

Library Consideration

Mayor Guthrie and Councillors,

I would like to add my voice to the discussion regarding the new library. While a few councillors have said that the decision to build has been made so there will be no discussion other than on the new design, I think that's a bit unfair at such an unusual time. This pandemic is not a small blip that we must get over, but rather a huge blow to many, some who have lost their jobs and are facing an uncertain future. It's easy to say it's only x amount per year per family if you haven't experienced a change in your income, but, to some, every penny counts. I worry for people whose jobs are still in limbo, and businesses who may have survived the short term only to fail down the road.

I'm tired of being schooled on the virtues of the library and all its benefits. I use the library, appreciate what it offers to the community, and understand that it's "much more than books". I resent the suggestion made by some proponents that opinions such as mine are uninformed. In spite of the fact that the addition of the new building would bring many great benefits, I believe postponing it is the prudent thing to do.

While both the recreation centre and library are needed, and should be built at the right time, I'm puzzled by the difference in the cost per sq. ft. . The library is \$62 million, and 88,000 sq. feet. The rec centre is \$80 million and 165,000 sq. ft. (it includes a pool, 2 ice pads and 2 gyms). While the two buildings have very different purposes and finishings, it still seems quite a difference.

Respectfully submitted,
Marg Harbin