



WHY WE SUPPORT THE ZINCTON VILLAGE PROPOSAL

The Slocan region was mostly uncharted wilderness that burst into activity in 1891 when rich silver deposits were discovered near Sandon. Almost overnight, the Slocan region became the hot spot in Canada for economic development ---- like the Fort McMurray of the last century. Then it began to wane and eventually the Slocan region became a cluster of ghost towns and ghost cities.

New Denver and Silverton have partially survived due to easy highway access and proximity to Slocan Lake. The current land status in these communities largely consists of absentee owners. Small business is experiencing a near 100% failure rate. It is hard to make a living here, so working people have disappeared and have been replaced mostly by urban refugees. Some of the recent settlers oppose any change, naively thinking that everything will remain the same as it was when they arrived. The truth is that the current situation is not sustainable. Change is coming. People can stick their heads in the sand and eventually be horrified by the results of their apathy, or they can actively work with known and trusted long time community members to embrace change and to help shape it in a way that they can participate, benefit and enjoy for the rest of their lives and for the benefit of future generations.

Put in another way, urbanites are looking for ways to enjoy the back country and they are going to come whether we want it or not. If we don't support local initiatives to manage our beautiful back country, and if we don't trust our most caring and capable people, somebody from outside motivated by big money and control WILL do something insensitive with little regard for the land, environment and those of us who call this home. We can be ostriches, or we can get behind people who care. David Harley loves this region and he is easy to approach and talk to. Let us work with and support David to make Zincton great. Let us not lower ourselves to pathetic non-rationalized opposition just for the sake of opposition. A success story would be a really nice thing for this region after all these decades of stagnating in the doldrums.

As an observation, urban refugees that have settled in the Slocan in recent years present themselves as lovers of physical recreation, users of the back country and stewards of the environment. Many like to ski, hike, mountain bike, etc. Some have an unrealistic sense of exclusive entitlement (we do not want anyone else to come here now that we are in the gate). The concept of creating an environmentally friendly model of mountain recreation compared to the old fossil fueled models should be quite appealing to locals that care. Surely this is a much healthier approach than allowing the status quo environmentally questionable recreation practices of the last 50 years to continue without alternatives. To continue to allow the degradation of our backcountry by opposing a better alternative or by allowing NIMBYism, apathy, or a blind desire to oppose or crush any new initiatives is to be a rebel without a cause.

David Harley wants to make a positive change for the better. We, Hal & Vida of Sandon, appreciate and support David's initiative. Finally, and in relation to Sandon specifically, having some economic stability provided by a strong magnet like Zincton will attract appreciative visitors, which will benefit Sandon and the entire area. It will help ensure Sandon to have a secure future as a properly protected and managed historical site (private, public or both). Sandon will benefit by the kind of care and stewardship demonstrated by David Harley and the Zincton Village concept.

We wish David Harley great success in the creation of Zincton Village and we look forward to working with him in many positive ways into the distant future.

Hal & Vida & Family
Sandon, BC