

hand delivered

C. Aschman

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CITY OF RICHMOND
INFO CENTER

April 24, 2005

Dear Sir / Madam,

Two most influential newspapers in B.C., the Vancouver Sun and the Province, published recently articles on Richmond development. I strongly oppose their endorsement of some of the projects as a desirable future for our town.

One of the articles was accompanied with a lovely picture of three condo towers on Gilbert and Alderbridge Streets. Those towers, a future home to nearly 300 families, are crowded together and practically "wall to wall" on the plot. And half a block away, on two parking lots, on Alderbridge between Elmbridge and Westminster, there already are requests for development permits for SIX condominium towers with homes for 600 families, in the same block with Marriott, Hilton, Richmond Inn and a seven years old condominium tower, where I live with 137 other families.

You can certainly imagine how disturbed I am with the prospect of being crowded so senselessly. When we were buying our homes, I enquired with the Urban Planning Department about the possibility of the high-rise development on the adjacent parking lots. I was informed that our city prefers mixed use development and that low-rise housing will be build there for the elderly, because of the proximity to the hospital. Now, a City Planner told me that the City does not have the money for the project and the two lots were sold to private developers.

The City of Richmond also has a most ridiculous rule: The 17 floor towers can stand as close as 75 feet to each other! The formerly green Richmond – The Garden City! How ironic that every City employee has on the back of the business card a motto " Our vision is for the City of Richmond to be the most appealing, livable, and well managed community in Canada".

Please, look at the picture of a now selling property (which had cut all the lovely grown-up Ponderosa pines on Gilbert already), pull the plans of a proposed development from your files and REJECT THE PERMITS TO DEVELOP A PROVERBIAL "CONCRETE JUNGLE" in the west Richmond. (Please, disregard the trees on the upper levels of a requested development as drawn by the architect. These will need to be cut down in three years, as it happened in our building, otherwise their roots will destroy the membrane.)

I hope I can get your attention. A short version of this letter was already published in Vancouver Sun on Saturday. I am not the only one, who is very concerned with the proposed overbuilding. My hope is reinforced by the fact that this is an election year, when politicians often will listen to the voices of people. Please, do not let yourselves to be dragged to the catering of the developers' greed! Thank you.

Cc: Malcolm Brody

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