

# Feb 27 2008

## POLITICAL PILLAR

Report by local Councillor Claude Berthiaume on the CANs committee

Lorne Taylor cochair explained that the Association of Community Action Networks was started to allow the individual CAN groups to communicate with each other. The original Community Action Network was started in this community and they've developed throughout the city. Because of amalgamation, people were not satisfied with their input to government. CANs was a solution. A committee of these various CANs in the 12 centers got together as a group and formed the association. They were asking the city what the terms of reference would be. How do we deal with the city. Who would we talk to. Is there any funding coming this way to do newsletters and such. It went to council in December 2007 and Councillor Claude Berthiaume was for it and spoke eloquently but one of the councillors was against it and the question was discussed a retreat afterwards. It was left in the hands of Councillor Claude Berthiaume plus another councillor and staff to decide on how to deal with it. It is a new thing. It will take time.

Claude said they have had a couple of meetings to look at the Community Action Network. We're supposed to do a report to council which will come up in March sometime. We may have one more meeting of the committee. The way it's going now you are not going to get \$5,000 that the Constellation report recommended. The way that it will work is more like \$1200 may be roughly will be provided.

Taylor laughed and said and that is out of a \$500 million city budget. Right.

You'd have to apply for the money, said Claude. What can happen is any project the Community Action Network wants to do in their own community they would have to apply to the Councillor of the ward for the funding from their own CF funds which went up from \$29,000 to \$34,000 this year. That's for the whole ward. That's the way it's kind of going to work. The terms of reference it looks like we will let the community action network adopted it if they want but the city will be proposing a simpler terms a reference. They're going to call it the terms of engagement.

Before the city got amalgamated there were a lot of volunteer groups across the city in the various municipalities. We're looking at the Community Action Network to get volunteers and maintain the volunteers throughout the city. Jim Gordon the former mayor through the idea up of maintaining the volunteers. That was one of the goals. We are still working on it and will report very soon to the council. That is the highlights I can report on tonight. You had it before council, at least some of the inside information. We will see what happens. Things change all the time.

Jana Lahnalampi said she would like to raise the topic of the multiuse arenas. You should get a feeling from our community of whether we want it. If we don't want it as a CANs committee do we put out a survey. Do other CANs want to get together and put out surveys as well. I've not heard one person out here say they wanted it. Someone asked what it was about. She explained that what council wants is two legacy projects multiuse facilities. Multimillion dollar projects. They have no idea whether going to get the money. It's a multiuse sports facility, soccer swimming a multi-arena near the Terry Fox area in Sudbury. It will cost millions of dollars in rock blasting. As well they want a 1800 person cultural Center. Do we want to spend a few million dollars more on that. Or do we want money spent on our local areas before we spend more money there. Anybody that I've talked to feels that way. The CANs committee will have to voice that to council.

Claude said that one of the things we discussed was the issue that CANs are not ratepayers associations. It is more to talk about projects. There's nothing wrong with expressing your

opinion on this but I would not recommend you do it with CAN. But said one of the ratepayers these are projects within our community that we don't like.

Claude said the report on the legacy projects will be coming up in April. Jana Lahnalampi asked if we could do something now to get our voices heard. We are afraid of losing our smaller arenas. Our arena is packed said one of the citizens. She was on the hockey Board last year and will be next year. We are full. We have Walden and other areas coming out to use our ice. The fears is that they will now use the ice in the new multiuse arena. Claude said that in December the city voted to put \$250,000 to have consultants work on the project. I voted against it. It will be coming out. One of the issues I raised was arenas. I said I'm afraid that in a report a few years back it said one of the arenas in Levack or Chelmsford should be closed. Talking with the mayor and another councillors they are telling me if they closed any arena it would be the one close by the new center. They're probably closing one in Capreol since they have two ice rinks if needed and closed Carmichael. Ours would not be affected. A Citizen said that's what they're saying now. Within three years they're gone. Claude said that's why he requested they put in writing in a report that they guaranteed that our arenas would stay open. Question would that report go in the Sudbury Star? Laughter.

Jana Lahnalampi said it is a community development, are we not all one community. Claude said you can express whatever you want but it would be better elsewhere. Question would we get your hand slapped. No said Claude but they did not want CANs to become a Ratepayers Association. Taylor asked what is a ratepayers Association. Claude said it would be an independent association of taxpayers who have any complaints about the city. They would meet together and raise issues. Very political usually. That's not what we see the Community Action Network function would be..

Jana Lahnalampi said then we can all meet next Tuesday night and you don't come and we do a petition.

Taylor laughed about being concerned about the loss of \$1200. It's a pretty small bribe.

One of the other citizens noted that all the city has to do is let the arenas deteriorate from lack of maintenance. The Levack arena is in good shape, said Claude, the Chelmsford arena is more of an issue. The issue is they didn't put insulation under the pipes. The frost is going really deep. It heaves. If it breaks a pipe we are looking at a \$900,000 repair. Then it will be an issue. Will council now or in the future be willing to spend that money to fix the arena. They're saying they won't close it but if an issue comes up will the city repair it.

If the city simply keeps maintaining them, putting \$200,000 in every arena each year they would stay in perfect condition. Claude said he would recommend they be diligent. Funding is a big issue with the legacy projects. I don't know how it is going to go. They're looking at \$131 million and that could be higher. That doesn't include the cost of the lot and the water extension. The likely be \$200,000,000 before we are finished. It includes a soccer field in a bubble, a swimming pool, I don't know if councils will vote for it in the budget. Taylor asked if they could at least have a vote here. Claude said certainly. The vote to support the legacy project was one person yes on the condition that no money is taken away from our area. The rest voted no.

#### Zipline at High Falls

Councillor Claude Berthiaume said he's been getting a lot of e-mails against the project. He saw the young teacher who started the proposal to build it last week and said there was not a lot of community support. Claude mentioned that the community negotiated with Inco a number of years ago to remove powerlines near the Falls to improve the view. The would-be entrepreneur has another location in the Barrydown area of Sudbury. If the community does not want it by the Falls, Claude Berthiaume said he would not support it. People are against the commercial aspect of having a near the Falls. A vote was taken 5 people were for the zip line, 6 were against.

