

## **QBRA Membership Chair's report for the 2019 AGM**

My name is Doreen MacKay-Dunn and it has been my honor to serve as your membership chair since February of this year.

It has been a challenging year. I decided the best course of action was to telephone all the QBRA members both current and lapsed. I learned a great deal from those calls. I am pleased to announce that many of you renewed your memberships, and others have joined. Welcome to you all!

The people told me of the challenges facing seniors. These challenges include: Facing medical challenges without adequate medical care; the loss of love ones and mobility issues. Despite their concerns, they still wanted to be kept informed.

Clearly there is an **information deficit**, and many do not know what is going on in the town. The newspaper does not report all that is happening, and the spotty electronic recording of council meetings aren't any help either.

This deficit has fueled the growth in our membership. It has passed 200 and continues to grow. Why? Because **PEOPLE WANT AND DESERVE TO KNOW.**

The QBRA has been around since 1971 and we were and are committed to getting you the information you need.

Just the facts no spin!

Before I leave you, let me share with you some of what the community told me on the telephone.

### **CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY CITIZENS DURING THE PHONING PROCESS**

1. Anger re: the surprise wage increase.
2. The airport should not have adjacent housing.
3. Increased traffic on Bennet Road if housing was permitted
4. Increased noise and pollution from an increase in Airport activity
5. Southlands at the Airport: environmentally sensitive, existing watercourses, and stormwater runoff. It must not be developed.
6. The proposed gas station was not supported on Bennet road.
7. Where is the promised Health Clinic? Health concerns include No doctors, impossibly long waitlists, limited and no access to Nurse Practitioners
8. The long-awaited East Village remediation proposal was sandwiched between two other plans in the September 9<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing and was not clearly defined as the East Village. The second reading of the East Village proposal on August 12 was not advertised, and no one I spoke with knew of it. This information deficit was, in a small way, addressed through my phoning. Thirty QBRA members attended the Public Hearing as a result of this initiative.
9. Members expressed the following concerns regarding East Village: lack of information and transparency, no provision for rentals (Young families and retail workers), Shock that the abandoned, derelict building would remain.

In summary, there is a general feeling that the citizens are kept in the dark, critical information is not being communicated to the town members (residents and business owners). Sadly, some even used the term "Corruption" when describing the cause of the information gap. One example is the PQNews report of the October 2<sup>nd</sup> council meeting

and the reference to the need for input on affordable housing by way of a survey on the town's website available to October 18<sup>th</sup>. In truth the survey closed on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 10 days earlier!

Doreen MacKay-Dunn

October 2019