

Integration of services is a no-brainer

Re: “Province should honour amalgamation-study pledge,” comment, Sept. 10.

Shellie Gudgeon writes eloquently in support of further studies regarding the possible pros and cons of amalgamation. Only a half-witted taxpayer could argue against amalgamation — integration of infrastructure and services is a no-brainer, particularly at this scale.

In 1998, Mike Harris, former Conservative premier of Ontario, forced Toronto to amalgamate with six other municipalities (as is a province’s right) and nobody has looked back.

Premier John Horgan and Municipal Affairs Minister Selina Robinson should just do it. By the time of the next election, everyone will have forgotten about it (except displaced councillors).

But don’t hold your breath.

John Arnott

Victoria