

Your worship and committee members. As you are well aware, the last three years I have been striving to seek commitments from the majority on council to adopt a strong tree bylaw.

Today will probably be my very last time on this issue.

During the last election, the majority of sitting members either gave a verbal or written pledge in their campaign speeches or their brochures to have a strong new tree bylaw. I was pleased to see this new council adopt a new intern bylaw with Doberman teeth. But, after the last GPC meeting, I left with my tail between my legs yapping like a chihuahua. So why did the majority of council members send the intern bylaw back to staff with instructions to water it down?

The only reason were a few residents who objected to you interfering on their personal properties and said so at the last meeting. You obviously did not take into any consideration the many Richmond residents who expressed their view points in our local newspapers on the massacring of large trees. In addition, you did not place any weight on the many telephone conversation and written letters you also received on this issue during the past several years. Making tough decisions is not always a popular one.

However, you were elected not only carry out your fiduciary responsibilities, but also enact laws that will keep our city picturesque, and that includes our environment.

I pointed out at the same meeting a few areas where the city already interferes in individual properties rights and charges us. However, I forgot to mention the most important one, personal property taxes. This council increased our tax by 2.9% this year and I would suggest to you, most residents were not happy. Having said that, you had to make a TOUGH decision to increase our taxes in order to operate and manage the affairs of our city. I received an e-mail from a person who spoke at the last GPC meeting, and the only way I could have received his e-mail was from the sign in sheet at your open house. I certainly did not authorized my e-mail to be given to anyone outside of city hall.

In his e-mail he refers to anyone who agrees with the tree protection bylaw 8014 is a dummy. I replied back assuring him that people like me who believe in the protection of trees and our environment were no dummies.

I also told him I respect his point of view and asked him if development and the preservation of a natural balance in our environment is mutually exclusive. I also wrote, is there a way to strike a balance? Is there a reason to strike a balance? Of course, there is a reason to strike a balance and I have provided you with those reasons over the years. Mr. Mayor, when you asked the question of a resident, as to why education does not work, and do you have

any solutions, he replied that is your job. If they do not have any solutions, then I believe this council is on the right track in adopting bylaw 8014 and not 8057. Your staff and I have informed this council in the past that you have the legal right under the provincial government act in conjunction with the community charter to bring in such a bylaw. If you accept the new water down proposal before you tonight, then I believe you have let down the majority of citizens in our community.

Eliminating what I considered some of the most important sections, such as, 3.2.2. waiving the \$50.00 permit fee, so a resident can cut one tree

per year without a permit and 4.3.2 and 4.3.3.
requiring tree replacement under section 3.2.2
and a \$500.00 maintenance fee is a draconian
step backward. Changing the dbh from 10cm to
20cm is striking a balance between those who
oppose a bylaw and those who are in favour of
one. We all recognized that significant means
different things to different people and in the
spirit of trying to strike a balance, I think most
residents would consider this section to be a
compromise. I have gone on long enough, and in
closing Mr Mayor, I want to take this time to
thank you and the members of council for
allowing me the opportunity to present you with
many written submissions over the past few

years. My main goal was to try to help you make a decision to adopt a strong tree bylaw for our city. You certainly gave me the opportunity and have earned your respect on such a divisive issue. I apologized for being such a pain, in you know where. My recommendation to this body is not to adopt this bylaw before you today. I recognized a lot of staff time has gone into preparing this bylaw, however, it has no teeth. Having such a bylaw is a waste of your employee's time to administer. Residents will still be able to cut all their trees down under and over 20cm on their properties over a few years. Even if you change the rezoning for homes with

smaller square footage and less asphalt, you have no power to stop the massacre of large trees. They need to go hand in hand. I personally will not be offended if any member votes to kill this bylaw. I have told you in the past, I have a lot of respect for putting yourself on the front line and for making difficult choices. In your position, as administrators of our city, you cannot please everybody all the time and certainly, you will not win many friends. I know some of you can attest to this over the years. So as this dummy signs off with his tail between his legs, I just want to say bow-wow.