

Frontenac Community Mental Health and Addiction Services

Brief to

City of Kingston

in regards to a possible casino operation

Gambling is a widely used method of entertainment.

- In 2005 over 63% of Ontario adults reported that they gambled in the past year
- People gamble for the excitement and the money

Moderate to severe problem gambling is a health issue

- 4.8.% of Canadian adults experience moderate to severe problem gambling which equals almost 6,000 people in the City of Kingston
- 9.6% of people are at risk for problem gambling
- Older adults: have a higher percentage of involvement with 73% of people over age 60 reported gambling. 2.2% of that number have severe issues with problem gambling. One of largest growing groups of gamblers
- Many adults who report past gambling difficulties also report loneliness and depression; 77.5% of those experiencing problems with gambling had been diagnosed with a mood disorder at some point in their life, compared to only 25% in the control group. (Specker et al., 1996)
- There is a higher incident of suicide among people with a problem gambling issue
- Teenagers are at a greater risk of having a problem gambling issue than adults and by the age of 18, risk of developing a gambling problem almost doubles. 8.3 percent of youth between the ages of 16 -24 are at risk of problem gambling with 2.7% being at risk pathological gamblers
- 1/6 adults report a problem resulting from either their own involvement or a friend/family due to problem gambling (financial etc)

Required Community Interventions

- Consistent with the Ontario Mental Health and Addictions Strategy, prevention and early intervention activities are essential
 - o Provide significant education to the community on the risks of gambling, the symptoms of problem gambling; especially to key populations who have been identified as high risk for problem gambling such as young people including those in high school, college and university; older adults and people who live alone.
 - o Recognize that family and friends are seriously impacted by problem gambling and ensure that education and support programs are available.
- Appropriate, high quality services are available
 - o Understand the research which identifies people who are at a greater degree of risk for problem gambling and plan for appropriate services and supports
 - o Provide proper support for people to deal with their problem gambling issues. Current staffing of one person dedicated to problem gambling issues at our agency is inadequate to deal with demand
 - o Ensure that crisis services have the capacity to address the additional demands that people with a problem gambling may have as it is proven that there is a higher incident of mood disorders among such people.
 - o Have a person available on site at the casino to ensure that people seeking help or in crisis can be referred to immediate assistance to either the crisis team or the problem gambling service
 - o Ensure that the casino is evaluated according the standards established by the responsible gambling council. Standards provide benchmarks for the content, quality and breadth of responsible gambling programs

The impact of problem gambling can be serious to the individual, their friends and family.

As a community, we have a responsibility to ensure that any activities introduced into our area have the appropriate response to maintain the highest degree of health of our citizens.

References

Ontario Lottery and Gaming website;

Responsible Gambling Council

Statistics Canada Winter 2011

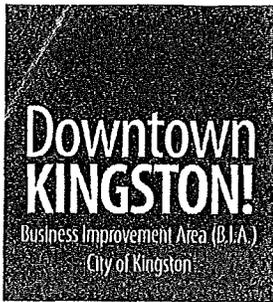
Problem Gambling – Institute of Ontario

Open Minds, Healthy Minds - Ontario's Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Strategy

St. Joseph's Care Group website, Thunderbay

Senior and Gambling: A Hidden Problem? Community Links, Nova Scotia Gaming Foundation

Ed Smith



To: Mayor Gerretsen, members of Council

August 8, 2012

Re: Public meeting on Casino presentation opening remarks by Downtown Kingston BIA chair, Ed Smith

Mayor Gerretsen, members of Council, we are here today, representing the Downtown Kingston Businesses Improvement Association. My name is Ed Smith, I am the voluntary chair of the association, and with me is Doug Ritchie, the executive Director of Downtown Kingston Business Improvement Area.

As a business group you would have thought Downtown Kingston would be natural supporters of bringing such a large business, as a casino to Kingston. We thought we would be too! We like many assumed the large economic benefits would be spread and be shared by Kingstonians and Kingston businesses widely. We've done many hours of research on the web, spoke to BIA's in jurisdictions that host casino's, read dozens of studies on casino's looking for economic benefits that support bringing a casino to Kingston. Unfortunately we have found more pervasive research and conclusions that point to casino's at best offering no economic benefits to its host city. More often than not negative economic impacts result. /

Doug Ritchie will speak at some point this evening to present some of the research that leads us to be very concerned and should make City Council extremely cautious when it comes to inviting a casino into our community.

As a business organization we have concentrated our efforts on the economics of a casino. If the economics are not determined to be a win for Kingston, i.e. a significant "net" economic benefit for the Kingston community, all the other concerns related to social issues, policing costs, etc. really become moot.

Unfortunately my remarks are going to emphasize the many red flags and questions related to the suggested net economic benefits that we've encountered. Some of these red flags are supported in quotes in the recent articles from the Kingston Whig Standard quoting gaming association officials, OLG representatives and professors who work in the field. These red flags and questions are as follows:

- Most economic benefits to hosting communities accrue at destination casino's – Kingston will not be a destination casino – Ontario will be hosting 29 casinos, our immediate neighbour New York state has many casinos
- Casino's in urban settings, like Kingston generate most of their revenue from the local community and region where they are located, as opposed to from visitors

- Existing expenditures for department store goods, restaurants, bars, movies, major purchases such as furniture, appliances and automobiles will be redirected in part to casino revenues (the displacement effect) potentially negatively affecting existing businesses, employment numbers, property taxes, etc
- Compared to destination beach, ski, country tourists who spend liberally on activities outside their main destination, casino tourists are more likely to spend very little outside the casino, therefore limiting potential benefits
- Distance decay, essentially the further a service or attraction is from a consumers locations, the less likely they are to consume that service or attraction. Kingstonians will spend more at a casino located in Kingston than they spend at a casino located in Gananoque.
- We spoke to the Kingston casino proponents in a conference call last week and asked them to name a few vibrant cities in Canada or the U.S. that Kingston could look to as successfully benefitting their local economies. They couldn't immediately name any. In fairness they said they will email us such information, which we haven't yet received.
- If we say we will accept casino proposals, it is the OLG that receives proposals and selects the winner. Their interests are not the same as Kingston's, does Kingston have any say in where it goes, how big it is, what it looks like, which amenities are included, their size, etc.? Does Kingston have the final say?
- How does a sizeable casino affect the Kingston "Brand"? How does it change our city?
- (separate sheet of detailed questions re: casino attached)

In the larger picture the OLG in its presentation have outlined its plan to increase profits for the province from \$1.7 billion to \$3 billion through this privatization and expansion initiative. Where will this extra money come from? Will Ontarians spend \$1.3 billion in savings they have saved waiting for this opportunity? Or will they redistribute what they spend now and move it in part to a casino entertainment budget, reducing expenditures at businesses across the province and in Kingston in particular? You may not have to look any further than Tuesday's Whig Standard, where OLG's spokesman, Bitonti is clear about what Ontario's new casinos will attempt to do, "We are battling for the entertainment dollar. Movie theatres, restaurants. The entertainment dollar is very limited these days. We are providing an entertainment option. People will spend a hundred dollars on dinner or a hundred dollars at a casino". Today's casinos are being designed and re-designed to attract younger gamblers, essentially those under the age of 45.

In light of the above comments in our opinion another large red flag has to be raised, when Paul Burns, the vice-president of the Canadian Gaming Association in the Whig says local entrepreneurs have nothing to fear from a casino.

Council as decision makers must be extremely cautious, we have a community whose economy is not broken, but in fact is working; and we are not a desperate community economically. Our downtown is

often cited as one to be emulated. There is ample evidence that the potential to harm our economy is real, Kingston has less to gain and more to lose, the research strongly suggests.

To quote Brad Humphreys, (Whig Standard) a professor at the University of Alberta who holds an associate chair in the Economics of Gaming, "if you think the casino would have the same effects they (the Downtown Kingston! BIA) are correct to be concerned about the displacement effect. It could happen."

Some will be captivated by the municipal share of casino revenues. But I think we need to net out the costs to the community. Increased policing costs, social costs, negative economic effects are all real possibilities. We don't even know what the municipal share is, the province recently tried to reduce Gananoque's share. If we assume netted revenues of \$3 million from the casino, this represents 1% of Kingston's operating budget, is this enough to throw caution to the wind and not do the homework necessary to really come to the right decision for Kingston?

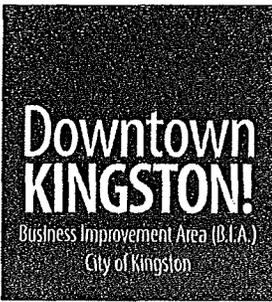
We realize that there are potential benefits, if located downtown near the K-Rock there would be synergies, but one has to ask what would be the effects on the Grand Theatre's programming and finances? A conference centre would generate real new wealth for Kingston, as conference centre revenue is predominantly generated from outside the community. But if the casino is an economic loss for the community, will the netted difference leave us in the black? The casino has to stand on its own merits, bringing a strong economic benefit to Kingston's economy.

The Downtown Kingston board has not at this point taken a position for or against a casino. We raise these red flags and questions not only for Downtown Kingston, but for all of Kingston, because if a casino doesn't make sense, i.e. provide a real "net" economic benefit for Kingston, it will not matter where it is located, it won't benefit and may hurt the entire Kingston community.

We would like the City of Kingston to slow the process down, not be pressured into making a decision under unreasonable time constraints, without effective controls; making sure we have good information to base a careful, thoughtful and well researched decision on. Kingston has much to lose with the wrong decision.

Thank you,

Ed Smith, Chair – Downtown Kingston! B.I.A.



Aug. 1, 2012

Questions Re: Casino

- 1) The Province is building 29 casinos in Ontario – including Toronto, Peterborough, Belleville, Ottawa, and Kingston/Gananoque. Given the existing and planned growth in casinos in the U.S.A. – how can there be any “tourism” advantage – wont each casino just serve its own small region?
- 2) One of the proponents the City has heard from indicates they expect to “make” \$120 million with a large casino in Kingston. This “disposable income” leaves our market area. This money was previously spent in shops, theatres, K-Rock Centre, restaurants etc. Does this represent substantial job losses?
- 3) Casinos are designed to be “inward focused” – to keep the customers gambling. Bars, restaurants, and parking are part of the development so they become a separate destination (some include gift shops, hotels, spas and free daycare). How does this help “build” business for others?
- 4) Once we say we will accept proposals (or “approval in principal” as it says in the City Staff report) – it is OLG that receives proposals and select the “winner”. OLG and the Province will obviously select the proposal that will produce the most money for themselves. In this scenario how does the municipality have any say in where it goes, how big it is, what it looks like, how much square footage is bar/restaurant, how many parking spaces are built, etc. etc.? “Zoning” doesn’t seem to be enough of a tool to make this a Province/city partnership. How can this power inequality be addressed?
- 5) How does a sizeable casino affect the Kingston “Brand”, how does it change our city – which is currently thought of in terms of history, waterfront, authenticity, pedestrian friendly, etc.? How does it change our plans for North Blocks? – where we currently are thinking of “more downtown” – including substantial growth in the number of residential units?

1. Bad for Kingston's existing businesses
 - a. If located downtown, immediate impact on K-Rock and will rob downtown establishments of feet on the street
 - b. If located in suburbs, further heighten the draw away from downtown*(taken together with the move of the Empire movie theatre, may heavily threaten business downtown)
 - c. Our downtown is the heart of our city, and the reason people come here as tourists, we can't afford to chip away at its viability, or chop away!
2. Not neighbourly. Gananoque and area has an established casino. What's the matter with being flatlined? Do we really want to encourage more gambling in Ontario?
3. Casinos are impermanent. Look at what's happening now in OLG. We can risk our long range future with a temporarily popular business if we attract a casino to Kingston.
4. Casinos are a highly regressive form of taxation – not to be encouraged. Focus on progressive, or at least flat, taxes
5. Casinos are a bad influence on those with gambling problems. Why bring this problem closer to home?



Mr. Chair, ^{Kingston} Mayor & City Council member

My name is Gerry Wein. I am a family counselor here in Kingston. ^{Lincoln}

I have a client that has asked me to speak on her behalf this evening.

She is now visiting her son and family in Colorado so she is unable to be here tonight to speak for herself.

This client has been addicted to gambling for a number of years.

A few years ago she would have lost everything, including her home, contents and vehicle, had it not been for a family member, who financially bailed her out of her gambling debt.

Her family encouraged her to seek help, which she did, by attending "Option for Change" in Kingston.

This helped her for a while but eventually she returned to gambling.

She has struggled greatly but in the last year she has not attended a casino.

She fears that if a casino were to be opened in Kingston that ^{there} ~~there~~ would be a good chance she would start gambling again.

Her family has told her that under no circumstances will they again help her out of debt because of her gambling.

She does not want to lose everything that she has left and have to go on Social Assistance.

If this occurred, then the City of Kingston may possibly have to financially support her.

Her cry is, “No, no, no, please do not bring a Casino to Kingston, as the temptation would be too great.”

Some people say it wouldn’t make any difference if a casino is here or Gananoque, people will still go.

My client says it does make a big difference having a casino close to her, as the temptation to go would be overwhelming.

I am sure that there are many more gamblers in this area who could share similar stories of their gambling problems but are not willing to come forward tonight to admit that they are addicted to gambling.

There are those who are using household money to support their gambling habit and this money should be used to purchase food, shelter, clothing etc. for the family.

3/1
I also know the stress it causes in families when a family member has a gambling problem.

I have received calls late at night from family members very upset with the gambling actions of my client.

Needless to say, the social concerns I have are many. If our Kingston City Council votes in favour of a casino because of the potential monies the city will receive from the Province of Ontario, I personally feel this would be wrong.

All we have heard over the years in the news is how much money the Town of Gananoque and surrounding area are receiving from the province.

Have we heard about some of the problems that area has encountered because of the Casino in that area? ~~No, we have not.~~

It is a known fact that where gambling casinos are located, crime increases, the larger the city, the more crime there is, impaired drivers, robberies, thefts, prostitution etc.

How many extra police officers are we going to have to hire in order to cope with the extra crime and how much will it cost us, the taxpayers?

even organized crime etc.

4/

I am 100 percent for business growth here in Kingston. I always am very excited to learn of a new business coming to Kingston, however I feel that having a Casino here to me is a big step backward, for our beautiful city of Kingston.

My first experience with professional gamblers came as a young man while visiting New York City in the years when an innocent tourist could not help but trip over a game of three card monte in Times Square. It was a very different affair from the innocent penny ante poker games among family and friends back home, and I was mesmerized as I stood on the sidewalk while a hustler ran his ^{GAME} scam. The hapless ^{PLAYER} sap in the game kept picking the wrong card and losing another twenty dollar bill while I always saw where the winning card was.

I was very tempted to step up, get in that game and win some free money, but even as a naïve young man I had the good sense to recognize that something was amiss. I kept my wallet in my pocket and moved on. Years later I learned that the game was rigged. The “sap” was an accomplice, and had I entered the game I would have been promptly and irrevocably separated from my money.

Those who support a casino in Kingston often start citing the financial benefit of becoming a host community. This windfall, we hear, will provide much needed tax relief to overburdened rate payers.

This “money for nothing” argument should be less than convincing to those on City Council charged with deciding whether Kingston should get in this game. I encourage the

mayor and councilors to call upon the same skepticism that served me well on Times Square those many years ago.

Kingston is being recruited to enter into a contract, as yet unspecified, that promises riches without any real accounting of the costs, social as well as financial, that will accrue to the casino's neighbours - the same rate payers we are told stand to benefit from the city's small skim off the pot.

I have been a social worker and program manager for Pathways for Children & Youth Kingston for over twenty years and I believe I am qualified to speak to some of those social costs. I defer to the business community to speak to the financial costs in terms of losses to local enterprises.

Addictions to tobacco, to alcohol, to drugs, to pornography, and to gambling damage families and hurt children. Serious gambling deprives families, often the most economically hard-pressed, of time, money, and health. It compromises the ability to work and it creates and amplifies conflict and disengagement. It gets between parents and their better judgments. The cost to the current generation, and to the generations that follow, is enormous. The cost falls mostly to the gamblers and to their partners and children, but also to extended family members, to friends and neighbours, and in a civil society such as ours, to the very rate payers that others have argued stand to gain from a casino in

our midst. The cost will certainly not be borne by the distant casino ~~owners~~ and operators whose loyalty is limited to stockholder fidelity. /

I pay property tax to the city, and like everyone else I want fair value for my investment. I do not want to pay more than what is reasonable for municipal services. I expect the mayor and city councilors to exercise prudence when assigning priorities, building a budget, and setting tax rates.

Getting into the casino racket is not prudent. It is a false, and I submit, an unethical economy. We are tempted by a supposed pot of riches and told that we deserve and need a slice of the action, and that if we don't grab for it others will. Of course, that is the provincial government's intention and why they have set community against community in this competition. Let's be clear, once the gaming sector is privatized competition between communities will continue and Kingston will have to make fresh concessions every time the contract is up for renewal and our casino operator starts floating the idea that a change of scenery might enhance their bottom line. Cities can get addicted too. Let's not get dependent on casino revenues and acquire a vested interest in the suffering of our neighbours. /

There is an old adage in the gambling business - "The house always wins". When this issue comes to City Council for

a vote, the mayor and every city councilor need to fully understand that in this game the host city is not the house. The winners will be counting our community's money in a far away place and the losers will be right here in Kingston wondering why we didn't leave our wallet in our pocket and move on.

Good evening Mr/~~Madame~~ Chair, members of City Council,

My name is John Raham and I would like to thank-you for this opportunity to be able to express my concerns to the proposal of Kingston hosting a Casino.

I am happily married and have four beautiful children, I am a hardworking employee and in any spare time I have, I am currently renovating my house to provide a suitable home for my family.

When I heard of the possibility of Kingston building a Casino, I quickly went online to find what I could on the effects of gambling in a community.

I was shocked to see how much gambling was an addictive problem. Robert Hunter, a Psychologist said " *If you don't think gambling is a serious problem for society, consider that no alcoholic ever drank away four generations of money in a weekend- which I know gamblers can and do.*"

What I found was more disturbing was ^{the} targeted group of people that gambling negatively effects most; the poor, less educated and elderly.

According to research, low- income households (that make less than 20,000) **spend more than twice as much** on gambling as high-income families. Even though more revenue is brought in by higher income families, proportionately low-income households spend much more of their income.

Gambling is no more than a tax on the poor.

Stats also say that 3.2% of Canada's adult population has a gambling problem. But another 5 to 10 others are directly affected by the behavior of each problem gambler. So that means that 12 to 25% of the population is negatively affected.

Problem gambling leads to bankruptcy, divorce, suicide and treatment numbers.

I know that problem gambling ranges from 6% to 41% in some jurisdictions.

In 2008, government gained average revenue of \$528 per person. I believe gambling is a conflict of interest for governments to run gaming casinos for profit, while trying to promote a message of restraint and responsibility.

Problem gambling is just the tip of the iceberg. Crime increase, possible government revenue losses, and majority of negative attitudes towards pro-longed gambling are just a few impacts that a Casino has on a community.

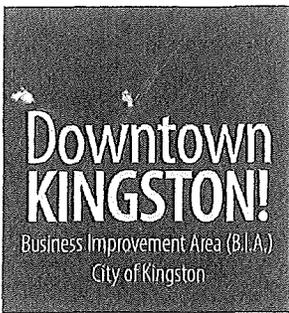
I personally believe that a City/community is built on hard work on every level. People are the building blocks. Greed is the source of gambling, and greed tears down and does not build up.

I know that people are already gambling; I just don't think we need to put it in our back yard.

I feel that to build a Casino in Kingston would be a drain of society.

Again I thank you for this time, any resource material that I have found I am glad to forward it on to any of you that would be interested.

Thank-you



July 26, 2012

Sample Excerpts from Studies on Gambling

Socio-Economic Impacts Associated with the Introduction of Casino Gambling: A Literature Review and Synthesis –Alberta Gaming Research Institute July 31, 2004

Many Urban casinos operate as monopolies in their local market and therefore produce high profit rates and strong economic performances (Eadington, 1995; d'Hauteserre, 1998). However, they are more likely to create a monetary loss in the local economy.

(Gazel, 1998). Job creation and economic developments are less for urban casinos than their destination resort casino counterparts.

Existing jobs in retail, entertainment and food service sectors of the economy are often displaced or “cannibalized” by the gambling industry as spending patterns shift to casino gambling. Furthermore, it is important to note that these new casino jobs are typically low skilled and low paid compared to some of the jobs they are displacing.

Grinols & Ormorov (1996) found that casinos “are associated with a drop in general merchandise and miscellaneous retail and wholesale trade within 10 miles of the casino” based on tax receipt data collected by the State of Illinois.

A Minnesota study found that business volume fell at restaurants located within a 30 mile radius of casinos with food service.

The Spread of Casinos and Their Role in Tourism Development - William R. Eadington, Professor of Economics; Director, Institute of the Study of Gambling and Commercial Gaming, University of Nevada, Reno

With urban/suburban casinos, the ratio of benefits to costs declines relatively because the export component largely disappears; this is due to the fact that most of the casinos’ customers are drawn from the metropolitan area. Social impacts stay within the area as well. Jobs created in the casino industry are *ceteris paribus* matched by reductions in jobs elsewhere in the metropolitan area, reflecting the shifting of spending patterns.

It remains to be seen whether such forms of casino-style gambling are a good idea overall, as the economic and social impacts are quite different among the various approaches. Nonetheless, economic pressures for expansions of the franchise to offer gambling will continue. Possible beneficiaries from newly legal gambling – Indian tribes, racetracks, bar owners, desperate cities, governments, declining tourist areas – will all push for the economic rewards that permitted gambling might bestow. However, what might work for any one of them cannot work for all of them, and many will be disappointed even if they get what they ask for, and especially if they *all* get what they ask for. In economist’s jargon, economic rents can only exist as long as the supply of the commodity is constrained. If it is offered in a highly competitive environment, excess profits or rents are bid away.

Report on Six Casino Patron Surveys in Five Ontario Communities – Ontario Problem Gambling Research Centre – Joan Nuffield and Robert Hann – Robert Hann & Associates Limited

Gananoque ~ Hiawatha-Sarnia ~ Point Edward ~ Sault Ste. Marie ~ Thunder Bay ~ Brantford

Do charity casinos mostly attract patrons from the local area?

Overall, 58% of patrons interviewed indicated that they lived in the community hosting the charity casino, and another 11% came from the surrounding county. The pattern in Sault Ste. Marie and Thunder Bay was much different, with 87% and 90 % of patrons, respectively, coming from the host city.

Do charity casinos attract outside visitors to the community?

Overall, 70% of “visitor patrons” (i.e., persons not residing in the host community) who were interviewed indicated that the main purpose of their trip to the city was to visit the charity casino. Effects on other local hospitality and tourism or recreation businesses were measured. 90% of visitor patrons said they were not staying overnight.

Do charity casino patrons who come from outside the local area spend money at local area businesses while they are in town?

At most sites, 7 out of 10 visitor patrons said they had not spent, and did not expect to spend, any money in the city (outside of the charity casino or Horse Park). At most sites, a minority (one in five) of visitor patrons also indicated that they expected to eat in a local restaurant outside of the charity casino, and 1 in 10 said they were planning to visit other area attractions or do some shopping while in the city.

Good Evening Mr./Madame Chair and members of the council
I want to thank you for this opportunity to speak about the casino.

My name is Libby Beckwith; I have lived in Kingston for 10 years.

As soon as I heard about the possibility of a casino being built in Kingston I began to do some research. Based on that I have some very real concerns that I feel need to be addressed.

We have to look at how something like this will affect different classes and age groups when we are deciding whether or not it will benefit our city.

I started to do some research on the internet using a report issued by the **Ontario Problem Gambling Research Centre**. Their information was coupled with information gathered by the **Community Outreach Programs for Addictions**.

In these studies I found that there are 2 groups of people that are at high risk for having addictions to gambling. 1) The elderly 2) and those that are at a low or fixed income.

Seniors are the fastest growing people group in Canada. By 2026 it is expected that 1 in 5 Canadians will be 65 or older. In my research I found that those that suffer from moderate to severe gambling problems are between the ages of 60-65. And these types of people make up 30% of the industries revenue. The report attributes it to their loneliness and fixed incomes and amount of leisure time.

I know Kingston appeals to those in retirement and I myself have a widowed grandmother that lives here. Studies show that because of her being a female and single and having fixed income and leisure time, she is at high risk for a gambling addiction. So I am very personally concerned about whether or not we get a casino.

Knowing what kind of devastating affects it can have on the elderly, why would we place a trap for them????

Seniors on fixed incomes are reported to spend a greater amount of money and a higher proportion of their income on gambling then even young adults.

This type of an effect does not stimulate our economy at all!!!!

What about the rest of us??

What about the rise of money laundering and sex trafficking that this casino will attract??

The Toronto Star issued a report on January 17, 2011 that said, in regards to those
who were apposed to the building of casinos in Ontario nearly 2 decades ago -----

“It was a tax on the poor. A trap for those addicted. A magnet for loan sharks, prostitution and organized crime. It meant the loss of jobs, the end of marriages and the destruction of families.”

Again, the second group that was largely at stake for problem gambling were the uneducated and those on low or fixed incomes. These are the types of people that are statistically going to frequent the casino the most and spend most of what they have.

Is that what we want for them????

In 2011 it was reported that Ontario had 300,000 problem gamblers.

And what about the proceeds of a casino??
In 2011 it was reported that the OLG spends 40 million per year on programs for problem gamblers. *which doesn't make up very much of their Revenue*

Robert Murray – Manager of the problem gambling program at the centre for addiction and mental health – says “there will always be dynamic tension with the government benefiting from the misfortune of gambling addictions”

Does that describe the length that we are willing to go to in order to bring revenue into Kingston??

Are we willing to wound our own in the name of profit???????

I understand that some people are driving to the casino in Gananoque but that doesn't mean that we need to make the temptation greater for people to loose their life savings right here at home. With a casino in Kingston the likelihood of people going there is much greater.

I support a progressive Kingston that is seeking ways to stabilize and stimulate our economy, but based on my research I do not believe that a casino is the best option. In fact, I believe this will create a long lasting negative cycle for years to come.

I urge you to consider research such as this before making your decision.

I am offering to make all of my study references available to you via email.

Thank you for your time!

Members of City Council and Mayor Gerretsen,

I wish to register my strong opposition to a Casino within the City limits of Kingston.

Gambling is a pernicious activity and the City of Kingston should not pander to the Gaming Industry for the alms it promises in exchange for the troubles it guarantees.

The net effect on Kingston, as in many other communities who host the gambling industry most likely, in time, will show itself to be negative – however, it then will be too late. Once allowed here, there will be no retreat

Let's error on the side of caution....vote No to a Kingston casino.

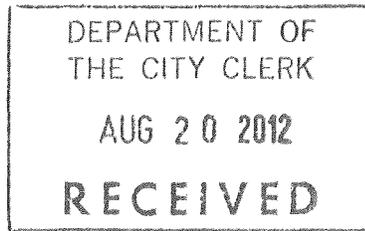
To allow ourselves to be bought by the promise of treasure is, in effect, to agree to procure for the Gaming Industry. This is an industry the sole goal of which is to best its customers, to take their money and ultimately, to remove MORE money from the community than the promised payback with which it seeks to purchase our acquiescence.

If as a City we have desires/needs for which current taxes are inadequate, I, for one, would prefer that we choose either to forgo those things, delay their acquisition, or decide to pay for them through legitimate taxation.

Will we have to choose carefully and with the long term well-being of the community in mind, both in what we choose and how we will pay for it? Yes.

Please do not be lured by the seemingly instant and easy cash. As a society, we all are addicted to immediacy and to living beyond our means. Surely, we can do better and have the things we truly need without selling ourselves out by permitting a casino to prey on us, our neighbours and our visitors.

BARBARA SCHLAFER



Wed. Aug 8th 2012

6:30pm; Memorial Hall, City Hall

Casino Presentation

To: Members of City Council

Thank you for hosting this public meeting to hear comments from the public. Re: the possibility that Council will endorse the hosting of a new entertainment Centre/Casino for Zone "9".

This is an opportunity for Kingston to enhance its Tourist Industry, thus increasing Economic Development, resulting in increasing assessment and new taxes and employment opportunities. It will help to sustain the present level of services, which all citizens have been accustomed to and expect.

Since amalgamation in 1998, taxes have increased by approximately 17.8%, an average of 3.56% per year. It is my opinion that the taxpayers have reached their tolerance in receiving any more tax increases or Public Utilities Services increases. To offset any increase, the city must become more creative and assertive in attracting new business and review alternatives in the delivery of services, i.e. 'partnerships'.

The City of Kingston is a great place to raise a family because of the amenities it has to offer, i.e. excellent health care and educational facilities, as well as recreational and social services.

In 1982, the Trillium Foundation was incorporated and the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation became the sole source of funding (\$3.7 Billion). The Trillium Foundation is the granting body for donations to various groups within the Province; millions of dollars derived from 'gambling' every year. Last year, in 2010-2011, a number of local associations have received funding in Kingston

→Agencies that received grants:

Ducks Unlimited (\$112,400)

Cataraqui & Quinte Conservation Authorities

Limestone District Grenadiers Football Club (equipment; \$27,500)

Canadian Mental Health Association

Hastings and Prince Edward County

Martha's Table (new elevator; \$145,000)

St Vincent De Paul (building renovations; \$6,400)

Frontenac Community Health Association (new buildings)

Kingston Arts Council (workshops; \$15,000)

Kingston Naval Vets Association (roof replacement; \$25,000)
Lennox Addington Family Association (new play structure; \$22,000)
Museum of Health Care Kingston (new software program; \$52,000)
Town of Gananoque (BMX track & Athletic Field/Tennis courts; \$124,000)
South Frontenac Community Services (building renovations for seniors; *****)
Kingston Boys & Girls Club (\$82,000/2 years)
Frontenac County Diversion Program (\$126,000/3 years)
Skeleton Park (music festival; \$5,200)
Kingston Symphony (\$25,000)
Kingston Interval House (\$87,000)
Hospice Lennox & Addington (full time administrator; \$50,000)
Loving Spoonful Kingston (project coordinator; \$34,900)
Rideau Waterway Land (trust fund; \$40,900)
Victim Services Leeds & Grenville (youth volunteer coordinator; \$58,000)
Almonte Amateur Radio Club Inc (\$15,000)
Kingston General Hospital
Hotel Dieu Hospital
St. Mary's of the Lake Hospital

Just a few of the local recipients

Individuals may choose to gamble in many ways: playing cards, bingo, horse racing, car racing, buying lottery tickets or attending and participating in a Casino.

Ladies and Gentleman, the town of Gananoque has not had any adverse affects relative to the operation of the Casino over the last 10 years, but have shared with the Township of Leeds and the 1000 Islands \$34 million!

I respectfully request that Kingston City Council endorse a Casino in the City of Kingston for future prosperity and to move this City into the 21st century.

Presenter: Joe Hawkins

