

Subject:**Date:** Sat, 17 Sep 2005 18:11:04 -0700**From:** "Ernie Crist" <ernie_crist@dnv.org>**To:** <fonvca@fonvca.org>

A MESSAGE FROM ERNIE CRIST

Well Folks now you have it from the horse's mouth. The District is in good financial shape. This from Janice Harris. Although, acknowledges Janice, taxes might go "up a little". According to today's Sun news story, District Mayor Harris, now claims that only 9 homes in the slide area are affected and they, she says, will be compensated by the Province. For the other expenses she says, the District will be compensated by the Municipal Insurance Association. Is that for sure, Janice, or are you just whistling in the dark?

Janice also claims that the District audit said everything in the District is fine. The audit was conducted by professionals. What Janice forgot to mention is that an audit simply says how the money was spent. Whether it was spent irresponsibly or smartly is not the auditor's business. I wonder whether Janice knows this? When the auditor presented his report to Council, I asked him this question just to make a point and this is what he told me. "We are not politicians; he said, "we are only auditors".

I think Janice should have talked to the Municipal Manager before talking to the press about the shape the District is in. In 1980 following the then land slide, Council instructed District Staff and District Mayor Don Bell to take all necessary remedial steps AND SPEND THE NECESSARY FUNDS to ensure that the bank where the slide had occurred would be made safe. It was also suggested that risky development methods including developing close to the embankment should cease. I made motions to that effect, but without success. Bell and Harris voted against it. Was it not Janice also who voted in favour of every single subdivision including on steep hills since then?


There will be a court case and things will come to light which might well be at variance with Janice's view of the world. Indeed what may come to light might be rather upsetting. What is Janice's expertise anyway when it comes to finances and District Budgets?

Was it not Janice who, by way of example, could never understand that the District Heritage Fund, set up to pay for capital projects, instead, was used to cover operating expenses? Was it not Janice who denied that this Fund was used as a slush fund more or less? Was it not Janice who denied that the taxes in the District went from the second lowest in the region to the second highest while she was on Council? That, in addition, the District's Infrastructure Reserve Fund which was \$ 91 million in 1997 is also gone? Can Janice tell us where it is? Is it not Janice who denied the warnings contained in the KPMG, report? Was it not Janice also who, with the assistance of her pal, Richard Walton, denounced and voted to censure Crist for revealing the In Camera Northlands Scandal story? And what about the Canlan revelation?

Well, Janice, I must say, I am looking forward to seeing you explaining your fiscal theories in a Court of Law. Ditto with your pal Don Bell. He is the man who occupied the Mayor's chair before you did remember him - I do.

Cheers,

Ernie

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