



Gene Koch [REDACTED]

Vienna woods 6.14 acres expression of interest

1 message

Gene Koch [REDACTED]

Tue, Jan 2, 2018 at 7:59 AM

To: gene koch [REDACTED] Eva Anthony [REDACTED] Jenny Coleshill
 <jenny.coleshill@granbywilderness.ca>

Your Worship Mayor Konrad, and members of Council, I/We are here on behalf of the citizens of Grand Forks, and the generations yet to come.

to request that you consider:

honoring a commitment made by a motion of council in mid March of 2004.

the motion was passed, with the intent to protect and preserve the Ponderosa pine forest area which is the 6.14 acres currently being advertised.

see attached Gazette article dated march 17 2004

The reason(s) that I/We are requesting this action are;

there are species of raptor birds consisting of owls, hawks, woodpeckers, and bats, and several species of smaller birds, along with squirrels, mule deer, and whitetail deer that live and nest all year in this Ponderosa pine forest.

the ever changing landscape of logging, encroachment of humans, who systematically destroy large and small tracts of forest leave the above mentioned birds and animals and plants with no where to go, inevitably the result is going to be extinction.

these wonderful creatures that are a significant part of our heritage have no way to protect or defend themselves from the onslaught of mankind.

we have a moral and a legal obligation to not contribute to their demise. the Grandby Wilderness society along with First Nations. Central Okanagan Land Trust and many other groups have recognized it is not a great price to pay to save the creatures that are no match for how man can decimate and drive them to extinction.

the following organizations have been contacted and are being asked to do all they can to preserve the Vienna woods as a forest treasure for now and for all the generations to come.

some of the groups are: Central Okanagan Land Trust, First nations Osoyoos band, Interfor in Grand Forks, OWL, green party mla Sonia Furstenace and her senior policy adviser Clair Hume.

some additional time is needed to have a plan in place as to the restoration and replanting of a portion of the Vienna woods that was destroyed.

I/We believe that in approving our request the community will benefit by:

the multitude of reasons this pine forest needs to stay is as follows:

first and foremost, protection of all the above mentioned species.

the air pollution scrubbing ability of the Ponderosa pine, of all trees, is known be one of the most effective trees to do this.

the noise buffer it provides between the city and the family residences beyond and around the pines.

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 (misc.) of Interest

the noise buffer it provides between Unifab and activity on the airport. replanting the decimated area would further enhance and improve this condition.

from a highest and best use perspective, a one time low cash benefit to cut down the remaining forest, is folly. from a commercial/industrial perspective, these industries are always in a state of flux, and large numbers of them go bankrupt and close in the first five years. as a community we have seen many businesses come and go, and city resident who pays property taxes is left to suffer the loss of yet another deal gone bad.

there are many other city owned and privately owned commercial and industrial properties available for development. Donaldson drive, along the highway 3 corridor, and more.

many other communities across BC have adopted and embraced and made the concept of the preservation of nature a priority, we need to do what is right and adopt these same policies.

a wildlife preserve/community forest can last many lifetimes, for all to be enjoyed.

In conclusion: I/We request that Council for the City of Grand Forks adopt a resolution stating:

the 6.14 acres locally known as the Vienna woods be designated as a Wildlife Preserve Community Forest.

in conjunction with this new legacy, the regional district representative Roly Russell and the Grand Forks school board be asked to do their civic

duty and provide the additional four acres currently owned by the school board to be included as part of the wildlife community forest.

perhaps the City of Grand Forks could have a contest to give residents a chance to provide a new name to this new forest.

Gene Koch and/or Nominee pending review and presentation by Grandby Wilderness Society

Gene Koch

Grand Forks BC V0H1H4



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COUNCIL VOTES TO preserve Vienna Woods

By KATIE ROBINSON
Gazette Reporter

Two weeks ago fear swept through council chambers... this week, relief.

At the March 1 council meeting, chambers were filled with residents from both the city and Area D begging council not to log the trees at the Vienna Woods. A committee was set up in hopes of finding a compromise. More than a compromise was made, a complete turnaround was presented at Monday's meeting with the motion to not log any of the trees and to contact the province researching ways of legally making the area a natural forest territory.

"They've (councilors) come to realize that there is long-term value to this grove of pines," said a delighted Gene Cook, who's family has been enjoying the Ponderosa Pines

since 1969. "I think the mayor and council should be congratulated to have the foresight to understand that not everything is related to money and that this beautiful pine forest has great value as well."

The motion also stated that no trees inside the airport fences would be cut either. "We've received new information stating that there is no danger with the trees to aircraft at this time," informed Mayor Jake Raven.

Some concern was presented at the meeting. Coun. Neil Krog was in support of saving the trees, but felt the motion



Gene and Gloria Cook helped save the Vienna Woods.
—photo, Katie Robinson

was going about it the wrong way. He was largely concerned with the other owners of the properties surrounding the city's property.

"I would hate to see us lock this property off and have development introduced up there surrounding this particular property," said Krog, who wanted to wait for more information with the strong intention of protecting the pines. "All I see with this motion is a reaction to protect it... that's not always the best way. I think a partnership with all governments is the best path we should be taking."

Along with finding out the school district's intention with their portion of the property, Krog wanted the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary included in the motion.

The majority of council didn't want to wait for more information; they wanted to show their concerned citizens that they are prepared to do whatever it takes to save this forest.

"We're not trying to ram a motion in, but we do need something that will get the ball rolling with all the other parties," said Coun. Tom Shkrabuk.

Council passed an amended motion stating that their intent is to protect the area, but they require more information before they fully decide on what route to take. The next step is to approach the school district in hopes of creating a natural parkland partnership.

March 17
2004