

Subject:**Date:** Sun, 30 Oct 2005 22:34:53 -0800**From:** "Ernie Crist" <ernie_crist@dnv.org>**To:** <fonvca@fonvca.org>**CC:** <roger@rogerbassam.com>, <gowithcrowe@telus.net>, <robinhocks@telus.net>, <wayne@waynehunter.ca>, <sjessen@shaw.ca>, <klasen@shaw.ca>, <mlittle@westran.ca>, <formikemolson@aol.com>, <maxzahedi@yahoo.com>, <daviddixon@shaw.ca>, <davesadler@telus.net>, <sandy.fleming@telus.net>

A MESSAGE FROM ERNIE CRIST

I attended the DNV all Candidates meeting in Parkgate on Saturday October 29. I did so the very first time as an observer rather than a candidate as I have done for the last 30 years. For, although I have been in office for 25 years, I ran unsuccessfully several times before I got elected. I confess it felt a little odd. I wondered how I managed for so many years to do what all the hopefuls were trying to do at this meeting. There were something like 27 Candidates including Mayoralty Candidates, District Councillors, Councillor hopefuls and candidates for the School Board.


I confess that with the exception of a few, the majority of the candidates for District Council did not appear to really understand the issues and did not really seem to have any answers to the many complex problems municipalities face in this modern society. To be fair there was little time, but even so very few talked to the issues and managed only to express generalities, clichés and platitudes. It looked like most of them had emerged from the same little box and espoused the same thoughts and language.

One surprise I did get, however, came from one of the incumbents or two to be precise. One of them, when asked, stated, that he was in favour of extending the far more efficient Parkgate administrative recreation model to the other recreational facilities. He claimed that he had always been in favour of doing this when, in reality, time and time again he had voted against any and all attempts to do precisely that. He did so not only when I made motions to that effect but also during Council debates and when I wrote letters to the editor, and spoke on TV. Now he said he had supported it all along. He had always been in favour he said and he did not even blush or seemed to be embarrassed.

Another incumbent claimed that the redevelopment of Lynn Valley, the so called "Pedestrian Oriented Town Center", was a great success when indeed it is one of the biggest fiscal, environmental, cultural, social and community planning fiascos and hoaxes that has ever been perpetrated on the residents of any community. It is amazing what you can tell the public if you assume that they understand as little as you do.

There were some promising voices nonetheless and we will undoubtedly hear more from them. I sincerely hope that the voting public will be able to separate truth from fiction and the wheat from the chaff.

Ernie Crist

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