

**ATTACHED ARE LETTERS
OF SUPPORT
REGARDING
STREETSCAPE DESIGN
PROJECT**

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OF APRIL 26, 2006**

Hullo,
I've been having a look at your website and I just wanted to applaud your vision for downtown.

I would like to make four additional suggestions:

- 1) An performing arts centre is badly needed in Sudbury and downtown is the natural location for it.
- 2) Components of campus life from Sudbury's universities and colleges should be brought downtown - this would go a long way in revitalizing the downtown core.
- 3) Community gardens would be a wonderful addition.
- 4) Downtown should be connected to other city attractions (such as Bell Park) by walking and cycling trails.

Good luck with your initiatives!!

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Congratulations on this wonderful initiative! My mother called me this morning (i now live in Montreal) with the wonderful news that a group of people had begun developing a viable redevelopment project for downtown Sudbury, and for the first time this project seemed like it could actually be brought to fruition.

I have always believed in the potential of downtown Sudbury to be a dynamic, beautiful and inspiring place. I also believe that this depressed downtown core has been the the culprit for many of Sudbury's social and socio-economic problems. Personnaly, I think Sudbury's persistent drain of young, educated and dynamic people could be slowed down if this project were able to quash the pessimistic attitude I've come to know from Sudbury's business community. Also, I also think that Sudburians are in need of a meeting place - seeing that this city has a very large proportion of baby-boomers, these people (in my opinion) are just yearning for a place to 'run into' old friends while running errands on foot. My mother is one of these people, she is 61 years old and, like most of her friends, is in fantastic physical health - she has an active social life and would love nothing more than to move to a centrally located home where many of her contemporaries live and have everything available at arms reach. In short, she's TIRED of having to jump into her car (the most anti-social machine ever invented) to get a loaf of bread... (ps. did you kow that people living in suburbs are more likely to suffer from obesity and heart attacks?)

As for the structure of the future downtown core, I have a few suggestions that might be of interest to you.

1 - I've always imagined Elgin street as a future 'restaurant' district. The reason why is that it has amazing, wide sidewalks that could accomodate terrasses. Here in Montreal, there is nothing people love more than to have dinner outside or to enjoy a pint after work with friends. (tax incentives for restaurateurs on this stretch of street? - check out the Byward market in Ottawa as an example) - Oh yeah, and until CPR is willing to move the tracks, planting trees all along Elgin might be a good idea.

2 - Sudbury is a beer drinking town - how about a beers-of-the-world festival in the begining of October? There is a festival like this in Montreal you might want to check out. <http://www.festivalmondialbiere.qc.ca/>

3 - I quickly went through your PDF file and really like the design of your lampposts (the light tree is a particularly good idea). However, not sure about the speakers playing music (christmas is fine) - if there are not enough people to fill the streets, music can accentuate a sense of aloneness and abandonment. In short, it might feel kind of creepy. Sounds and smells should be organic and come from people, fresh bread from a bakery, old men speaking Italian, that sort of thing. <http://www.byward-market.com/>

4 - DONT FORGET THE BOYS! Capitalise on Sudbury's fishing and hunting thing. An outdoor snowmobile show in January (think of that speedboat show they do in Azilda in the summer)! Or how about an extreme sports (bmx, skateboard) and music festival in the summer! The kids would LOVE that (see Vans warped tour) <http://www.warpedtour.com/index2.html>

5 - Television advert. campaing. People in Sudbury don't know their downtown anymore. They need to get reacquainted with it. Change perceptions through avertising.(i still can't beleive they think there is no parking downtown)

6 - And of course, you already know this, LOTS of new residential spaces are essential - happy to hear Dalron is interested.

By the way, I am truly relieved you are taking a 'design' approach to development - people may not know it, but it takes alot of 'seduction' to make people spend their money - and your group has understood this. Your community will thank you for it.

Anyway, I wish you luck with your projects and again, congratulations -

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Comments re. A New Vision for Downtown Sudbury, December 14, 2005

(http://www.city.greatersudbury.on.ca/cms/index.cfm?app=div_planning
<http://www.city.greatersudbury.on.ca/cms/index.cfm?app=div_planning&lang=en
&currid=4028&parid=786> &lang=en&currid=4028&parid=786)

(<http://www.downtownvillage.ca/index.asp>
<<http://www.downtownvillage.ca/index.asp>>):

An excellent document with an exciting vision for Downtown. Nevertheless, some very important issues are not addressed (**):

****The Downtown Village website states (though I didn't see it in the document):**

"Like many cities, Sudbury's downtown began its decline with the advent of the suburban shopping centre and accelerated with the advent of superstores and later big box complexes. "

What do suburban shopping centres, superstores and big box complexes have that Downtown does not? They don't have nice trees or flowers or sculptures or art or culture to entice people to come and to enhance the experience once they are there. They are strictly retail machines surrounded by asphalt parking lots. Pretty dismal places when you look at it that way. So why do people go there?

Climate Control! They are warm in the winter and cool in the summer - comfortable year-round.

If Downtown Sudbury wants to compete with them it will have to provide the same thing. Then it will really be worthwhile to go the extra distance, with many of the proposed projects, to make Downtown even better than the competition. But first the Downtown has to be brought up to par, and a few flowers and trees and artwork (most of which will be covered with snow and ice in the Winter) and a few cultural events will not do that by themselves.

Glassing in - or Skinning, as some like to call it - the Downtown streets actually addresses a number of issues over and above the simple revitalization of Downtown. I arrived at the proposal from the perspective of our aging demographic - where to live when we're older and not so independent, and then in combination with a sustainable development

perspective - how to reduce our ecological footprint. A glassed-in Downtown would be an ideal place for seniors to live (students too - anyone who doesn't need a big backyard). Concentrated nodes of development - small footprint living rather than urban sprawl - is absolutely critical to achieving sustainability. And glassing in the Downtown would save having to retrofit the walls of all those leaky, un-insulated older buildings.

Three birds with one stone!

Now, wouldn't that be newsworthy and deserving of global attention.