

HSC should answer simple questions



Elisha Cumbers
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Let me be perfectly clear: I think the proposed CanadInns hotel at the Health Sciences Centre (HSC) is a good idea.

Point Douglas needs this kind of development – upscale and providing a service desperately needed in that area.

What I don't like about the project is the way HSC has treated the residents on Elgin Street.

For a corporation whose sole purpose is to care for and about people, it's obvious they don't care at all about the long-term neighbourhood people this humongous hotel will affect.

Let's unfairly single out HSC's chief

administrative officer, Dana Erickson, and ask him this: Dr. Erickson, if someone was proposing to put a 19-story hotel directly south of your home, wouldn't you want to talk to them about it?

After all, you might have a few concerns. The perpetual twilight the building will create in the winter would probably be your first concern.

HSC did have an open house about the project – in July – but that's not good enough.

I challenge the executive board of HSC and CanadInns to sit down with the residents of Elgin, not with the purpose of telling residents what's going to happen, but with the purpose of listening to their concerns.

And answer, once and for all, a few questions: Why does the hotel need to be four times as tall as the rest of HSC? And

One of the out-of-town winners asked the waitress for a "Manitoba Spirited Energy... That drink you guys are promoting everywhere."

how much time in the winter will their yards be dark?

Simple questions. Let's get some answers.

I had the opportunity this past weekend to shoot some photos for Frito-Lay for their Ultimate Fan Contest for the Grey Cup.

While talking with some of the winners at the company's cocktail party downtown, one of the out-of-town winners asked the

waitress for a "Manitoba Spirited Energy."

"What?" the waitress asked.

"That drink you guys are promoting everywhere."

Hmm. Not quite the campaign the government had imagined, I think.

Uptown Magazine's Marlo Campbell took part in the Resource Assistance for Youth 24 Hours of Homelessness event last week, the only media personality in Winnipeg with the guts to do so.

I strongly encourage you to pick up a copy of Uptown this week or read about it in next week's Canstar papers.

Elisha Cumbers is a reporter with Canstar Community News Ltd. Respond to this column by emailing letters@canstarnews.com.

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