

Heating/Hoarding and PCN 28

When the Russell Regional Multiplex Fundraising Campaign Committee began publishing articles in the paper a number of months ago it was with the intention of informing the community and keeping people in the loop. The Committee wanted to ensure that everyone was aware of the status of the construction, progress on the fundraising, amenities in the facility, community impacts and overall project developments. In fact it was hoped that by providing the information residents would feel like they were a part of the project, better understand the Multiplex's impacts and gain a sense of anticipation and pride in the construction and completion of the facility. From the Committee's perspective it has worked as the past 6 months have seen phenomenal progress both in construction and fundraising; true successes for our community and area.

It is in the spirit of information sharing that this article will speak about 2 cost issues that the Committee has been dealing with for some weeks that have only recently become clear enough that they can be shared with the community. The first one was discussed a month or so ago in our newspaper article and relates to heating/hoarding (H/H) costs. The long winter and drawn out spring weather mean that costs for closing in and heating various parts of the project are up significantly from original projections. In fact H/H costs are estimated to be about \$325,000 some \$225,000 more than projected. The Committee has been told that these types of variances are not uncommon with winter time construction because one can never truly predict the weather, yet it is disappointing.

The second item is a resolution to an issue that has arisen regarding the ice plant and heating system, a solution referred in the contract for the Multiplex as PCN 28. The position of the Committee from day one has been to provide as efficient and cost effective operation as possible for the entire facility but specifically for the ice plant and heating system. Recently the Committee learned that in order to meet its objectives a \$300,000 budget over run will need to be incurred. After numerous meetings with contractors, engineers and architects it has become obvious that there is little that can be done to avoid this cost especially if the Facility is to remain on schedule. A decision was made early in the week of May 9th to proceed with PCN 28.

Anyone who has ever participated in a major renovation or construction project will know that unforeseen events can occur. In fact the H/H costs and PCN 28 costs, although significant dollar amounts, are only about 6% of the total value of the project. The Committee felt that it was important for the community to understand some of the challenges it faces but also to reassure local residents that they are doing everything possible to mitigate the impacts from these issues. The Committee is currently looking at all avenues in dealing with the H/H and PCN 28 costs including additional funding from Federal and Provincial sources. The Committee is hopeful that solutions can be found so that the cost overruns do not adversely impact the project or local rate payers.

The Fundraising Committee although disappointed by recent events is not discouraged and continues to work hard to attain its goal of a first class facility ready to be used in September of this year.

For further information on the progress of the Russell Regional Multiplex please visit the Town of Russell website at www.russellmb.com . If you have any questions or comments regarding the facility please don't hesitate to contact a member of the Multiplex Funding Campaign Committee. The Committee members are Chris Radford, Bruce Christopher, Alan Stanchuk, Symantha Dunn, Keith Popp, Eldon Montgomery, Gerald Keating and Terry Rolfe.