

**Subject:** [Fwd: RE:]

**Date:** Wed, 23 Nov 2005 15:11:47 -0800

**From:** Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

**To:** Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

----- Original Message -----

**Subject:** RE:

**Date:** Wed, 23 Nov 2005 10:41:49 -0800

**From:** "Luba, Frank (VAN\_Exchange)" <FLuba@png.canwest.com>

**To:** [fonvca@fonvca.org](mailto:fonvca@fonvca.org), 'Ernie Crist' <[ernie\\_crist@dnv.org](mailto:ernie_crist@dnv.org)>

Ernie: i will miss your candour. Why don't you approach the Outlook or NS News to write a column?

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**From:** Ernie Crist

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 23, 2005 9:44 AM

**To:** [fonvca@fonvca.org](mailto:fonvca@fonvca.org)

**Subject:** FW:

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I was informed by the NEWS that the letter below will not be published.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.

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,