

**Subject:****Date:** Mon, 19 Jul 2004 13:03:25 -0700**From:** "Ernie Crist" <ernie\_crist@dnv.org>**To:** "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>, <Cagebc@yahoo.com>**CC:** <BBate@shaw.ca>, <macdunn@universe.com>

A MESSAGE FROM ERNIE CRIST

This is the choice we have to make when it comes to the Lynn Valley Library and the Civic Square which is on the Council Agenda Tonight.

The District has the money for both the Library and the commercial building making up the proposed civic square in Lynn Valley.

The question is will we proceed with the Library on our own with the money already in place including from the Heritage Fund, which means that we do NOT need any developer to contribute financially or will we find excuses and end up with yet another densification of the Lynn Valley Core including high-rises.

The densification of the Lynn Valley Core in line with the Lynn Valley Community Plan has already taken place with little or nothing to show for it except more traffic, more pollution, more parking problems and more noise. There have been no dedicated bicycle lanes as shown on the glossy brochures when the plan was sold to the public by way of example.

Instead of benefiting from the densification we have to pay towards the cost of the needed infrastructure. We are in the hole to the tune of \$ 2 million. There are no community facilities, additional recreation, senior, youth or arts facilities which we need and deserve in Lynn Valley. Development should have paid and/or at least contributed on a substantial scale for such benefits in line with modern community development methods.


Taking things to the people as is being suggested tonight is always a good idea. The question is will the Lynn Valley Civic Square proceed or not and if so, under what conditions.

The District Heritage Fund has a clause which says that money borrowed from the Fund may be used for projects which will benefit the community and has the capacity to pay back to the Heritage Fund both interest and principle. This is most definitely the case here. The commercial building, while built by the District (or the private sector), has the ability to pay for both the Library and the commercial building. Demanding a public hearing on the matter is one thing, using the occasion to hijack the Library, under the pretext of public consultation and financial sobriety, is quite another.

The Library has been approved already and so has the funding. The Heritage Fund has been used previously to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars with nothing to show for it more or less while the community was silent. Here at least we will get something tangible. It would be tragic that now when the people are finally becoming aware of the Heritage Fund shame, they would jeopardize the project. For once the Heritage Fund is being used for purposes it was intended for rather than for operational expenses which was illegal and possible only by manipulating the meaning of the Act without anybody saying boo.

We need a clear signal to go ahead with the project and anything else is an attempt to defeat the Library, albeit unintentionally, or saddle the people of Lynn Valley with a regional Car Mall complete with high-rises including more traffic, more pollution and more parking problems..

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