

# Regional APPROACH

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## Blast from the past brings post-secondary experience into focus

In Ontario, an effort to cut post-secondary tuition costs could affect the experience aspect of campus life in a way that will follow students into their work life – and not necessarily in a positive way.

**From this Corner**

Jayne Foster, Editor



Here in Saskatchewan, The Sheaf, the University of Saskatchewan's campus newspaper since 1912, was alarmed. The paper sought an assurance from the provincial government that it isn't planning to go the way of Ontario when it comes to ancillary fees. They received a statement as follows: "The Government of Saskatchewan is not considering making student fees optional at this time. We have made a number of investments to ensure that more students are able to participate and complete their postsecondary education. In 2018-19, government budgeted \$106.3 million in direct support to students through a variety of support programs and services."

At the University of Saskatchewan, according to its website, tuition provides access to basic university-wide services associated with credit instruction. Charges assessed for ancillary costs can include the students union, athletic, recreation, The Sheaf, student services, World University Service of Canada, health and dental insurance, infrastructure and transit.

Dollars aside, how ancillary services can impact students' lives and why that is important is laid out in the op-ed piece on this page by an Ontario resident who attended Sheridan College in Brampton.

This piece comes to us as the result of a blast-from-

the-past connection made earlier this year as the author, Jeff Rosen, reached out to our newsroom via email looking for archival material. In fact, he was looking for stories he wrote when he was a reporter in this community back in the 80s. (He fondly remembers his time in the Battlefords.) It just so happened I was the editor of the Battleford Telegraph at the time he worked here, our early days in a business that became our lifes' work.

We've had an email back-and-forth about the "old days" and he pointed out what was happening in Ontario and offered an opinion piece on the subject. Jeff credits his getting involved in journalism in the first place with his experience at college. Why it's important to us here in Saskatchewan is that there really is no guarantee that things couldn't go the same way in the future. Here is what he has to say:

## Life could have taken a narrow path

By Jeff Rosen

Sheridan College / Journalism 1981-1982

As part of their efforts to put more money into the pockets of hard-working taxpayers, our provincial leaders are going down a road that will not only hurt our institutions of higher learning but will affect the students who attend them. According to news reports, Ontario's Progressive Conservative government has decided to eliminate mandatory ancillary fees, which go towards supporting a wide variety of non-academic activities around post-secondary campuses, such as student government, campus clubs and student newspapers, like Sheridan's student newspaper, The Sheridan Sun.

This ill-considered move may sound good in theory, but its long-term repercussions will affect not only universities and colleges but also the very people they meant to help. You see if students are allowed to pick which non-academic activities they wish to support, many

of these operations may wither and be forced to cease operations. Unfortunately, for many students, it is so much easier to think short term – to keep those few extra dollars in their own pockets.

What our elected leaders do not realize is that the purpose of post-secondary education is not simply to attend classes, soak up information and eventually leave with a degree in hand. I realize that some students choose this narrow path. However, both college and university can and should be so much more. It is a place to explore new ideas, new ways of thinking and to become involved in the world outside the classroom.

My own life was shaped not by what I learned in class, but through participation in the university college newspaper. It shocks me to think that if I was a student today, this government action could result in my life taking a very different path.

Back in 1977, I started my post-secondary education at what they then called Scarborough College, U of T. I had no idea what lay ahead in my future but knew that I wanted to do more than to simply go to class and take notes.

I had always loved to write and to interview people. I figured the college newspaper was my best option. I contacted the editor of Balcony Square, Scarborough's student paper, and asked if I could write an opinion column. The details of what transpired are unfortunately lost in the annals of time, but the editor had no problem with my request. As a result, my first-ever newspaper column, ScarboroView, was born.

I continued writing it for four years while attending Scarborough. Eventually, I was elected to The Varsity's board of directors.

That did it; my life was on course. After U of T, I went off to Sheridan College for a diploma in journalism before heading west to work at several newspapers in Saskatchewan. Time and circumstances eventually brought me back to Toronto, where I landed a job as a reporter at the largest Jewish newspaper in Canada. Times changed, as did my life, and they promoted me to news editor and later put me in charge of the paper's first website.

Nothing lasts forever, and today, after 32 years as a journalist, I am now sitting on the sidelines. I realize that if Scarborough's student newspaper had not been there back in 1977, my life's journey would have been very different.

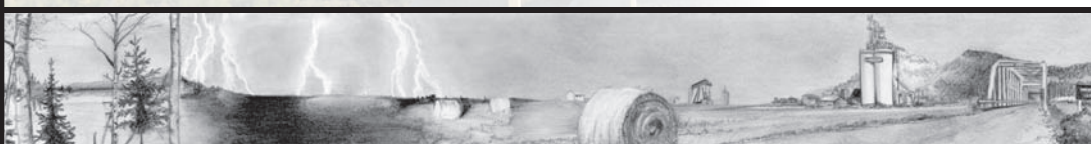
Without continued funding for publications like The Sheridan Sun and The Underground, you may cut a future journalist's journey short before it gets off the ground. Alternatively, it may be your own journey that you are short-circuiting. That is certainly worth a few of your hard-earned dollars.

...AT THIS RATE I'LL NEVER  
MAKE IT TO THE GARAGE  
TO TUNE UP MY LAWN  
MOWER FOR SPRING...

... AT THIS RATE  
WE WON'T NEED  
TO WORRY ABOUT  
IT...



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