

Subject: LIVING BY THE WATER - CLIVE CALLAWAY.

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From: "Ernie Crist" <ernie_crist@dnv.org>

To: "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>, <cagebc@yahoo.com>, <m.bragg@shaw.ca>

CC: "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, "Senior Management Committee" <managecomm@dnv.org>, "James Ridge" <James_Ridge@dnv.org>

AN ACID COMMENT ON THE RECENT T DIRECTOR'S WORKSHOP ON "LIVING BY THE WATER".

A MESSAGE FROM ERNIE CRIST;

Although the lecture by Clive Callaway, "Living by the Water," held in the Committee Room of the District Hall on Tuesday Mar 23, was very interesting, I was tempted several times to leave the room and get some fresh air. In fact I think I did. Even a long time servant can only stand so much hypocrisy. This is not Mr. Callaway's fault, of course. He is the man who wrote the book and he did a fine job telling us about the dangers of building too close to the water be it ocean, lake or river.

However, I suggested to Mr. Callaway after the meeting that he should change his name to Don Quixote and the name of his book to "Alice through the Looking Glass". This is in light of the history of the District of North Vancouver when it comes to adjacent to water development.

I clearly remember, for instance, the District Waterfront Task Force MADE UP OF A GROUP OF DEDICATED AND IDEALISTIC CITIZENS. This committee, established by Council made proposals on how to regain control of this valuable foreshore asset and make it accessible to the people to whom it belonged. So idealistic were they in fact that they spent 4 years of hard work to make the District a better place to live and to restore justice.

However, the Concerned Citizens Association CCA made up of 50 homeowners, all of whom resided on the waterfront, opposed such an "outlandish" idea. It gave clear instructions to all its friends both in and out of Council, including the "environmentalists" so called, not to touch those illegally occupied foreshore properties and leave well enough alone. During the subsequent municipal election, all CCA endorsed candidates with the exception of me were elected. The Councillors who supported the Water Front Task Force recommendations, lost their seats. The true nature of the District and its civic leaders had once again be clearly demonstrated.


However, while I was listening to the idealist, Callaway, I was also thinking of the recent subdivision application on Williams Road in Lynn Valley, when our staff RECOMMENDED, that the application be approved even though it was contrary to the fisheries and even the District's own guidelines. I also remembered Lennox Str. where the District allowed a development to be built within 16 feet of a steep bank, part of which, a few years earlier, had slipped down the bank, destroying two homes in the process. The District guidelines called for at least 4 times that distance.

I also remembered a recent building violation adjacent to the Seymour River, when we ever so desperately tried to pass the buck to the Feds for this gross violation and did so successfully, while the Feds passed it right back, while God only knows where it is right now.

As for the CCA and the Waterfront Task Force Report, the incident sent a clear signal to the community - ethics, esthetics, common sense and environment notwithstanding, trespassing on publicly owned waterfront property in the District is OK, building close to the waterfront or even over it is also OK and such matters as the public's right's to access its own land, are no barriers for our District leaders.

All this and more came to mind while I was listening to the idealist, Clive Callaway, holding forth on the merits of using common sense and being responsible when building adjacent to water, especially in light of global warming

Ernie Crist.

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