

**Subject: Hamersley House etc****Date:** Fri, 8 Mar 2002 13:49:30 -0800**From:** "John Harvey" <joharv@vcn.bc.ca>**To:** "Mayor Don Bell" <dbell@dnv.org>, "Ernie Crist" <CristE@district.north-van.bc.ca>, "Bill Denault" <bdenault@dnv.org>, "Heather Dunsford" <hdunsford@dnv.org>, "Lisa Muri" <lmuri@dnv.org>, "Janice Harris" <jharris@dnv.org>, "Doug Mackay-Dunn" <macdunn@uniserve.com>**CC:** "Brian Platts" <brian\_platts@telus.net>, "Dave Sadler" <davesadler@telus.net>, "Corrie Kost" <kost@triumf.ca>, "John Hunter" <johnhunter@idmail.com>, "Fonvca" <fonvca@fonvca.org>, "Eric Andersen" <eandersen@seatradesshipping.bc.ca>

Dear Council, I thought I would take the moment to write to you as re Budget time and both municipals expenditures. Yesterday's Outlook paper plus last week N.S.News was a Hamersley House topic, including photos. I write of this for as you know I have some Arts interest. I do wish to support the Arts in its proper context and prepared to praise and criticize wherever. Although I just live inside the City boundary ( I am attempting though on Dist website to see whether the shown City/District Boundary Assoc is still in effect) but I try to offer comments for all North Shore residents, so I will continue.

Cllr Crist is somewhat correct in that the District does subsidize the City in certain areas. Just look at say these recreational examples. If you live in the City and wish to either Indoor Tennis, Public Golf or say Wavepool then you go and use District facilities. There is none in the City and the City has no desire to effect any. So we move on to Hamersley House on East 2nd/3rd.

This building has been vacant for some years. Approx 3 years ago I wrote in to City Hall and also indicated at a past Commission organized symposium (to which I now never bother to go) that the Commission or Arts Council consider requesting this property for the Arts. I suggest if you have not gone there, then do so. If you can gain entry all the better. This property is to my mind the **best** that could (is it still ?) be used by the Visual Arts. Together with the **adjacent Park** it is a fabulous Visual Arts setting. As I have past mentioned it would mean a strong order from District Councillors to respond to the Arts Commission and a supposed Arts Council to obtain the supposed numbers of Visual Artists on the North Shore and what efforts they would make to have a Visual Arts Centre etc. Has it happened - No.

If the respective Arts Commission Staff and Commissioners and the Arts Council unseen/ unknown Board had I believe done their homework, then a forceful application to N.Van City Council could have been made for this facility. The basis, it would be Visual Artists facility run under a full Non Profit Assoc membership. Did it happen - No. The Arts/C Staff etc took the convenient position of just applying for 335 Lonsdale Ave under a developer bonusing situation, which means both Councils can keep overly subsidizing this arena, instead of more responsibility. Amazingly the City still has to me an unnecessary Public Art Coordinator and the District an Arts and Culture Manager, at what salaries I am not sure, but I believe Miss McMaster is paid more than the Mayor.(correct me if I am wrong). If you wish to attend to your Tax budgeting maybe due re-assessment consideration here.

Moving on, if the District staff Community Planners watchdogs were alert, and as mentioned the City are not interested in competing with the District unless forced (ie;dog pound, skateboard park) plus your Arts Manager, they could have advised you **Not** to purchase the Christie House property and encouraged the Arts community to go after Hamersley House in the City territory. The artists should be able to go there just like you have to travel to the Northlands etc. So believe me I am not against the Arts for this example tells you I try to give what I believe are valid alternatives so that there **is** say visual arts, but not at excess tax payers expense. I also told the Heritage people at Presentation House that when Roy Pallant gives tours from the Lonsdale Quay that the tour could end up at Hamersley House for tea etc and have paint artists in the adjacent ground painting (weather permitting).

Course this previous input of mine and maybe to now cover Arts Council butts this may now be jumped upon by them. So if this input of mine some considerable time ago had been furthered then, a response of the City now less subsidizing the District would have been I believe appreciated by your District residents. You do not need a full arts centre, its already at Cap Coll  
Later I will try to cover the Molly Nye house etc and other situations. Sincerely, John Harvey