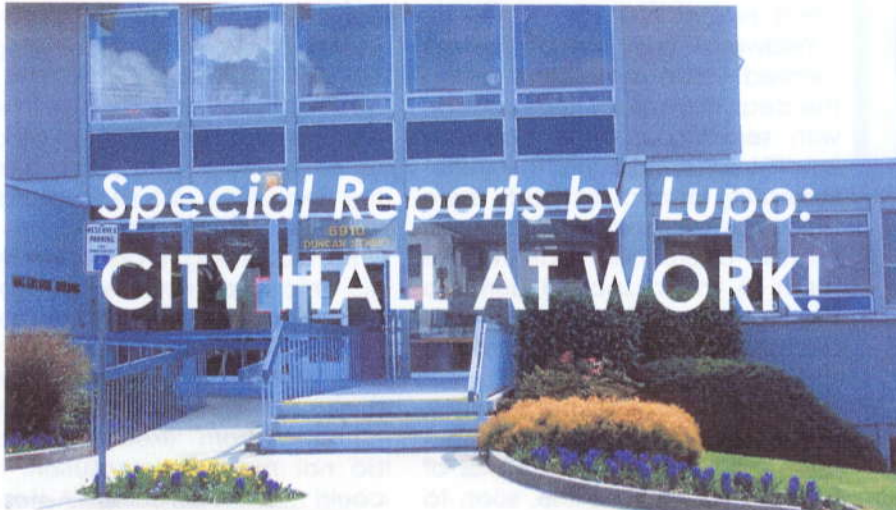


The Watchdog Bulletin



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Special Reports by Lupo: CITY HALL AT WORK!

City Hall's Special Meeting for Developers & Contractors

April's Fool is upon us. On March 31st, Councilor & Astrape (who owns the City Planning portfolio) called a meeting for developers and contractors. Apparently, the meeting was held in a way of continuing the "open and transparent" and the usual suspects and a few developers. Dave Formosa, a former City Councilor, was invited to the meeting. The need for secrecy and lack of disclosure around the John Venture as if it was a "legal requirement." Dave later exclaimed, with a straight face, that "as far as the JV project has been quite open" to which is it, Dave, open or closed? Dave's role at the meeting was to speak on behalf of the Chairman of Colmaize and to serve as an informal facilitator for Astrape and the City planning staff.

Article censored due to the lawsuit by Dave Formosa against the Watchdog

...a marine industrial park." That discussion eventually became—"take it all [300 acres] or none."

Dave admitted that "Two other developers were also interested in buying the marine property at that time." But, the mill kindly gave the JV a leg up. Curious, says I, since when does big business overlook a profitable deal in lieu of years of wrangling with a small city and a First Nation? (Could there be environmental problems with the land that gave the "two other developers" cold feet?) Curiouser, says I, because a cash deal to the other guys would have improved and diversified the city's tax base ...rather than the years of hot air and no tax breaks to which City taxpayers have been exposed.

...when the inevitable question came up: "Why is the city in this JV partnership?" Councilor Astrape said: "I don't, ask Dave!" Dave then said: "Some time ago we (the city) had an opportunity to get in on our future" ... mumble, mumble ... "acquiring Millennium Park" when it was convenient, Planning Ace Astrape continued, "I'm new to the job" (meaning I won't tell you anything. This is the same guy who was elected on an "open and transparent government" election platform last November). Guess

Important stories in our Community

- City Meeting for Developers & Contractors
- Council of Canadians requests Open Question Period
- Check out the JV presentation by the Mayor and Chief Paul at UBCM on our website: <http://ourpowellriver.com>

"...a cash deal to the other guys would have improved and diversified the city's tax base ..."



This edition of Watchdog is largely a result of the intrepid journalism of our City Hall Reporter, Lupo Solitario. Lupo has spent endless hours tracking the goings-on at City Hall and elsewhere in order to bring you first-paw information. He's hard to miss given his shaggy mane, sensitive features, and deep growl. Unaffected by the corridors of power or bags of treats, he has an excellent nose for uncovering foolishness and malfeasance.



City Hall Blues with Lupo:

Greetings from the green pastures of City Hall where your WATCHDOG correspondent is bringing you a snapshot of all the 'bull' at the regular Committee of the Whole meeting, April 4th.

Some councillors were rather terse with staff for bringing items forward that require immediate attention and decisions without 'any' or 'enough' information. Manager Barry Jantz made a report that eventually ended up putting the following question to council: 'Will the city participate in the regional 'Pitch-in' volunteer trash collection day at the end of April by providing city vehicles and hand tools, or not?' It took a fair amount of debate for the COW to sort out that there may be unspecified cost and/or liability issues around 'Pitch-In'. Thus, Jantz's report was deemed deficient by council and he was sent away with orders to return in two weeks with the appropriate information.

On other fronts, Councillor Astrope stopped wringing his hands long enough to pat himself on the back for herding some contractors, real estate agents, and other 'profit-hungry' types together on March 31st at the Town Centre Hotel in order to tell them all about his charts. I wonder why he didn't use the city's Recreation Complex facilities and get some traffic off Barnet Street? Did the Hotel donate the room and the goodies or did we, the taxpayers, pay for all the grazing, again?

Well, folks, start counting. The next municipal election is only 2 years, 7 months away!

Dateline Millville Advisory—Now, where are those cancer studies?

Catalyst Community Stakeholder Meeting – April 4th

Article censored due to Formosa lawsuit against The Watchdog

Wildwood may need another 'Limited Vision' road sign. Here's the deal: The mill is forging ahead with securing a large capacity landfill in order to dump their ever-increasing amounts of fly ash. There are some 'unexplained' changes in mill operations that require them to find a spot to dump a big increase in fly ash from their #19 power boiler. (Due to power generation plans perhaps??)

In any case, the mill's newly-purchased concrete 'site transfer' truck will carry up to 15 yards of fly ash at a time up the, soon to be logged, switchback road to the Wildwood landfill site—on a regular basis.

The fly ash will be hosed-down with water from Powell Lake before it makes its journey up the hill to the landfill. The water will evaporate or be picked up by the leachate system according to Drew Kilback, the mill's 'environment' guy. So after the water evaporates and the wind takes over, due to the fact that the trees have all been logged, watch out Wildwood!

But according to Drew, a new 2.5 micron-particulate monitor at the mill's Wildwood monitor station should make the residents feel protected. However, one needs to remember that low numbers from fixed monitors do not mean low pollution. It could mean bad citing. A story for another day...but the long and the short of it is...look out Wildwood!

CITIZEN ALERT!

Support Council of Canadians' request for an OPEN QUESTION PERIOD at City Council Meetings

On April 18th, a Council of Canadians' Delegation will present a resolution to the Committee of the Whole (City Council) requesting an **Open Question Period** at Council meetings.

Presently, there is no public forum for citizens to receive timely information or statements of positions from the Mayor and Council . . . or for our elected city officials to have a dialogue with their constituents 'in public' and 'on the record.' This is why we need an Open Question Period.

Open Question Period is democracy in action.

**JOIN THE COC at the COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
9:00 am, Tuesday, April 18th
Council Committee Room, City Hall
6910 Duncan Street, Powell River**

Questions? Contact Denise Reinhardt, COC Communications Coordinator, denise@creativemediation.com