

**Subject:** Tree slaughter in Lynn Canyon: If not GVWD, then who?  
**From:** Elizabeth James <rimcoenterprises@yahoo.com>  
**Date:** Thu, 4 Oct 2007 20:14:24 +0100 (BST)  
**To:** Mayor Walton & Council <council@dnv.org>  
**CC:** The Editor <editor@northshoreoutlook.com>, FONVCA <bplatts@shaw.ca>, corrie@kost.ca

4 October 2007

Mayor Walton & Council:

If a late-breaking news item in today's North Shore Outlook is correct, I owe you a *mea culpa* with respect to my previous email on this topic. It appears the information I received from three different sources yesterday, although in agreement with one another, differs from reality.

More recent information about the clearing, not yet confirmed by Mr. Coffin, suggests it was not GVWD staff who cut the trees and shrubs, but District staff. If that is correct, in some ways, it makes the situation worse. When the rule is that citizens must consult with and/or petition neighbours before removing trees, why should the standard be any different for the District?

As for my serious concerns about the name change from GVRD to *metro-Vancouver*, and the process by which that decision was reached - they remain unchanged. Once again, it seems little to no time was allowed for discussion of the idea by all members of all councils in the region - let alone by citizens - before it was foisted upon us.

That strategy, perfected by the BC Liberal government, has not gone unnoticed - give people no time to think about a given topic, close down sessions of the Legislature, and change the laws by Order-in-Council, or by fiat. What options do British Columbians have to resist such erosions of their democratic rights, if/when their local politicians either fail to stand up for us or, even worse, use the same strategy themselves?

In my opinion, four main topics should be made 'deal-breaker' issues for next year's local election campaigns. In no particular order of importance:

- The erosion of local government autonomy by both regional agencies and by the provincial government; and what each candidate is prepared to do stop that;
- The downloading of provincial responsibilities onto municipalities without adequate, or any, funding; and what each candidate is prepared to do about that;
- The increasing move to exempt regional, provincial, and federal facilities from local taxation; and how each candidate is prepared to fight that; and...
- The - illegal? - lack of referenda to seek the approval of everyone who must pay the bills for major projects; and what each candidate is prepared to do to stop that practice.

In summary, I freely acknowledge the errors in my understanding of the specific event that led to my previous email, but remain seriously concerned about the over-arching issues associated with it.

Sincerely,  
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