As a guy who grew up on Strawberry Hill and played in the forests of Strawberry Hill when it was a green as a rainforest; I know how you folks feel.

I often reflect on the changes in Scott road (120 ST) and Harris road (66 Ave) has under gone in the past 50 years. The 5 mile long row of towering fir trees have been replaced with billboards and store fronts. The pheasants are gone and the traffic lights have popped up. Where the deer used to bed down there are condos.

Your community is changing and you should be a part of the planning process. I am not convinced you have been included in the decisions as well as you ought to have been. It is my hope that future development will seriously consider the life style you have embraced and that there will be an aggressive plan to maintain the rural family oriented nature of Grandview Heights. Trees don't have to be eradicated to make room for buildings. They can share the space. I would choose to enforce strict tree preservation in all developments.

My opinion of the overall growth plan for Grandview is pretty positive. I do however; question the wisdom of any high density residential use. Lower density multiple dwelling uses can be very effective and contribute to the rural nature of the community's personality. You have some very appealing forested areas that ought to be reserved. Central Park in Burnaby comes to mind. Golf and sports mixed with kids and nature.

Although Neighborhood Concept Plans are intended to provide guidance and flexibility; amendments have to include the perspective of the general family of the community. The people who created the atmosphere of Grandview should be able speak louder than the big dollar investment brokers who would prefer to black top the entire area. You folks need to be listened to better than you have been.

I am big on progressive development. I am bigger on being proud of my neighborhood, my city, my province and my country.

CLIFF BLAIR
INDEPENDENT candidate for Councilor

SURREY has GROWING PAINS – I can help