

Councillors,

I have sent an e-mail to all of you in July expressing my frustrations about the bad habit that South Huron has in taking things away from Centralia and Crediton always with the convenient excuse that things are expensive. I will not repeat everything that was in this other e-mail, but I invite you to refer back to it because, I still think that this is a pattern in South Huron.

We are now seeing the end of our community center, and despite what some people say in Exeter, this place was used, often. The only reason that it is now forced to be demolished is because for years, South Huron has left it to waste away and neglected it. But, my community is resilient if anything. We are once again, seeing community members coming together to try and get something in return for the loss we are experiencing. We did a survey, our community has clearly said that we want updates to our pavilion and a splashpad for our children. We have sent a delegation that was well received by the council and it looked, for a moment, like Centralia might have some support for upgrades here.

But now, I am hearing rumours, and if these are just rumours, please reassure me and I will stop bothering you with my communications. The rumour I hear, is that South Huron, in order to get their "Hub" with a larger arena in Exeter (again!) is now talking about demolishing the Stephen Township arena. Again, according to the rumour I hear, the arguments are that it's because, the refrigeration unit to make the ice is too old, needs to be replaced and it would be too expensive (again). This arena is very well used, and the ground under the icepad is sand. What would be cheaper, if this is really the whole point here, to dig out the pipes from sand and replace them? Or demolish the arena and build this "Hub" that Exeter so desperately want?

So here is what I would like to ask you. As my representative, as a councillor that I voted for, as someone who should look after the best interests of ward 1, will you please oppose this idea? Please, talk to the council on my behalf and on behalf of all of the other taxpayers of Centralia and Crediton. Please, defend our arena. It's one of the last thing we still have, one of the last recreational facility within a short distance for our children. If we keep taking things away to give it all to Exeter, people around the rest of South Huron will keep on feeling disenfranchised, kids will get bored with all the consequences that come with it, and the idea that we are all South Huron will continue to be seen as a bad joke everywhere but in Exeter.

Maybe it's time to realize that South Huron is supposed to be for all of us, because South Huron is not Exeter.

Thank you for doing what is right.

Christian Prémont  
Centralia