

Subject: Where are we heading?

Date: Sun, 23 Sep 2001 20:43:21 -0700

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A message from Ernie Crist

Yesterday Sat. the 22 - of Sept, the GVRD held a Council of Councils workshop (meeting) on the topic of Sustainability. It was worthwhile. It was all about people at the local level meeting the challenges of a world moving rapidly towards oblivion or salvation depending on what choices they will make.

One thing is certain, the future of the world will be decided in the world's cities. In fact it will be decided in our District of North Vancouver. So far we are not doing very well. But all is not lost because of people like you. Confucius say "When the people lead, politicians (eventually) will follow".

One of the speakers yesterday was Jack Layton, a Toronto Councillor, lecturing at U.of T. whom I had not seen since we tried to save the world from incineration during the Cold War. Did you know that we declared the District of North Vancouver (officially) a Nuclear Free Zone? A sign to that effect was erected at the north end of Second Narrows. It was there for many years and was removed only when the cold war subsided.

The symbolic action was duplicated by many thousands of cities and municipalities throughout the world. Several people on the North Shore, including some politicians had hernias every time they saw the sign and could be cured from this dreadful disease only by assuring them not to worry too much since one of these days, despite the sign, somebody will surely be able to press the doomsday button. This assurance seemed to work reasonably well for some of them continued their political careers.

I mention that now because the danger we now face is equally great though the enemy is more insidious than it was then. It is called "I'm alright, Jack".

But to go back to yesterday. I have one copy of the background material which was handed out prior to the workshop " Where are we heading"? a collection of stories and essays titled

Civilization is a pyramid scheme - the Maya's ruined temples reveal a frightening message for us all

Three Global scenarios - choosing the world we want

Environmental surprises

The coming anarchy - plagues and peoples

Bound by the beauty

Americas Century of Progress

No Logo

Natural Capitalism

The natural step

Invisible cities

Edge City

Curbing slurban sprawl (no spelling mistake)

The geography of nowhere

Stumped

Last stands

The man with a plan to save the planet

Myths, lies and distortions

Sustainable transportation and the end of cheap oil

plus a few other stories and essays by various nuts trying to tell us that we have to change or else we might get sick.

If you want to have this material you are more than welcome to have it - remember I have only one copy but I am sure the material could be duplicated

by the planners of the Lynn Valley " Pedestrian oriented Town Center".

Yours truly,
Ernie