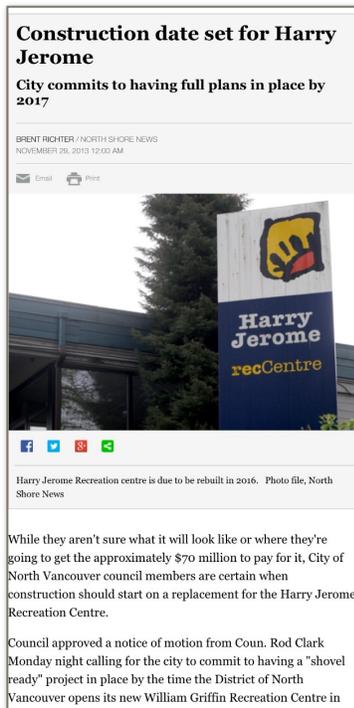


KEATING AND THE 'SLATE' GO A-WALL ON HARRY JEROME COMMITMENT

By: Kerry Morris - April 5th 2015

It's City Council Meeting on Monday March 30th, and Craig Keating has put into question whether or not he has entered into the early stages of Alzheimer's disease. The City's recent capital plan has once again come up for annual review and this time, based on a reversal of priorities, Harry Jerome has moved from the top to the tail-end of the City's capital plans.

During the 2-minuet input period I questioned how in only 135 days, a public commitment by the Team Mussatto 'Slate' membership, which includes Keating, Buchanan and Back, could transition Harry Jerome from the City's No. 1 capital priority, to a project needing resolution some time in the next 10 years.



Keating, when his turn to talk arrived, looked directly at me sitting comfortably in the gallery, and told me and all others that he had never supported reconstruction of Harry Jerome as a top City priority. Funny, because I was sitting in this exact same seat on the night of November 25th 2013, when he and all other 'Slate' members gave their unanimous council support to a motion brought by Councillor Rod Clark calling for Harry Jerome to be 'Shovel Ready' for construction by the time the District completes William Griffin. As only one facility can be out of operation at any one time, it was Clark's desire to ensure we don't lose our place in the renewal lineup when William Griffin achieves ribbon cutting on opening day. All other members of council including Keating, pledged their support, and Clark's motion passed unanimously.

But Keating's selective memory kicked into high gear Monday night and he went on a tirade about everything he had and had not committed to do, claiming he had never committed to rebuild Harry Jerome. Guess he forgot about his November 2013 Vote, which he reconfirmed in April of 2014 when the matter came before council again for funding approval, at which time council's support was once again unanimous. The staff report of Ms. Barbra Pierce sought and

received council approval to spend \$250K on project planning and design for Harry Jerome, which monies were coming out of the Civic Amenities Reserve Fund. That fund has been growing thanks to an annual Levy which, based on last Monday nights vote, is now equal to 3% per year.

Staff have been hard at work attempting to develop design and funding models for the new Harry Jerome project.

Its worth noting that it's not just Keating breaking his election promise for a new Harry Jerome facility in this councils term, he is joined by Buchanan who also lowered her support of Harry Jerome to a "B" rating. Back, who had claimed Harry Jerome as her highest priority while on the campaign trail, dutifully took her instructions from the 'Slate' hierarchy, transitioning her support to the lessor "B" category as well. The most note-able change however was reserved for his worship

	
The Corporation of THE CITY OF NORTH VANCOUVER OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER	
REPORT	
To:	Mayor Darrell R. Mussatto and Members of Council
From:	Barbara Pearce, Director of Special Projects
SUBJECT:	HARRY JEROME RECREATION CENTRE – NEXT STEPS
Date:	April 23, 2014
	File No: 7900-20 HJRCR
<small>The following is a suggested recommendation only. Please refer to Council Minutes for adopted resolution.</small>	
RECOMMENDATION:	
PURSUANT to the report of the Director of Special Projects, dated April 23, 2014, entitled "Harry Jerome Recreation Centre – Next Steps":	
THAT Council endorse the timeline for the HJRC Project as shown on Attachment 1 of this report;	
AND THAT (Funding appropriation #1403) an amount of \$250,000 be appropriated from the Civic Amenity Reserve fund for the purpose of furthering the site and program planning, as well as design options, for the redevelopment and revitalization of the Harry Jerome Recreation Centre;	
AND THAT should any of the above amount remain unexpended by December 31, 2017, the unexpended balance shall be returned to the credit of the said Reserve Fund.	
ATTACHMENT:	
1.	Project timeline graph
REPORT: Harry Jerome Recreation Centre Next Steps	
Date: April 23, 2014	
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Mayor Mussatto who re-rated his support of the Harry Jerome project to a "C", confirming for all those in the know that indeed this is his last term as City Mayor. He's been set-up to take the heat for Harry Jerome's downgraded priority, which is made necessary so that the 'Shipyards' can gain that priority position and funding.

Keating's tirade delved into the lack of money and precise financial plan necessary to fund Harry Jerome, which would have been a sound argument, but was in the circumstances hypocritical in the extreme. As Ms. Pierces' April 2014 report clearly states, Harry Jerome has already received funding appropriation to the tune of \$9.2 million, and that funding grew by \$800K last year, and will increase again this year by another \$1.2 million.

So while a fully funded plan for Harry Jerome has not yet been determined, monies have been set aside beginning more than three years ago and they are continuing to build.

On the other hand, as Clark pointed out prior to the vote, Keating, Mussatto and the rest of the 'Slate' have now shifted their full support behind the 'Shipyards' project, which has no funding source of any type, yet has been approved for \$1.5M in funding this year alone. Similarly, they handed out another \$2.5M of funding to the Gallery, without a source, which has become a Polygon supported project, and whats supported by developers can be certain to get the 'Green-Light' from the 'Slate'.

The question which remains to be determined is how long the pool at Harry Jerome will go before a catastrophic event takes it out of service and compels us to throw good money after bad, making band-aide repairs to a facility that should really be flattened and rebuilt.

Mussatto's embarrassment at the condition of Harry Jerome, together with the entire 'Slates' flip-flop on the issue of capital priorities, was made even more obvious when Councillor Clark brought to everyones attention that a 50 Year celebration in honour of the Centennial Theatre was in the planning stages, but that Harry Jerome, which was also having a 50 year birthday was being left out of that planning process. But these, like all other non-slate arguments, went in one ear and out the other of each of the four 'Slate' member until both Bookham and Clark called into question the Mayor's leadership on these and other issues, which rankled Mussatto, but not enough to have him or Keating recover either their memories or their morals.

The Mayor lashed out briefly at Clark when he commented on the airy-fairy nature of the Mayor's 'Shipyards' project, and the lack of funding for that as yet undefined project, which the Mayor has stated to be "His Vision" in several of his more recent video-taped interviews. But Clark didn't rise and respond to the Mayor's insult, despite the child-like nature of the retort.

Bookham also took some heat when she put into question the Mayor's leadership on both Harry Jerome and the Museum, which caused Keating to prompt the mayor to discipline, wrongly brought, and which had no value as Bookham drove home her point with a well organized and thoughtful response. Keating's failing memory however never receiver the attention it was due.

