

Subject: FW: The Lynn Valley Library complex - a monument to civic pride or casualty of mediocrity ?

Date: Wed, 10 Mar 2004 20:29:05 -0800

From: "Ernie Crist" <ernie_crist@dnv.org>

To: "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>

> *Subject: The Lynn Valley Library complex - a monument to civic pride or casualty of mediocrity ?*

>

> *A MESSAGE FROM ERNIE CRIST;*

>

>

> *The newly proposed Lynn Valley Library hangs in the balance. The question is, will we get a monument to civic pride with its face turned to the future or a mere replacement of the old library, a place from the horse and buggy days where you pick up and drop off a book?.*

>

> *Today's libraries are far more. They are full fledged communication and information centers. They are intellectual workshops accommodating artistic and scientific curiosity. They are big enough to accommodate small scale exhibitions, artistic performances including plays, chamber music, lectures, debates, readings, select film showings and even Chess tournaments. They are community meeting places to promote intellectual and artistic stimulation. And that is what Lynn Valley needs.*

>

> *But we may not get it. Why? Because, ever since the need for a new Library was established, inborn mediocrity has stifled anything even resembling such a concept. The original size of the Library space has already been reduced once. Even some of the remaining space may be leased out rather than utilized to house new needs and new ideas. It is done in the name of saving money.*

>

> *However, most of the funding for the civic square project, including the Library and the commercial building, is in place. This includes money already approved through a previous referendum. In any case, an existing policy allows the District to borrow additional money from the Heritage Fund. The policy states that this can be done for projects benefiting the community, provided both principle and interest are paid back. The commercial building adjacent to the Library could be leased out in line with this policy.*

>

> *The question is this, will District Council have enough foresight to pursue this option or will the project fall victim to mediocrity where money and opportunities are wasted as was the case with the Parkgate Gym? It is a quarter of the size originally contemplated and so is "Karen Magnusen" where an originally contemplated full size pool in addition to the wave pool was sacrificed for the same reason. And so was the Northlands Golf Course where a potential million dollar a year income was sacrificed by giving up a planned driving range plus a banquet facility that had been part of the financial equation.*

>

> *Now we have reached a similar junction in Lynn Valley. It boils down to this? Will the District do this project right and do so without confusing everything and everybody and in so doing jeopardize this community project. Will it be half baked, too small, and too limited to fulfill its potential, or will it be something that will stand the test of time?*

>

> *Ernie Crist*

>

>

>

>

>

>


>

>

>

>

>

 winmail.dat	Name: winmail.dat Type: application/ms-tnef Encoding: base64
---	---