

Subject:**Date:** Mon, 21 Nov 2005 20:48:08 -0800**From:** "Ernie Crist" <ernie_crist@dnv.org>**To:** <fonvca@fonvca.org>

I see from a report in the Vancouver Sun that the Mayor elect of the District of North Vancouver, Richard Walton, just had a brainwave. When Walton mentioned amalgamation during the election campaign everybody thought he was kidding much as some politicians do when they run for office and when they say anything that comes to their minds in the hope that the audience is either extremely gullible or has a terrific sense of humour - election talk sounding good but having no substance.

However, anybody who knows anything knows the City is not interested in amalgamation for the simple reason that the City has been well run for many years while the District was run by Don Bell with a helping hand of Richard Walton and a few other experts and has gone downhill, resting now at the bottom of the pit not far from a black hole. Still, elected or not, I suppose the words which were picked up by reporters and they remembered and asked Richard today whether he meant what he said during the campaign and if so what he was going to do about it.

Being in a real panic, Richard obviously said the first thing that came to his mind and said he is indeed interested in amalgamation not knowing that the reporters would also call the new City Mayor and ask him the same question. While Richard insisted that he was serious, the Mayor elect of the City, Mussato, who, apparently knows more about the state of fiscal affairs than the Mayor elect of the District, told the reporters he is not interested. He suggested he might be, if the District would straighten out its financial mess before pestering him about amalgamation.

I suppose it looked good for Richard Walton to talk about amalgamation, even though it is clear that most of the talk was based on assuming that all people are ignorant and that their memory span is close to zilch. However, having put his foot in his mouth, Richard now looks pretty silly.

As Wendy Qureshi said during the recent election campaign, why would the City of North Vancouver wish to amalgamate with the District?

Taxes in the City are lower than they are in the District, quite a bit lower, thanks to Richard Walton and his friend Don Bell

The City has access to all three pools in the District (granted they are falling down) without having to pay any capital maintenance cost

The District is supplying the playing fields to the City free of charge even though there is a surplus of playing fields in the District while the City is building the high-rises

I definitely believe Richard when he says he wants to amalgamate with the City but not because it makes sense for the City but to get his hands on the City's treasury. Can you just see the District Council being in charge of the City with Don Bell playing the role of financial adviser. I can. I have already seen a sample in the District.

Ernie Crist



