

The article “**Thousands not part of the process**” published in 'The Citizen' Feb 03, 2010; link:

<http://www2.canada.com/cowichanvalleycitizen/news/story.html?id=871a1ad6-9391-4e16-92e5-a1a46b7db589>

Dear Editor,

Re: Incorporation a public idea; David Towner (Chair), South Cowichan Governance and Services Study Committee; Publish date: Wednesday, January 20, 2010.

It was good of Mr. Towner to trace the chronology of events leading to phase-2 of incorporation. A close scrutiny of his account reveals forces behind this exercise in the name of public good and idea. Is this the same group that attempted to impose a pool at Kerry Park through the south end referendum not too long ago?

According to his account, Mill Bay Incorporation Study Committee met twice in 2007 to inform the public. It is ironic that at both times that there were only 40-plus attendees. Did they have the very same audience both times? Where did they meet? Do 40 in attendance mean that all those people (in attendance) were in favour of “Incorporation exercise” as proposed? What was really proposed in these meetings? Is that a marketing ploy to split this exercise into multiple phases? Why did the Mill Bay Community League choose to endorse this particular group? Who was the chair of the community league back then in 2007?

Is it ironic among other things that both CVRD directors (Mike Walker and Brian Harrison) belong to the same Mill Bay Community League; the incorporation program continues in spite of the changing of the guards after 2008 municipal elections; and the Mill Bay Incorporation Study Committee is co-chaired by David Towner (himself; ex Director - Shawnigan Lake) and Roger Burgess (present Alternate Director for Mill Bay/Malahat with director Brian Harrison and also the former APC chair under director Mike Walker; Area-A).

These 40-plus attendees pursuing the incorporation exercises (who intend to make South Cowichan into a Municipality) hardly represent the people of Mill Bay/Malahat, Shawnigan Lake and Cobble Hill -- makes the concept of calling it a grass-roots community based initiative hard to digest. Thousands of South Cowichan citizens are not adequately represented here.

This Incorporation exercise quite likely will meet the same fate as the recently concluded Kerry Park Swimming Pool referendum. Given the tax implications, the current economic challenges and responsibilities associated with being a Municipality, we don't see a bright future for this exercise.

And, by the way, please note:

Those 40 in attendance (2007 Mill Bay Incorporation Committee Study presentation meetings at the Mill Bay Community League) include the significant David Towner, Mike Walker, Mark Wyatt, Brian Harrison, Ross Tennant and then insignificant Balu Tatachari.

No hidden agendas, fellow citizens; just for the good of our community!

Paul Devoe

Friends of Saanich Inlet

On the web: <http://friendsofsaanichinlet.org/>

Mill Bay