

Subject: PLANS FOR LOWER CAP CENTER DELAYED

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A MESSAGE FROM ERNIE CRIST:

A must read for every District resident, who is not yet sufficiently embarrassed by the present District Council's shenanigans and the sheer magnitude of its incompetence, lack of leadership, plus its phenomenal capacity to waste taxpayer's money, is the story about the "Plans for Lower Cap centre delayed" by Ian Barraclough in the NEWS Friday Feb. 28, page 3.

As a visitor to the Hall, after the District Council meeting on Monday night stated, "I am glad I don't live in the District". A resident, also witnessing the performance, said "I think we better send out a search party for this Council is definitely lost". Imbibing snake oil can be very expensive.

From my personal vantage point, what happened on Monday in connection with this issue is not that unusual. It is just that people are beginning to notice it more.

A quote from Catch 22 does come to mind however,

"The group was distinguished by its mediocrity, they were all mediocre except one, who was more mediocre than the others who were mediocre and all the others who were mediocre praised him, who was more mediocre than they were, for he was their leader".

As for "Canlan" yet another District success story - see the OUTLOOK Feb 27- Don Bell is quoted as stating that the "Council of the day was in a hurry to provide much needed ice time for the community but didn't have the funds to do so". I beg to differ with his Worship Mayor Bell. I was there, granted it was much to the chagrin of the Mayor and his loyal subjects who, with the exception of one, were equally deficient in common sense.

The District did have the funds, including from the Heritage Fund which had been set up precisely for such purposes. But the District preferred to squander the Fund, hundreds of millions of dollars in fact, using not only the interest but also the principle as a slush fund more or less and to cover up incompetence see KPMG and VAT reports, not to speak of the infrastructure reserve funds, which were also depleted.

Even so rather than using the Heritage Fund for the Ice rink the District Council of the day, not being well endowed with business acumen, with the exception of myself and Councillor Pat Munroe, voted for the Canlan option which, in my opinion, was a very bad deal. It seems that, as deals go, it was not even a well thought out bad deal which is even worse, albeit rather common in the District.
(See gravel pit and Native Services agreement)

The Mayor also stated that "We did what we thought was the right intention, and if, for some reason, it did not fall in line with the provincial legislation, we would address it," Not so hasty, Mr. Mayor, we, that is Councillor Munroe and I did point to the very serious shortcomings in this deal but the Mayor along with Councillor Harris, and Muri etc., chose to ignore our advice instead, except in my case went one step further and harassed me. At least let's be accurate, Mayor Bell.

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