

‘Transforming’ region not always desirable

Re: “Citizens’ assembly is right approach,” column, May 11.

In her column, Catherine Holt extols the virtues of a citizens’ assembly on amalgamation, while simultaneously presupposing the outcome and informing us what that outcome must be. Is this not contrary to the whole principle of potentially moving forward with the idea of a citizens’ assembly?

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The assembly would presumably examine closely all the pros and cons of potential amalgamation, and, I hope, represent far more than just the local chamber of commerce’s view. If the assembly’s findings are to be respected, they must be allowed to do their own research and come to their own conclusion without pressure from special-interest groups.

Holt also talks about how Saanich and Victoria could be “transformed” with amalgamation.

What sort of “transformation” does the chamber of commerce envision for our region? While there are always areas that we can improve, I am certainly not convinced that “transformation” is either desirable or advisable.

Many, such as the local chamber, seem to believe that amalgamation is some sort of magical panacea for our area.

There is much evidence to the contrary, and I encourage all to do some research on the subject as we move toward a possible citizens’ assembly.

Those of us who live on southern Vancouver Island are truly blessed. Let us be careful not to damage what we have in our rush to make it “better.”

David Screech

Mayor of View Royal

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