



The Pinocchio Parable .. lessons for today.

It has been said that the bigger the lie the more likely it is to be believed, especially if repeated enough. The first movie I was taken to by my mother was the story of Pinocchio, the little wooden boy whose nose grew long when he told a lie. We could only hope that would be the case with some of those who tell "tall tales" today either directly individual to individual or group to group or to the general public through the media.

With respect to the current promotion of a casino for Sudbury we could not help think of the OLG and their development and operator partners who are encouraging us to go along with their plans to create a "Field of Miracles" into which millions of dollars will be "planted" in the city of "Catchfools". Is Sudbury the modern "Catchfools" and are we all being promised great returns from the casino "Field of Miracles"?

There are actually two aspects to this story. The first is the lobbying by the OLG to the community, especially business people and politicians, extoling the benefits of the casino and the downplaying of the negative aspects. The other is the actual operation of the casino separating gamblers from their money and sending these riches out of the community. In both of these scenarios the gullible are the victims, but we all lose as a society.

We have been discouraged by discussing this matter with otherwise sensible politicians and business people who have not taken the time to research the many downsides to having a casino in our midst..."don't confuse me with the facts - my mind is already made up".

NoCasinoSudbury just asks for all involved (which is all of us, but in particular our elected representatives) to take the time to examine all the objective studies and reports readily available and to discover for themselves that there is little to gain and much to lose through the establishment of a casino in our city. Do we want to be known as the modern equivalent of the city of "Catchfools"?

John Lindsay, Sudbury

PS: Looking at this parable in other ways we can see in our world of today the following as the agents of greed, looking after their own interests, encourage the following.

1. Getting us to crave addictive forms of food that do not promote healthy living
2. Entertain us with the latest distractions leaving us wanting more, but little real news.
3. Educate us in ways that do not foster creative thinking or ability to challenge set norms.
4. Interrupt our ability to connect interpersonally and prefer electronic isolation.
5. Make us concerned for our own protection and interests vs living for the greater good and a community reality that serves others.