

OPINION LETTERS

Downtown, waterfront development promises to benefit entire community

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CONCEPT PLAN

NORTH BAY DOWNTOWN WATERFRONT MASTER PLAN



To the editor:

We have had the opportunity to read in its entirety the downtown waterfront plan. We do suggest that before anyone comments on the proposal in public, they educate themselves to the contents. We believe that the community of North Bay and every one of its citizens will benefit greatly from this undertaking.

This vision is what North Bay has been waiting for since the city was born on the shores of Lake Nipissing. Over many generations, there have been numerous studies, surveys, consultant's workshops undertaken only to sit on the shelf because there were not enough people to undertake the project or go through the effort.

Many organizations and individuals have been involved and have worked very hard in this open and transparent process to finally formalize a plan.

As you read the proposal, you will understand the seven guiding principles that permeate through the study that are well developed and support our community principles.

To recognize that our Golden Mile not only contributes to our tourist industry and communal benefit in the summer, it can also contribute in the off-season.

Our waterfront and our lake are a canvas for creativity and cultural creation. A perfect example of this is the Heritage Gardeners that continuously and tirelessly beautifies the waterfront gardens. They take great pride in what they are doing and we are proud of them and every one of those gardens.

Incorporating previous studies, an innovation hub, the cultural park, a residential hub, a splash pad and skating trail are only a few of the inclusions that will bring a variety of economic generators that will benefit our community. To have winter activities in a “winter” city is a no brainer. Our ski hill is fantastic, ice fishing is great, skating at our waterfront or down by the museum, priceless. Downtown North Bay, the heart of the city, will again connect to the shores of North Bay especially if key focal areas are within easy walking distance of this core.

Discovery North Bay Museum may not seem so isolated; it will be on the path to a more vibrant waterfront.

Our history began on the shore of this city and it grew from that point. This development and the jobs it will create are necessary to grow again from our roots. This will help keep our youth here, bring people back, in particular young families, and tourists who will return, time and again. Waterfronts around our province are filled with people year-round engaging in activities that encourage family and community values. Waterfronts are for everyone not a select few.

We also think it is important to separate the waterfront development and the King’s Landing wharf as the two do not necessarily go hand in hand.

We, in our family are of two minds on this issue, but we are willing to listen and participate in the discussion.

Community, business and municipal leaders have been involved in this vision and they must continue to be involved while keeping the economic checks and balances in play.

We all have an opportunity to contribute to this development, and offer alternate ideas and/or suggestions, as well as opinions. We think it's time for the citizens of North Bay to be positive and be involved in something that will benefit us all.

Jane and Tony Limina
North Bay