

The Editor
Metchosin Muse

October 11 was not, for many of us, an ordinary Thanksgiving. A dark cloud hung over our heads - the monstrous tower that Telus wants to build at 4537 Rocky Point Road. After a three-week flurry of activity to meet Telus's September 30 deadline for comment, we now wait for some response.

My first reaction was that this tower would intrude on my personal and family life. It is right opposite my house. I soon learned, however, that my concerns were widely shared, and not just by immediate neighbours. I also discovered that Metchosin Council had rejected putting the tower on municipal property near the currently proposed site.

Why, I wondered, would all of these other people oppose locating a tower remote from their own residences? I think it comes down to what we regard as suitable structures for our public spaces. And the proposed site, on Rocky Point road, near our village core, IS public space in this sense, whatever the ownership.

"Downtown" Metchosin is a statement. It tells visitors who we are and what we value. It doesn't include large-scale industry, business towers, high- density apartments, malls, statues to generals, or manicured parks with fancy fountains. This may look "underdeveloped." But it is the product of more than a century of thoughtful choices, directly reflecting our – and our predecessors' -- rural values.

In some communities a highly visible cell tower might enhance the picture that the inhabitants wish to project. Not here.

Kem Luther