

Subject:**Date:** Thu, 18 Mar 2004 21:18:24 -0800**From:** "Ernie Crist" <ernie_crist@dnv.org>**To:** "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>, <Cagebc@yahoo.com>**CC:** "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, "Senior Management Committee" <managecomm@dnv.org>, "Irwin Torry" <Irwin_Torry@dnv.org>

A MESSAGE FROM ERNIE CRIST

I see from a recent news story in the Vancouver Sun that our erstwhile land agent, Mr. Don Sigston, who is now blessing the City of North Vancouver with his skills, is venting his disappointment with his previous employer, the District of North Vancouver, for not allowing more development in contrast to the City of North Vancouver, which is his new employer, and is building highrises galore.

In Surrey, too, development is racing ahead much to the delight of builders and real estate interests, notwithstanding the price Surrey residents are paying. Crime rates in Surrey are steep and climbing while in the District, we have the lowest rate in the province for any municipality with a population of over 50,000. This is quite separate and apart from the other blessings of the concrete jungle such as shortage of community facilities, parks, playing fields and other minor inconveniences, including huge traffic jams and other manifestations the concrete jungle offers to those who believe in unlimited growth.

The City of North Vancouver can indeed afford to allow more high-rises - no need to build parks or playing fields, or additional recreational facilities to keep the City livable since the District Council, with it's colossal generosity, already provides those amenities and does so free of charge more or less.

"I love development" Mr Sigston is quoted in the Sun, but he laments, " there is no development in the District". Clearly he was unhappy when he worked for us. I knew that from the expression in his face when he was told that places like Cove and Mountain Forest and the Northlands Golf Course, by way of example, would not be turned over to massive housing, including leaky condos, but to enhance green space and open door recreation instead. However, now, accoridng to his own words, he has at last found happiness in aplace where high rises spring up at a furious pace - we are all happy for him.

I am curious, however. I was under the impression that there IS development in the District, albeit it is community and neighborhood driven and sustainable development, not developer or real estate driven development, as seems to be the case in the City, not to speak of Surrey.

I am curious, too, and it is something Mr. Sigston may not wish to answer. What would happen if we in the District were to be as gung-ho in putting up high-rises as is the case in the City of North Vancouver? Would we still be able to accommodate the City's playing field needs, at no cost to the City, as we do now or would we need those fields for our own much larger population, just to use one example - let's not even mention traffic.

Ernie Crist.

