

**Subject: RE: Comments on FONVCA site**

**Date:** Thu, 20 Dec 2001 19:55:07 -0800

**From:** Ernie Crist <CristE@district.north-van.bc.ca>

**To:** "Bill Maurer" <billm@millsoft.ca>

**CC:** Mayor and Council - DNV <Council@district.north-van.bc.ca>,  
"FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>,  
Directors Team <managecomm@district.north-van.bc.ca>,  
Richard Zerr <ZerrR@district.north-van.bc.ca>, Gavin Joyce <JoyceG@district.north-van.bc.ca>

Bill:

I am trying to get you involved as I think this is the only solution to this and many other problems. If you take over THE SVCA YOU WILL PROBABLY AGREE TO LEAVE THE HUMPS BUT WITH SOME MODIFICATIONS I VENTURE TO SAY. Traffic calming measures are nothing new in the world and they are spreading including in North Vancouver. Yes I do blame the CCA endorsed District Council for much of the present debacle. Not to do things right has become a culture in the District. This includes the Lynn Valley Core Plan where they promised a Pedestrian Oriented Town Center and delivered a regional car mall. What they did not understand is that there is a difference and that Pedestrian Oriented Town Centers are the wave of the future and that wherever they exist they are more successful than Car malls. In any case why promise something and then do the opposite. That was politics pure and simple. Our staff became the willing pawns in this conspiracy against the public.

Still, the people are trying to make their neighborhoods more livable. It is unstoppable. The unrestricted rule of the automobile is being challenged. It is a slow process but it is coming. The hegemony of the automobile is giving way to pedestrians. It is a trend Bill. Though exceedingly slow on the uptake politicians reflect this trend. Though here to stay, the automobile is becoming the very opposite of what it started out to be. It has become a "hostile" and an expression of the self centered alienation of society. Imagine for a minute everybody in your neighborhood getting excited because people are asking to slow down a bit.

The lady who was expecting and spoke last Monday night as well as Mrs. Smith were in the minority but they spoke with the authority of a hundred because history is on their side. How Bill are you going to argue with a woman with children pleading for more safety? Also keep in mind that the original idea for the speed humps came from the SVCA. We installed them only after our survey indicated majority (slight) approval. It was not my idea and I did not force it on you. In fact three years ago I voted against it because there had been no survey done.

Ernie

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

From: Bill Maurer [<mailto:billm@millsoft.ca>]

Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2001 8:54 PM

To: Ernie Crist

Cc: speedhumps@seymourvalley.ca

Subject: Comments on FONVCA site

I was reviewing some of your responses on the FONVCA site regarding the Riverside Speed Humps and I've noticed a common theme. Whenever someone expresses the majority "remove" interest you point to the minority "keep" residents as the problem.

We're already operating like a community association should operate. Everyone's included in our mailouts and all viewpoints are being expressed in meetings. We even have over-representation of the minority viewpoint in our meetings. Don't you understand that it is okay to have differences of opinion on issues? That doesn't make one side or the other the bad side and certainly doesn't mean our community is divided.

The real problem is that council is oppressing the majority interest in its rulings. This is undemocratic and interference. This makes council the bad guy, not our residents. I am going to begin pointing this out whenever I see these kind of divisive responses coming from councillors. Our web site now also reflects this.


The problem is council, not our community. The issue of the speed humps has been resolved by our community and we are demanding that they be taken out. Council, including you, are not listening. We have not achieved the impossible state of unanimity but we have an incredibly strong consensus. The perceived problem of speed will be dealt with by other means.

Our problem is council interfering with internal issues which it cannot relate to. And believe me, if you're not driving over speed humps getting home every day then you can't relate to the problem.

Councillors need to start facing the residents they're oppressing by coming to advisory meetings or holding community meetings of their own if they insist on meddling in our affairs like this. You're all working in a bubble right now and using staff to shield you from personal involvement.

Bill

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