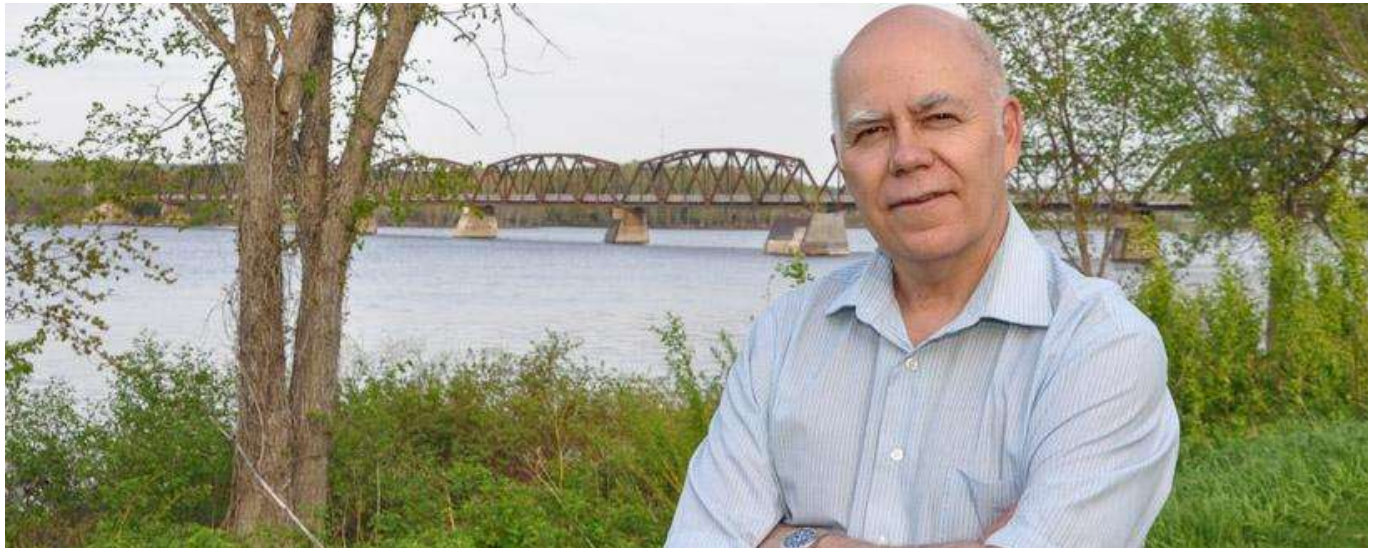


Community Gathering the Hill

November 25, 2017

Content

1. **Summary**
2. **David's Report from the Legislature**
3. **Stephen's Report from City Hall**
4. **Top Themes**
5. **Q&A**
6. **Follow-Up Actions**



1. Summary

Political Representatives Present:

David Coon, MLA Fredericton South

Stephen Chase, City Councillor for Ward 9

On November 25, 2017, David Coon hosted a community gathering with Stephen Chase. David started with a report of what was happening in the Legislature, and Stephen followed with a report of the goings

“[re: Extra Mural privatization] There has been no logical reason given so far. It doesn't make sense. The system works well now. Integration can be done without transferring people out of regional health.”

*-David Coon, MLA
Fredericton South*



on in the City.

After a few short Questions and Answers the meeting proceeded to a small group discussion to identify priority issues, a selection of the top priorities and a general group discussion of these topics.

2. David's Report from the Legislature

1. The House has resumed sitting and some important bills are on the table:

- Privatization of management of Extra Mural healthcare.

One specific concern I have with the bill is repealing the definition of "Extra Mural". Without these services articulated in the bill, there isn't enough direction to Medavie to ensure we maintain full service. If these details are not explicitly written in the contract, it's possible that Medavie would choose not to provide certain kinds of care.

- Five bills related to the legalization of cannabis.

The Conservatives proposed sending it to the Law Amendments Committee to get input from experts. David supported this, but it was rejected.

1. Law enforcement for DUI.
2. Cannabis management control act
3. Cannabis corporation
4. Education Fund
5. Amend Liquor Control Act

- Amendments to public health:

This bill was introduced with the intention of giving the Chief Medical Officer of Health more independence, but instead it opens way to reduce the number of public health inspectors and use more general public safety inspectors.

6. Bills and motions introduced by David:

- Introduced a bill to set up support for home owners and businesses to reduce heating costs.
- Motion Requiring committees to receive recommendations from Legislative Officers

7. Last year motion by David was accepted to develop a code of conduct for MLAs. Now the code of conduct has been drafted.

8. Question period: Questions on wait times for healthcare

9. Towards an Age Friendly Fredericton: There is work being done through Social Work students at the Constituency Office to interview and collect recommendations to make Fredericton more age-friendly.

3. Stephen's Report from City Hall

1. Budget process

There is an issue with province who wants to end the unconditional grant. Fortunately Fredericton is in a financial position to absorb that.

2. Playhouse

The holdup has been location. This is still the city's priority. A new option being considered is to stay at the current location, renovate, or demolish and rebuild on the same site. Our main priority in the next couple years will be the Officer's Square renovation. The city acquired it from the province last year, and will commence an \$8 million renovation.

3. Pool

In my point of view, the pool should be the number one priority for the city. City is having positive discussions with UNB, but we've seen nothing concrete yet.

4. Airport

This is a significant priority, but outside of the city's jurisdiction, so we are not contributing financially. We are pressuring federal and provincial governments for investment.

5. Schools

George St. Middle School is getting old. Possibly looking at building a new school in the Valcour area off Bishop Drive. It is an Irving property, designated for a school. It is a priority for the mayor as well.

6. Municipal Legislation

Municipalities Act is under review. It was adopted last year but has not been made into law yet. It provides a framework for all planning and bylaw enforcement. Everything the city does is governed by legislation. We are asking for ticket writing capacity but we haven't received a clear answer.

7. Sprawl

Outlying areas are taxed less. This encourages people to move outside of the city. Now some of these areas are incorporating, and they need to develop services of their own (fire dept., etc). It makes sense to strengthen existing municipalities instead of sprawling and creating new ones. Fredericton is trying to densify by building up not out. The FREX property fits into this plan. We will hear more about FREX in coming weeks. It is hard to get regions to help pay for facilities.

8. Age Friendly

Councillor Eric Megarity is working hard on building supports in the city for people as they age.

9. Public Safety

The City is looking at intersection safety technology. Can we reduce intersection accidents by 20%?

10. Cannabis

The province will cash in on sales, but enforcement will fall to the cities. The province should share some of the revenue with cities.

11. Waste Management

We have a study by a consultant. Our goal is to encourage recycling and divert more waste from the landfill. We're considering smaller wheeled dollies at 260L, one per household.

4. **Top Themes**

1. Seniors Issues

- Home First help: home care workers need to be reliable and well trained.
- Home First - Seniors need help with small tasks around the house.
- Extra Mural nursing - concern about privatized management and understaffing.
- More sharing economy and communal living models.

2. Protection of Natural Areas

- 10% of province should be protected, in NB it's only 2%, much of it unknown and unused by citizens.
- Problem: Dominance of forest industry in NB, Crown Lands are allocated to forest industry, no longer public places for public recreational use
- Province development of natural spaces problematic

3. Proportional Representation

- Q: Any possibility for it?

A: Provincial Electoral Reform Commission recommended that when political boundaries get changed after next election that proportional representation be looked at as an option. Recommended 2020 municipal election have referendum on lower voting age and ranked ballots. Work in progress. PEI had referendum that chose proportional representation, but Premier didn't think turnout was sufficient. Not going to happen real soon.

5. Q & A

1. Q: Why have the extra mural program change?

David: I'm not too sure, there is no logical reason given so far. It doesn't make sense. The system works well now. The given reason is integration, but that can be done without transferring people out of regional health.

Q: Will employees have the same benefits?

David: Yes.

Q: Is there no financial cost?

David: It will cost more.

2. Q: What is the intent of Age Friendly interns?

David: The initial intent is to work together with the city's Age Friendly Committee. I'm looking out for how the province can help so that I can advocate for provincial support.

3. Q: What's the cannabis centre on King Street?

David: That would be medical marijuana.

Stephen: There will be a large medical marijuana facility on Vanier.

4. Q: Does waste management have any place to drop off compost?

David: Yes, the compost facility on Vanier Industrial Drive. It is open on weekdays, located far from curbside compost pickup. Since recycling is a priority for multi-unit buildings the issue is getting owners or condo boards to participate. We will also recruit a few buildings as pilot projects. This issue is designating space for large recycling bins.

Comment: The issue came up at his apartment. Maybe boy scouts could put out boxes for pick-up and turn them into recycling.

Stephen: I'm more optimistic that condos will participate. We will need to pull out stops to find ways for condos to participate. The space issue would need to have a parking space set aside for the bins.

Comment: It really depends on how you do it. If boy scouts pick up recycling bottles, the company doesn't need to come in.

Stephen: We will need more recycling done other than bottles.

5. Q: Can we have speed cameras on busier streets?

Stephen: The Provincial legislation is required in order to be able to enter evidence captured by the camera; it has to be enabled by Motor Vehicle Act. I have been pushing for this for some time now.

Comment: There is technology that exists that allows lights to change in anticipation of car arrival, this can reduce carbon.

Q: Will cameras have license plate recognition? Technology could be used for more than just punitive measures, but there's this fear of outdated technology being sold.

Stephen: Fredericton is a leader in the manner in which it uses its technology; it's not a dumping

ground.

Comment: The opportunity to have technology implemented is better than just handing out tickets.

Stephen: Having technology sensitized to change according to car presence can facilitate flow of traffic.

6. Comment: Keep prohibiting off-trail bike use.

Stephen: The Council of colleagues has gotten behind supporting Odell as a "light duty" recreational park. Killarney Lake would be more active with activities such as cross country skiing, mountain biking, etc.

Comment: Acadian games have allowed creation of mountain bike trails in parks.

7. Comment: With regards to cannabis, there's the assumption that there will be massive increase in consumption.

8. Comment: An education lesson involved at the intersection would be great. People are still not yet fully aware as to which lane to turn into.

Comment: I always have problems on Riverfront Dr., about to go under Westmoreland St. Bridge. With no yield sign present people are coming off rotary. It is essential to have a yield or merge sign.

9. Q: Is there any money being set aside for an aquatic centre? Where do we stand with that?

Stephen: Not quite. I believe that if UNB discussions come to positive fruition with the city, there would be a city contribution. We would also be seeking contributions from the province and feds. The province and feds haven't come to the table on the performing arts centre. There's this buzz that the preference may be the pool.

David: The city has to commit before the feds. The province has to then jump in and take active ownership.

Stephen: The city and UNB are in discussion. Luckily, the city has a good partnership with UNB which makes it an ideal for the pool.

10. Q: Will there be Thursday night evening markets in the summer along the Carleton Garrison Street by the library?

Stephen: Yes, we will have food trucks.

Comment: Burlington, Vermont was gutted downtown. In the 1970s, downtown was revitalized by having a pedway. The Harvest Jazz and Blues shut down Queen St., which became very popular. Today Burlington has a 98% occupancy downtown.

Stephen: Carleton is the first piece of a larger plan, Officer's Square is next.

Q: How are we changing Officers Square?

Stephen: We plan to move the statue, the plaza, and the large grassed area in the center. We may possibly have an area for artificial ice surface and stage facility. Ultimately, we want to make it the place people want to be.

11. Q: It's illegal to ride bikes on the sidewalk. How can people get across the river from the downtown core?

Stephen: By having an active transportation committee, to make bike transportation not just for recreation.

Comment: Police tend to crackdown on sidewalk cycling, but there are places where you have to ride on the sidewalk. This bylaw is creating problems of hazard for people if they're cycling.

Stephen: Police have been pretty light handed on these infractions.

Comment: Carleton St. Bridge abutments connect them. Recent studies were conducted revealing it can't be done. The question at stake is whether or not engineers have the ability to come up with those reports. Despite it not being true. There were train and car abutments which should be ok for pedestrians.

Stephen: It would take a lot of money.

6. Follow-Up Actions

David Coon:

Seniors Home First

One of the concerns that emerged at the gathering was the need for better services to help seniors stay in their homes, as well as the need for more suitable living arrangements. I will be making this a focus for work in the Legislature when we return at the end of January.

Extra-Mural Privatization

There was considerable concern with the proposal to take the extra-mural hospital services away from Horizon and put them in Ambulance NB to be managed by Medavie. In the Legislature, I proposed an amendment during Second Reading of the bill that would have prevented the deal from going forward, but the Liberals, to a person, defeated my proposal. At committee stage, when we examined the bill in detail, I proposed a number of amendments. The most important one, I believe, was to prevent the definition of what constitutes extra-mural care from being repealed from our current laws. This too was defeated, with every government member of the committee voting against it. This means there is no legal definition of what constitutes extra-mural care for Medavie to follow. Before the bill was passed, Extra-Mural Care was defined as acute, chronic, rehabilitative and palliative health care. Now there is no definition of care. Finally, on Third Reading, not a single government member voted against the bill to turn extra-mural over to Ambulance NB and Medavie. It would have taken only two votes against on the government side to have prevented this from happening.

Traffic Issues

To make it possible for the City to install cameras at traffic lights, I will pursue the issue of the necessary legislative change in the Legislature. I will be sure to take up the need for a yield or merge sign on Riverside Drive for people coming off the interchange by the bridge.