



Village a good plan

Published: October 09, 2008 6:00 PM

The Editor,

I am writing to show my strong support for the Village at Fraser Mills proposal put forward by the Beedie Group. This proposal encompasses most, if not all, of the desirable aspects Coquitlam needs for a vibrant, diverse, ecologically sensitive and sustainable community within a community.

By replacing the current heavy industry with live/work and light industry/business development, the tax base and economic benefits to Coquitlam would be increased, not decreased.

Heavy industry is best not located in such an environmentally sensitive area. The positive impact on the Fraser River alone would be phenomenal in helping it recover from some of the pollution damage before it is too late. The carbon footprint in the area would be greatly reduced.

I would hope that those councillors and citizens who are concerned about the environment and sustainable development would embrace changing the way of doing business. There are issues to find solutions for but I believe these are not insurmountable where there is a will to think outside the box.

Coquitlam also has a commitment to Metro Vancouver to increase housing density and to encourage affordability. I hope this proposal will include lower cost housing for seniors and those with lower incomes, and Coquitlam council could make these conditions when they issue the zoning permit.

A project this size would help increase density while providing an environmentally friendly oasis for all citizens. Imagine our waterfront opened up with trails, parks, etc. It's time Coquitlam had its own quay, like North Vancouver, New Westminster and False Creek after Expo 86. Every one of these lands used to be full of heavy industry.

An added benefit of the Village at Fraser Mills concept will be reduced vehicular traffic because of a self-sufficient community, and the proposed communal transportation options. It would be ideally situated for eventual rapid transit extensions to take residents farther afield.

Lynne Findlay, Coquitlam

Find this article at:

http://www.bclocalnews.com/tri_city_maple_ridge/tricitynews/opinion/letters/30719749.html