

**Subject: FW:****Date:** Wed, 23 Nov 2005 09:44:31 -0800**From:** "Ernie Crist" <ernie\_crist@dnv.org>**To:** <fonvca@fonvca.org>

Hello all:

I was informed by the NEWS that the letter below will not be published. I was told that the NEWS will do a story instead.

Ernie Crist

The Editor the NEWS

> I would like to thank the residents of the District who have supported  
> and voted for me for the last 25 years. Many of the original  
> supporters have either moved away or are no longer with us. I always  
> believed that public involvement is the key to good governance.  
> Indeed, most worthwhile things came about with public support. It was  
> always difficult. By and large the public does not equate local  
> government with being important. We know that this is a costly  
> mistake.  
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> The problems of our sick planet cannot be resolved unless we solve  
> them in our backyard and neither can Canada's problems be resolved  
> unless we do so at the local level. Doing something constructive and  
> forward looking on Council became increasingly difficult. For speaking  
> out on important issues and exposing serious shortcomings and  
> cover-ups, I had to endure considerable abuse and harassment.  
>  
> But for a brief and shining moment there was an opposition of sorts  
> around the waterfront issue but all members in favour of this great  
> concept were defeated by Don Bell and his helpers on Council and the  
> assistance of the CCA civic party.  
>  
> I did the best I could. Undoubtedly I could have accomplished more.  
> However, I was cast into the reluctant role of watchdog and policeman  
> when by inclination I am better suited for providing ideas and a  
> vision. Being alone and without civic party support, Bell and friends  
> went so far as to deny me the right of putting forward and explaining  
> motions and initiatives. I needed the approval of one of his Council  
> members first. Knowing full well that there was no truth to it, they  
> accused me of accepting a bribe from a car dealership. It was all  
> done to harass me. The same was true when I was accused of cheating on  
> the Car allowance. Actually this was true except it was some of them  
> who did it, not I.  
>  
> Many people have asked me whether I will continue to be active and the  
> answer is, no I will not. This ends my political career and I will  
> move into entirely new fields which have nothing to do with District  
> politics per se. I am interested in many things and will use the  
> time to further enrich my knowledge in other areas.  
>  
> However, I feel it is my duty to leave a message. What is needed in  
> the 'District is a civic party in opposition to the present Liberal  
> dominated Council. Needless to say there are many good and honest  
> Liberals and many of them have voted and supported me in the past, but  
> Democracy cannot function unless there is an opposition. Had this been  
> the case under Don Bell, his collaborators and successors, the  
> District would be far better off today. The District has been  
> mismanaged to a degree which will have far reaching consequences not  
> only for the present but also for future generations. It will impact  
> both the liveability and the pocket book of the people who live here  
> and it will be sooner rather than later.

>  
 > I did try to form an opposition party but I failed. None of the  
 > candidates I endorsed were elected despite their excellent  
 > credentials. On the other hand the Don Bell endorsed Council will not  
 > be able to make meaningful changes. They cannot rise to the level  
 > needed to restore good government. All claims to the contrary is idle  
 > talk.  
 >  
 > The only effective way to ensure that the public will know what is  
 > going on is by forming a civic opposition party, as in other places.  
 > This concept may be new in the District but it is essential. It is  
 > necessary to keep politicians in check regardless of their stripe.  
 > While individual members of the Liberal Party, who have voted and  
 > supported me in the past, may be surprised or maybe even offended by  
 > this statement, it is a fact of life.  
 >  
 > Once again I wish to thank all District voters for their years of  
 > support. I also wish to thank the many community activists who have  
 > worked tirelessly in helping to maintain the liveability of this  
 > community. This includes Dr. Corrie Kost and Brian Platts  
 Co-Founders of the Federation of North Vancouver Community  
 Associations. I also wish to thank those sections of the press who came  
 to my aid in the face of harassment by District Council.

> Ernie Crist,  
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