

Subject: Re: WHO HAS THE HIGHEST TAXES in GVRD????

Date: Wed, 8 May 2002 23:33:10 +0100 (BST)

From: Elizabeth James <cagebc@yahoo.com>

To: John Hunter <johnhunter@idmail.com>, "Co Mayor Don Bell" <don_bell@dnv.org>, "Councilor Bill Denault" <bill_denault@dnv.org>, "Councilor Doug MacKay-Dunn DNV" <doug_mackay-dunn@dnv.org>, "Councilor Ernie Crist DNV" <ernie_crist@dnv.org>, "Councilor Heather Dunsford DNV" <heather_dunsford@dnv.org>, "Councilor Janice Harris DNV" <janice_harris@dnv.org>, "Councilor Lisa Muri DNV" <lisa_muri@dnv.org>

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Dear John:

I was hoping that you and many other District residents had seen, not only the Province article, but also the Shaw coverage of most - but, thankfully, not all - members of Council patting themselves on the back, AND that they were comparing the two!

Sincerely,

Liz James, Chair
Coalition for Accountability in Government Enterprises
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John Hunter <johnhunter@idmail.com> wrote:

Mayor Don Bell last Monday night: "not us" was his message as he quotes a racing array of (GVRD??) numbers to claim we are in the lower bracket (it's on tape)

DNV's own Draft Financial Plan 2002-2006 page A7 for a \$400,000 house DNV highest on north shore at a tax increase rate LOWER than actually passed. This would normally mean highest in GVRD.

The Province page A6c today DNV highest average tax and highest tax increase in GVRD.

I appreciate if it is taxes per capita or per tree or per coyote we are probably quite low.

But for someone like me who has, say, \$400,000 to put in a house, a fair question is "what are the taxes plus utilities for that house in each GVRD municipality"?

It would be nice to get a straight answer.

The sad part for us in DNV is that is the TAX increase. By raiding some or all of the heritage fund, reserve funds, and surpluses, DNV council has reduced a cost increase of about 15% to a 5% tax increase. Same trick done last year. We are doing the equivalent of selling the furniture and raiding our RRSP to pay our household expenses. This is not a sustainable strategy. DNV staff have already warned some of our reserves are too low.

Mr. Mayor, do you suppose we could get a straight answer re the increase in taxes and relative tax rates, at the next council meeting?

John Hunter

929 4436

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