

Subject: Fwd: Fwd: Lynn Valley prepares to march boldly forward into the past

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

Date: 22/08/2013 12:56 PM

To: Corrie Kost <corrie@kost.ca>

----- Original Message -----

Subject:Fwd: Lynn Valley prepares to march boldly forward into the past

Date:Thu, 22 Aug 2013 10:48:33 -0700

From:Douglas Curran <dougcurran@shaw.ca>

To:Corrie Kost <corrie@kost.ca>, FONVCA <fonvca@fonvca.org>

Begin forwarded message:

From: Douglas Curran <dougcurran@shaw.ca>

Date: August 22, 2013 10:40:31 AM PDT (CA)

To: editor@nsnews.com

Subject: Lynn Valley prepares to march boldly forward into the past

Letter to the Editor,

It has been alarming to hear the reactions that have marked the strident - and often unbalanced - positions presented against the redevelopment of the Lynn Valley Town Centre. Many of the views opposing the redevelopment have emanated from limited perspectives that are narrow and backward-focused, without regard to major demographic, social economic and fiscal realities. Presented in terms of a polished perfect past, these bromides leave not just Lynn Valley, but the whole of the DNV marching proudly but unheedingly into the past.

"Nostalgia ain't what it used to be." goes the saying, and similarly the past is particularly unsuitable for planning for the future, which is surely to arrive somewhat before we arrive at the past. In her new book, "[The End of Suburbia](#)", Fortune magazine editor Leigh Gallagher argues that powerful social, economic, environmental and demographic forces are converging to end a half-century of suburban growth in the US.

The forces acting on the U.S. suburban landscape are no different than those emerging in Canada, in the DNV, and which lay behind the 2030 OCP; aging populations with low occupancy rates for large homes, decaying infrastructure, rising energy costs and a younger population with things on their mind other than lawn care.

Much of the rhetoric surrounding the "Stop Highrises" group has been focused through the perspectives of baby boomers fortunate to have flowed through a magical confluence of peace, economic prosperity and burgeoning health care that has inured them from the unpredictability of nature and the world, although nature and the world now show signs of catching up.

It would have been encouraging to hear positions from the "Stop Highrises" group that promoted housing options that address the needs of seniors and young people, while at the same time realizing that we need to look at resolving a lifestyle and building form that effectively creates mandatory automobile use for everyone. It would have served the debate well to hear some recognition of the fact of climate change and ways of slowing rates of GHG emissions and carbon use.

Key considerations need to be given to terms such as "*everyone*", "*mandatory*" and "*options*". There is a need for elected officials to balance the needs of **all**, not just those of the comparatively well-off. There is a need to allow diversity, for accessibility, for choice. The narrow perspective that fails to see that another strip of highway is no less offensive to nature - possibly more so - than a 15 storey highrise amounts to an intolerance for the needs and choice for others. It becomes a stance of absolutism, aesthetic totalitarianism and entitlement.

In not too many years it is easy to imagine many of these same voices rejecting the Town Centre development decrying the DNV's lack of services, its high taxes and the limited options for housing that meets their physical needs and financial capability. They will likely do so from somewhere south of the Fraser River, where on most days one can still glimpse the North Shore mountains.

sincerely, Doug Curran

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