

Subject: Vancouver Province Monday Oct 11 Page A 13 "Cast Your Vote"

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A MESSAGE FROM ERNIE CRIST

This is a must read for people interested in getting a little chuckle out of North Vancouver District Council politics. Under the heading " Cast your vote...." you read a story about a business as usual meeting in the District.

Specifically, it deals with absentee electronic voting as discussed by District Council the other day. Councillor Crist according to the story is not overly enthusiastic over the new policy. They could be in Las Vegas having a jolly good time and still pretend to be doing the business of the District he is quoted as saying.

The story also tells about a Council meeting on July 19 - 2004. Councillor Crist, says the "Province", after a heated debate was requested to leave the Council chambers. Being outnumbered 6 to 1 Crist had called District Councillor Alan Nixon a disgrace. Another member of the same club, Councillor McKeon Holmes accused Crist of cheating on mileage by making two trips in the municipality on Council business instead of one.


Crist, she claimed after scrutinizing his mileage record carefully, had made two trips for two separate jobs in two different locations in the municipality on two separate days when he might have accomplished the two jobs in the two separate locations in the same area on the same day. He made two trips on two separate days thus trying to enrich himself at the expense of the taxpayers. The RCMP should investigate she said.

An audit at the initiative of Councillor Janice Harris, the angry pen thrower, surely believing to catch the cheater Crist red handed revealed the very opposite however. As it turned out Crist was the only member of Council who had played by the rules. It was Bell, the Mayor and another Councillor who had to pay back to the District for overcharging. Don Bell after a great deal of baffle gabbing had to pay over two thousand dollars for over charging on Mileage. That was for 2004. When Crist moved that a similar audit also be done for the years prior to 2003 Council declined.

The story also quotes a Council watcher Liz James who states the after watching District Council meetings she frequently wants to call a "pox on all your houses". Ms James feels the same way as I do about the most of the residents in the District who stood by without saying boo when the District descended from having the second lowest taxes in the region to the second highest - who were silent when the District Heritage Fund and Infrastructure reserve funds were misused, not to mention scandals such as Northlands, Canlan, KPMG etc, the list is rather lengthy - ditto when Crist was set up and censured for blowing the whistle and when, after a group of citizens sent a letter signed by some prominent citizens calling for an end to harassing Crist, the press refused to publish it.

The pox on all your houses can work both ways especially when, after the disastrous performance of a District Mayor, he was rewarded by a promotion to parliament. A pox on all the houses indeed. Used submarines anyone? It's a real good deal give or take a few casualties trying to operate them. Was it the Roman Cethegus who said even genius cannot inspire good government if the people are satisfied with mediocrity. Will this be confirmed in the District during the upcoming Mayoralty election? Already I am reading quotes from aspirants to municipal office that if they get elected they will get along with the others. The developers who want to turn the District into another West End will be glad to hear this and so will those with a reputation for mediocrity and incompetence.

"Up till now philosophers have tried to interpret the world in different ways, the point however is to change it". I rest my case or, as they say after the prayer " Amen".

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