission. STEVE GEORGOPOULOS, Orleans

ately rests with me. I have made this point many times during my tenure in this position and it applies in these instances. Our Deputy City Manager, Nancy Schepers, also made it clear during the recent technical briefing that the day-to-day management of projects, like these two, also falls to city staff, not elected officials. When Councillor Maria McRae asked for an independent third-party review of the Airport Parkway Pedestrian Bridge project, I immediately concurred. I also agreed immediately when Mayor Jim Watson instructed that this report be delivered through him and to the Finance and Economic Development Committee of Council. As city employees and managers, it is always our intent to ensure the best value for dollars spent on behalf of the residents of Ottawa. That is what city council and residents expect and rightly deserve. On those occasions when this does not occur, for whatever reason, we are equally committed to corrective action to limit or eliminate the potential for a repeat of the circumstances. It is my intention to review all elements of these projects to determine what could have, or should have, been done differently. I will report to council on any and all actions, in addition to those already

him in the pres... would have to lay a charge; a court

More threats to PS

Re: Broad changes to public service promised, Oct. 17.

Beyond all the talk about a so-called "consumers-first agenda," the Harper government's throne speech contained information that points to tough contract negotiations as we head into 2014. The Association of Justice Counsel, which represents 2,700 federal lawyers (Crown prosecutors, lawyers at the Department of Justice and at various federal agencies), laments the fact that the speech refers to yet more cuts and spending freezes.

After inheriting a \$ 14-billion surplus in 2006, and transforming it into a \$ 29-billion deficit (while reducing the GST by two points and cutting corporate income tax rate), this government has reiterated its intention of eliminating the deficit by 2015.

In its throne speech, the government also says it intends to reform the public service's sick-leave system and to revise performance management to provide cheaper service to Canadians. Even more surprising was a reference to amending the Public Service Labour Relations Act. We will keep a close eye on this one because collective bargaining is a democratic right and this Act cannot be weakened.

The throne speech, which reflects this government's overall philosophy, is a good reminder for us to remain united as we head into what will surely be tough negotiations in 2014. The government is setting the stage for a showdown and we can expect the Conservatives to use

public-sector employees as punching bags as they head to the polls in 2015.

AJC members work hard on behalf of Canadians and they deserve respect, recognition and representation — nothing less.

LISA BLAIS, President of the Association of Justice Counsel

Pass the foul cheese

Prime Minister Stephen "Prorogue" Harper has done it again. Yes, that is the name I give him. Every time he gets cold feet to face Parliament, he finds a way to get away.

On the day of the throne speech, and knowing how he was going to betray Canadian cheese producers, I thought it would have been appropriate if someone smeared some ripe Limburger cheese on the steps of the Parliament Buildings. The real foul-smelling cheese would have been just right for the occasion. Perhaps it should have been served to Harper on his plane trip to Europe.

L. EDWARD MONTBRIAND, Ottawa

Our blessed Canada

After listening to the throne speech and reading some of the highlights in the Citizen, I feel blessed to live in a country where our only problems seem to be paper or electronic, roaming charges, taking beer across borders and getting bumped on flights.

RAKESH MISRA, Kanata

Nix nuclear risk

Re: Nuclear must be part of Ontario's energy, Oct. 17.

The catastrophic nuclear accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant will arguably last a long time and have a far-reaching impact. Two years have passed since the accident and still the stricken reactor is spewing radioactive activity, turning the area around the plant completely unfit for human habitation.

The disaster has evolved into a global incident because it concerns the fate of 441 nuclear power stations now in operation around the world. Japan, a champion of nuclear power before Fukushima, has shut down all its 53 reactors and look-

that they will phase out their nuclear power stations. Only China — another earthquake-prone nation — is still building new nuclear power stations. A catastrophic nuclear accident in the wake of an earthquake may bring it to its senses.

Fukushima has reinforced the perception of risks inherent in nuclear power generation. Catastrophic accidents, resulting from earthquakes, cyclones, fires, equipment failures and operators errors, can happen anywhere. With Ontario's nuclear reactors located around Toronto, an accident on the scale of Fukushima or Chernobyl will devastate Canada's largest city. We cannot take that risk. Contrary to what the editorial