

Orono Weekly Times – Letter to the Editor

November 30, 2011

Jet Set has its privileges

To The Editor:

Re: No apology from Council for Olynyk (P I, Nov. 23)

Beyond a very upsetting response to a legitimate question about Mayor Foster's trip, it's the trip itself that should be questioned. Flying in a private jet to a racetrack (and presumably with good seating at the event) was a gift from the promoters of the refurbished Mosport racetrack (I have nothing against Mosport, by the way).

Suppose I was promoting a tourist attraction in Clarington, could I get the kind of privileged access to the Mayor and Regional Chair if I didn't have a private jet? Would I have to charter one and write it off as cost of promotion? I think Mayor Foster and any elected official should be wary of expensive perks, even if it sounds like a good deal. It sets a bad precedent.

If it was so important that the Mayor visit the race track in the USA, he should have made it a proper business trip with at least one member of staff qualified to evaluate racetracks and tourism proposals, flying commercial. Yes, it would have cost more, but would have raised no questions and would ensure that new business proposals that require municipality endorsement are evaluated on an equal footing.

That's transparency.

*Louis Bertrand
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