

## West-side residents left unrepresented on DNV Council

BARRY RUEGER

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Homeowners around Edgemont Village have spent several years putting up with construction delays and disruption to their neighbourhood. Delbrook residents around the proposed development at 600 West Queens Road have been attending public meetings to express their great concerns with the five-story building that may soon begin construction. Residents of Lower Capilano and Norgate are preparing for years of their own problems as the new town centre is built at Capilano Road and Marine Drive. If any of these people had hoped that the new District of North Vancouver council would better represent their needs, they

may be out of luck.

When the dust had settled on last month's elections the geographic divide was evident. Of the 31 people running for office in the District, only four lived west of Lonsdale, and only School Board candidates Kulvir Mann and Bruce Devon were elected.

It's not as if voters in Upper Capilano, Norgate, or Edgemont stayed home instead of voting, it's because they're outnumbered two to one by voters in Lynn Valley and Seymour. The 88,000 votes cast for mayoral or council candidates in the east side of the District overwhelmed the 43,000 votes west of Lonsdale. That split reflects the voters list, which had an east-west split of 43,200 and 20,800 voters respectively.

Edgemont's Robin Delany says that it's premature to say this would be an issue. He feels that "we've got six councillors and a great new mayor coming in, and I'll trust that all six councillors would represent all North Van District people equally whether you're from Lynn Valley or Seymour." Delaney is sure that all members of the council understand that Edgemont Village is suffering badly from construction and development fatigue.

The Delbrook Community Association's Rene Gourlay is less certain. "We are disappointed in (the result), as we were with the previous council as well. What it means is that council members have no context. They may drop their kids off up here for soccer practice, but they don't spend time

in Edgemont Village like we do; they don't spend time on Mosquito Creek like we do. It means that we have to be super vigilant to paint a clear picture for a council that has no relationship with the western half of the District."

Newly elected mayor Mike Little is sure that council can represent everyone in the District. "I think you're going to find that a lot of the issues are similar no matter where you go in the District. People are concerned with density and traffic; I don't know that there's necessarily a big geographic difference in priorities. We just have to make sure that council members are getting out and participating in activities in all communities and making sure that we have a close connection."