

HOW IT LOOKS TO US-----

The Landowners Association of British Columbia's membership is made up primarily of small landholders on Southern Vancouver Island.

Yes, we advocate for private property rights. We also advocate for the responsible use of the land in a way that will provide jobs for our kids as well as adequate park land. We value the rural life style and don't want to see it over-regulated by adopting urban standards. And we strongly believe in community decision making rather than edicts from an unelected Board in Victoria.

SO WHAT DO WE WANT-----

We believe in a future for JDFEA beyond the current wrangling between the CRD and WFP. It looks like a compromise is being reached, to which we say "Good for you!" and "About time!". Let's look beyond that mess.

WATER.

Depriving residents and taxpayers of clean water as a planning policy is just wrong. It is probably even illegal if you take a number of UN Declarations seriously.

It would cost comparatively little to give Otter Point hookups to CRD water but the taps are turned off by the CRD's Growth Management Strategy. Users of the Kemp Lake Water District have been stuck with sub-standard water for years.

They pay taxes. Why are they discriminated against? They are residents. They are not going to abandon their houses and go away. To deny them their right to clean water in the CRD's crusade against "urban sprawl" is just ridiculous.

LOCAL CONTROL.

The CRD's Regional Growth Strategy is really a "no growth" strategy. It attempts to accommodate a growing population in "urban containment zones". We are told this is cheaper than allowing for less dense housing on the perimeter. We haven't noticed anything but tax increases!

And done in the name of a "vibrant downtown"? Is the notorious View Towers the model? Lots of people simply do not want their families exposed to aspects of the "vibrant downtown" and should have the right to make that choice without being penalized.

Until rural residents have a way of controlling their own destiny, zoning, roads, water, transportation and other essentials will be dictated by the unelected Board in the "vibrant city core".

As things stand now, we have got the cart before the horse. The CRD draws lines on a map and then we have to figure out how to live with that. Sounds like Churchill, Stalin and Roosevelt dividing up the world at Yalta.

Zoning and Land Use need to be developed in concert through an open and transparent public process giving the greatest weight to the wishes of the local community. "The Consent of the Governed": isn't that what democracy is based on?

AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

The No Growth Regional Strategy limits the amount of land available for housing. Scarcity of land drives up prices. The "densification" so beloved of planners leads directly to higher prices for owners and renters.

We badly need to relax the "urban containment zones" which were arbitrarily established some years ago.

The simple reality is that many people do not want to live where they can hear their neighbour's tv set. Suburbs may be out of fashion now but they remain the most successful housing model in terms of affordability and social cohesion.

Let's remember that containing "urban sprawl" is only one of the requirements of a Regional Growth Strategy. Providing land for future growth is also a requirement set out in legislation.

And let's not forget the plight of the folks who are living in mobile home parks who are being shoved out into the streets with no affordable options such as residential suites.

FAIR PLAY

The down-zoning pulled by the CRD in its battle with the Province and WFP was thrown out by the Supreme Court of British Columbia and the Appeal Court of British Columbia. The CRD has maintained throughout that there would be no adverse effects on small landowners who were innocent bystanders. They have said they would work with individuals to try to mitigate the situation. This has not been the case despite written assurances to the contrary.

We believe that fair play requires that the owners of former Rural A zoning retain their prior property rights. These include “4 on 10” strata rights and family subdivision rights

Individual lives have been ruined. That cannot be undone. But is it too much to ask the CRD to make things right going forward?

***SO THAT IS WHAT WE THINK ARE SOME PRIORITIES
FOR JUAN DE FUCA ELECTORAL AREA. WHAT DO YOU
THINK?***