

Subject:**Date:** Wed, 8 Jun 2005 10:35:57 -0700**From:** "Ernie Crist" <ernie_crist@dnv.org>**To:** <lifeforcesociety@hotmail.com>, <fonvca@fonvca.org>**CC:** "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, "Senior Management Committee" <managecomm@dnv.org>, "James Ridge" <James_Ridge@dnv.org>

A MESSAGE FROM ERNIE CRIST

District Councillor Jim Cuthbert, instead of waiting for a motion of mine coming before Council this coming Monday dealing with this issue, has unilaterally asked staff for an opinion as to whether the establishment of a Zoo on Grouse Mountain comes under the jurisdiction of the District.

Dennis Back, a senior staff person, in a recent email obliged by informing Mayor and Council, that this question was responded to back in 2001 by the Manager of Regulatory Services when the wildlife refuge on Grouse Mountain was established.

In the Staff report to Council at the time it was noted "that the land is zoned PRO and this additional use of the land by GMR is permitted under the zoning". The letter from Mr. Back goes on to say, "This was supported by a legal opinion at the time".

It further states that, "Grouse Mountain Resorts is required to obtain provincial permits for the keeping of wildlife, and they have obtained the necessary permits". It further states that "various animal control bylaws do not apply in this instance".

I have the following comments. The statement by Mr. Back is at variance with a staff report backed by a legal opinion received by Council some years on the same question more or less. The occasion was in connection with an attempt by Grouse Mountain Resorts to build a major housing development and/or a hotel on the slopes or on top of Grouse Mountain. The plans were preliminary.

The issue of logging rights was also a factor. Grouse Mountain Resorts believed that it had the right to log the Mountain for profit in preparation for such a major development. In a Vancouver Sun story, Denny Boyd a Sun reporter had suggested that logging was appropriate and Mr. Boyd based his opinion on the expertise and experience of the "Bull of the Woods" a pseudonym for a prominent retired BC politician with strong connections to the logging industry. According to the Sun story the "Bull of the Woods" had stated that logging on the slopes of Grouse Mountain was perfectly in order and could be done safely without impacting the environment or the stability of the Mountain.

The issue came before Council and the information Council received at the time backed by legal opinion (not the present legal adviser to the District) was that the District of North Vancouver had complete jurisdiction over all zoning and developments matters on Grouse Mountain.

Don Bell was not Mayor of the District at the time and neither were Jim Cuthbert, Lisa Muri, Allan Nixon, McKeon-Holmes, Richard Walton were not on Council at the time and neither was Janice Harris - the project never materialised.

Councillor Ernie Crist, with the help of a residents association in the upper Capilano area of the District, spearheaded a campaign against any and all development on Grouse Mountain. Crist's efforts were supported by the then Mayor of the District who was not Murray Dykeman.



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