

### City's 'large blunders' sucking up municipality's funds

The Capreol flooding problem reported in The Sudbury Star on Aug. 4 shows the extent to which the Kingsway Entertainment District and the Junction are destroying our towns.

The flooding problem in Capreol is not new and is not the result of climate change. It is one of many cases throughout the city resulting from millions being spent on the large projects, or, more accurately, 'large blunders.'

Ward 7 Coun. Mike Jakubo is going to talk to staff to see what can be done about flooding in Capreol. The answer has already been written in stone, by the finance committee of which he is the chair — there is no money in the budget to fix the problem.

Allow me to repeat that just in case the chair reads this letter: there is no money in the budget to fix the problem.

Proponents of the large blunders spout off about the number of jobs these projects will provide. The same amount spent on maintenance to the city's infrastructure will create the same

number of local jobs, not jobs imported to expedite the schedule for the blunders.

Expediting of the blunders is only necessary in order to have spent enough money before the next council is elected to prevent that new cohort from stopping the blunders.

About \$164 million worth of maintenance has been deferred each year for the last five years, while millions have been spent on the large blunders. The same amount of money that was borrowed for the KED, \$80 million, could have brought the maintenance of community arenas and fire halls to sustainable levels, with money left over to permanently fix the flooding problem and grade separation of the rail line in Capreol.

All of this work could have happened during the COVID crisis, providing much-needed income to local workers due to the isolated work sites.

This council, in the words of Ward 5 Coun. Robert Kirwan, has been transformative. They have transformed the Nickel City into Blunder City. The financial wizardry that Jakubo, Ward 9 Coun. Deb McIntosh and Mayor Brian Bigger profess

to possess is failing taxpayers. With all of that financial expertise sitting on the finance committee, why have they embroiled taxpayers in these blunders while mandatory spending cries out for funding?

On Aug. 2, I had occasion to visit the AY Jackson lookout in Onaping. I counted just a few less than 100 vehicles at the lookout, with visitors dispersed throughout the site, all practising safe distancing. The building was closed. The city is in the process of closing park after park while provincial parks are booked to capacity. Tourists are having to travel over city roads that are an extreme embarrassment to locals. At the same time, the city is spending \$1 million trying to attract tourism. What professed financial wizardry approved that spending?

Tom Price  
*Whitefish*

### Councillor undermining the mayor on the KED

Coun. Robert Kirwan has expressed that perception matters. I absolutely agree, perception matters.

The perception Kirwan has

been giving off by undermining the mayor by constantly speaking out, apparently for the city, attacking other councillors and implying that it's the city's position on this or that must be humiliating for the mayor since it is Brian Bigger's job to speak for the City of Greater Sudbury, not Kirwan.

Also, council giving authority to the chair of the Laurentian University audit committee to handle the Kingsway Entertainment District affair for the city does not give off an inspiring perception to investors.

Is there any wonder a growing number of Sudburians are getting uncomfortable with the KED project?

Travis Morgan  
*Whitefish*



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