

Mr. Tom Price has added wise words to Councillor McCausland's, and my own herein, and continues to contribute very reasoned arguments and questions (posted as Our Towns Our Cities Institute) as to why some members of council act in the way they do; with special reference to their unexplainable endorsement of the KED. Councillor McCausland has further added to the discussion with his article on how debate has been stifled in council, published in the Sudbury Star on 6th July, 2021.

Among the many other questions that I believe council and staff must answer before another penny is spent on ill-advised legacy projects, I have set out some: I am helped out on this by many of my acquaintances and correspondents for which I acknowledge and thank them. Read on if you dare.

- What's this with the Fire Service controversy which has been going on for years? More letters with questions about this matter in the Sudbury Star today!!! We should have a municipal FAQ page on the city site. With a REQUIREMENT that they be answered properly. Do we really have to pillory a couple of outspoken councillors who seek the truth? Isn't that why we elect councillors, to ask relevant questions of the bureaucracy on behalf of the residents? Apparently the IC doesn't think so.

- Arne Suutari writes in the Sudbury Star 7th July, 2021..."Since...(the year)...2000, six out of seven OHL cities have built their arenas in the core of the city. Why is that?" Consultants PwC did not answer this question. Perhaps they didn't dare. Maybe it should better be put to Dario Zulich and his partners who have the most to gain with an arena at his properties on The Kingsway. By the way, where are his "partners" on this deal? i.e. the ghost hotel, the un-needed casino, the other "great attractions" that he was going to generously provide to our people; until he talked the city into paying for everything. Are we going to be left with a jewel of an arena alone in the centre of a vast windswept parking lot on the far fringe of the heart of the city and adjacent to the dump? These guys should stick to another thing they promised; can we have an update on the proposed affordable housing grouping around the base of the old water tower overlooking Elm Street.? Any report forthcoming, Dario? Great spot to implement the idea I put forward: Tiny House Concept Community.

- John Lindsay has asked many times, Why has council not seriously considered the implications of the RAMSEY LAKE MODELLING FOR SUB-WATERSHED STUDY & STORMWATER MASTER PLAN as it relates to the proposed KED parking lot development? The study's author asks for questions from the public and authority entities. The questions that I understand should be asked are about the amount of salt that could enter the drinking water supply of Sudbury with the completion of a parking lot on the scale planned for the KED. People, your health is at stake here, the long term health of the residents. Yet, we have no credible answers to these legitimate questions from council or CGS staff. This issue alone should wake us up to the facts that in the long run will affect the very health of everyone in our city. Questions have been raised and the citizens must have answers to questions, if nothing else, of community health. The attempt was made earlier to present this important document to the LPAT panel but ultimately was not heard because of some bureaucratic ruling. But, it still exists; and must be taken into account. PwC ignored it, among the many issues they paid no heed to.

- Patrick Crowe eloquently described in a letter to me and referencing Hazel Ecclestone in her letter..."the machinations of a travesty in council with anti democratic procedures and the simulation of fair debate using input from deeply interested parties as objective commentators provided a dubious facade for generating a predetermined outcome. Sudbury is already a case study of failure in urban planning but the KED feels like the point of no return." I know Patrick has many more words of disdain about the state of the city under this administration, including his poetic observations which one can search on the internet.

- Why has council and their incompetent "consultants" PwC refused to have a serious look at the team of Tim James's ProjectNOW which envisions a realistic upgrade and alteration to our beloved downtown community arena which has served us well for 60 years or more but can, with a caring, sensitive designer and consultation team, transform it to what we want and need, while recognizing the very real heritage values of the original Architecture, (Bill Beaton was mayor at the time and with this project he was the real visionary and inspiration). I hope council has not paid PwC for that joke of a "report". Some hope!

- Why has council never acknowledged the reality of, or demanded a report from the organizers and jury of the "Sudbury2050 Urban Design Ideas Competition" of which the city was a co-sponsor and the mayor and 2 councillors were Jury Members. The Sudbury2050 competition was one of international import; the scope of the contest equalled the competitions that produced the likes of the "new" Toronto city hall and the Sydney Opera House; design teams sent us their suggestions in graphic and written text from around the world. Did they get even a word of thanks from the city for their efforts? Unbelievable! The School paid \$60,000 in prize money for scores of good urban planning ideas, and the city (we) pay(s) PwC over \$100,000 for a load of c..p rubbish.

Council seems to make a practice of commissioning reports and studies and then throws them out, shelves them, and otherwise cuts off debate for those which actually land on the council table. (PwC, anyone?) Can council and staff not carry out any of these themselves, or do they have to leave it to the "experts" so they can praise those they like or scorn those that question the course of council. Either way, they can avoid criticism ('the consultants made us do it; we're not responsible').

- Which poses yet another question which involves another city pet project which was uncalled for and would be redundant and overdone for a medium sized city like ours. I refer to the "Junction" projects which have been offered as a sop to the downtowners for the loss of a central arena/entertainment centre. 'Look what we're doing for you downtowners, you should come on your knees in all humility to thank us'. The fact is, we don't need a new library, we already have a great network of libraries any of which can easily be expanded or altered to the needs of the neighbourhoods which they serve. We already have a public museum and art gallery in a dream location within a nice stroll from downtown actually. Again this is capable of being sensitively altered and/or added according to the needs of the city population. I invite everyone to have a look at the City of Barrie's empathetic addition and alteration to their heritage gem Carnegie Library. We have enough history of total heritage destruction in Sudbury, ref. Nickel Range and King Edward Hotels, the old Post Office (ironically replaced with a parking lot!), and a whole neighbourhood, the Borgia District (called "city renewal" in those days; I guess we didn't like the name).

Coincidentally with my drafting of this email, what comes with a thud to my inbox but the mayor's update of the Junction East progress report.? This "Junction Update" takes the cake for smarmy PR; I was literally sick to my stomach reading this trash, self-serving muck. What an infantile, cheesy, condescending, insensitive messaging to the problems endemic in our downtown; an attitude of "I'm All Right Jack" pervades the messaging; should you not, mayor, instead of hawking a dead horse, devote your valuable time to developing strategies for helping the vulnerable and homeless people in the neighbourhood? What about looking into the idea of the Tiny House Community Concepts, which I have outlined in other places. Have you happened to notice the field of white crosses on the corner directly across the street from your office?

I love a good party as much as the next guy but the pseudo-celebratory, party time tone of this posting was actually quite depressing and inappropriate. Interesting to note that ALL the comments registered on the site are of a highly negative nature; I can see why you promptly turned off all further comments after only 5 being posted; what does that tell you? a little uncomfortable hearing the truth from your constituents, mayor? What did you expect; more sycophancy from the residents.?

Now, another point to be made on the matter of the "Junction":

As a retired "local" architect, the preliminary designs that I have seen give me a loooong pause, I ask myself what is going on here? This group of buildings, while presumably quite adequately designed for the individual functions, seem isolated and completely out of context with our surrounding business facilities, street pattern, place in the downtown. I know that we don't have to go to Toronto for world renowned, having in Sudbury and throughout northern Ontario some of the best practitioners in the business, and who are intimately familiar with local conditions, heritage/historic values, and have done work internationally. The central police headquarters (including the original on Larch St.), the civic administration building, the provincial building next door; all done by "local" Firms, Want names? will gladly provide to the city; but you our city "fathers" know who they are. We are producing our own grads right now at the McEwen School. I don't think a local would tolerate the destruction of our downtown arena as WZMH apparently is. As for the designs that WZMH has foisted on us, there appears to be no attempt at all in designing the area to be integrated within the historical/heritage context and the buildings with one another. No sensitive city design here that I can see; more likely a "turning of the back on downtown" and the destroying of the community arena to boot. Far be it for me to critique a professional that I would ordinarily praise for their portfolio of projects; they appear to be doing their job, taking instructions from our dysfunctional council and producing a design, but they appear to be insensitive to the history of the town/city plan, did they ask the right questions in their journey ?. I ask the city, who is the city representative(s) discussing actual details of design and context with the architects. Is there a peer review individual or committee of DESIGNERS.? One would think that this position should be filled from the community, someone knowing the city environs and sensitive to good civic design. However it should be someone who does not have any appearance of conflict of interest, as locals might have. Bruce Mau could be a candidate, world-famous designer, maintains a continuing interest in and connection with his home town, Sudbury, where last year he was a member of the Sudbury2050 Competition Jury. It wasn't worth a mention from Bigger or council. Absolutely shameful, insulting treatment of our School, the jury and those who work there and support it.

Sorry that this has become a bit long, but these are just a small sampling of the hard questions that should be put to Messrs. Bigger, Wood, Kirwan, Fowke et al. I have a vision that council will convene a traditional "Press Conference" format to which Sudbury Journalists and some ordinary citizens would be invited to submit written and oral questions about the running of the city, and the Mayor and councillors would be invited to answer them as they saw fit, without politicking, no rhetoric, no avoidance of truth, just plain honest responses. Probably a whole day should be scheduled. What about it CGS Council? What do you think about it?. Would you, could you do it? I'm pretty sure that all our residents would heap praise on any individual members of council who would propose and participate in such an event. I hope that I am not being too presumptuous in asking for this of council but I really believe that it's your duty, the taxpayers and residents of the city deserve Answers to their Questions especially as they are being asked to pay hundreds of millions of dollars for these pet projects of Mayor Bigger, Dario Zulich, Robert Kirwan, E Archer among others in the upper echelons in the hierarchy of our city administration.

Lots of questions, no answers for our money.
Yours Seriously, and Sincerely,
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