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‘City poised to take off’

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Having just attended one of the Kingston Penitentiary visionary meetings I have come away with the opinion that whatever ‘we’ build on that site will be great and that this city is poised to “take off in the next phase of ‘where history and innovation thrive’”. We are extremely fortunate to live in a place that has so many opportunities in front of us, the pen site, the third crossing, the waterfront master plan, the airport expansion, downtown living opportunities as well as numerous public and private developments both large and small.

Recently, media reported citizens protesting the proposed downtown old Capitol Theatre condo development on Princess Street. These ladies and their group ‘Vision for Kingston’ are opposed to the Condo’s height and stated ‘ “We know it’s going to be a shadow because it’s way up there and I don’t care how far back they say it’s going to be. It’s just going to be ugly it’s so out of place, people come here for little holidays ” This is in complete contrast to the opposed view by ‘Future Kingston’ a group who views Kingston’s downtown developments as positive, aesthetically pleasing and functional to even the most scrutinizing visitor. What caught me the most, alongside the opposing views, was the vast age difference between these two groups that appeared on camera... estimating 20 to 30 years between them. While valuing all aged opinions equally and with no disrespect, I certainly hope that our more experienced mature citizens express views on city projects with the understanding that, more of us will be living with decisions longer than others and the vision of Kingston should be the ‘Future Vision of Kingston’ not just the vision of Kingston in the present.

At age 52 and a great, great relative of John Creighton one of the first wardens (1871 - 1884) of KP and of William Newlands Jr. (1853 - 1926) a Kingston architect who designed the railway station across from City Hall, the Newlands Pavilion in Macdonald Park and numerous other notable homes, churches and schools in town, I feel these past decision makers will ‘continue’ to guide us in making good future decisions.

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