Subject:

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On page 10 of the North Shore OUTLOOK today, Sept 22, is a story of the utmost significance for all District residents and, subsequently, for the upcoming municipal election in the District of North Vancouver in November. This is notwithstanding the headline which, in my opinion, does not do justice to the seriousness of this issue.

At stake is whether the residents of the District of North Vancouver will be allowed to access District owned waterfront or not. This access has been denied more or less for many years. This, in the main, was the result of a large scale effort by the Concerned Citizens Association, CCA, a special interest civic party specifically formed to prevent the implementation of recommendations by the special Council appointed Citizens Task Force.

A key element in the recommendations of the Citizens Task Force was to provide unhindered public access to the waterfront, restore public ownership of land and to remove private structures on public land. However, the recommendations of the Task Force were never carried out. The special interest CCA elected virtually all the candidates it had endorsed during the election, including Janice Harris. The CCA endorsed Council has been in control of District more or less for the last 6 years.

All other candidates and sitting members of Council who had endorsed implementation of the Task Force recommendations as a result of the elections were defeated with only Councillor Ernie Crist barely surviving. Defeated were Trevor Carolan, Glynnis Deering Robb and Pat Munroe.

Since taking control, District Councils have failed to spend even the miniscule funds allocated annually to provide public access.

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