

## Hockey Heritage North A Calculated Risk Worth Taking

I know that one thing business people understand is risk. For most of us, simply opening up shop was a risk. In fact, we are aware that each and every business decision we make comes with a certain amount of risk. Nothing is fail proof; but, we certainly know that many calculated risks are worth taking. The funny thing about risk is that we may fail, but without it, we could never succeed.

On Tuesday evening town council was asked to take a risk. Hockey Heritage North went to council to ask them to help secure a loan for 2.5 million dollars. They did not ask for a donation or any type of funding. Instead, they need the town to help secure a loan so that they can begin construction of this state of the art facility.

We are told that construction of the project could be delayed until they have raised all of the funds needed or it can proceed with the help of council. The thing about waiting and stalling a project such as this is that it loses its momentum. As the momentum begins to wane, we risk losing the project completely and that would be an absolute disaster for this community. As well, delays in construction would result in higher expenditures and costs which could potentially put the project in financial jeopardy.

Hockey Heritage North has the potential to lead Kirkland Lake into the tourism industry, as it will give us the opportunity to showcase our rich hockey heritage, the one that Kirkland Lake is famous for. It is definitely one of the best projects this community has seen in the last decade. It raises no controversial environmental issues, it is a facility that will have a positive economic impact on our entire region and it will put Kirkland Lake back on the map as a destination community.

It is clear that the business community and the citizens of Kirkland Lake support this project, because over \$800,000 has been raised here in Kirkland Lake alone. So should council take a risk? Should they help secure a loan for this project? Before you answer those questions think about how you would answer these questions. Do I want Kirkland Lake to have a lucrative future? Should council invest in Kirkland Lake's future? Should I invest in Kirkland Lake's future? Of course you should and so should our town council. Kirkland Lake's future should be of paramount importance to all of us, because, if Kirkland Lake's future is bright then ours will be too.

Supporting Hockey Heritage North may be a risk but more than that it is a worthwhile investment into the future of our community. If you believe in Kirkland Lake and this project, tell the mayor and council you support HHN's request for

assistance. If you have been considering a donation, but have yet to donate, please do so. Because, when it comes to Hockey Heritage North and the future of our community failure is not an option. Opportunities such as this do not come around very often. In fact, they rarely come around twice, so don't ignore opportunity when it knocks the first time: answer the door.