

**Subject:****Date:** Mon, 31 Dec 2001 08:39:08 -0800**From:** Ernie Crist <CristE@district.north-van.bc.ca>**To:** "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>

A message from Ernie Crist

On Sunday August the 12 - 2001 the "Under the Volcano" event took place in Cates park. This is an annual event mainly attended by youth, young adults and mostly young families. An estimated 5000 to 7000 attended.

The organizers of the event are a non profit society who receive a grant from the North Shore Arts Commission to help pay for the event. At the 2000 event and for the first time in the events history, there were concerns regarding alcohol, drugs and rowdy behavior by some participants. As a result, staff from the District, the North Vancouver Recreation commission and the RCMP met in advance to coordinate safety and security for the 2001 event.

According to press reports prior and following the event, there were complaints by some participants about the event being closed at 9 pm as opposed to 10 pm which had been the case previously. Also some of the organizers and other participants through letters to the editor, took exception to the size of the RCMP contingent present. One of the main organizers suggested that the RCMP was heavy handed and overreacted to what he called a minor incident during the event.

Having read a previous RCMP report as well as our own staff report when "Under the Volcano" took place, I believe that the RCMP handled themselves professionally and I stated so in public. I repeated this at the meeting of the Police Liaison Committee of which I am a member. Crowds can easily get out of control. There is no doubt that if this would happen and somebody would be injured, the RCMP who is responsible for public safety would be criticized for not being prepared. This is always a matter of applying good judgment, of not overreacting while, at the same time, being ready for eventualities.

I personally believe that on the whole the event was a success and that the RCMP will take the 2001 event into consideration when an application for the 2002 event is being submitted.

The previous "Under the Volcano" report was never debated in Council. In light of the controversy including a number of letters to the editor, it occurred to me that a more detailed staff report should be prepared and that it should be returned to Council for a public debate. I made a motion to that effect. The Mayor suggested however, that rather than bringing the item back as an agenda item, it should be dealt with as a request for information in the form of a staff report.

I agreed but that was clearly a mistake. I had to wait for 5 months to get only to find that it was essentially the same report as the one Council received 5 months before. I am at a loss why a short report of 2 pages

would take 5 months to write.

I am also wondering how much staff time and effort was spent in preparing this inconsequential report.

The confidential RCMP report which I also read at the time, was far more comprehensive and detailed. In light of this, I find the delay of the District staff report even more curious and wonder what the holdup was.

If anybody wants to have a copy of the non confidential staff report dated Dec. 3-2001 prepared by the Acting Manager - Parks & Environment Department, the File number is 5900-20-04.

Ernie Crist,

