

Tsunami spurred Alberni amalgamation

Re: “What we can learn from the Christchurch earthquake,” Jan. 14.

Bob Plecas is probably right when he says “amalgamation is a dead horse.”
Right now.

article continues below

But if that is our pre-disaster reality, then not-so-distant Island history shows what can happen after massive community trauma.

Before March 1964, Alberni and Port Alberni were separate entities, jealously guarding their independence. After the Good Friday tsunamis (there were three), the valley faced \$10 million in combined damage (fortunately no loss of life). Common sense and practicality prevailed, and within three years, the two rivals amalgamated and have not looked back since.

My educated guess is that “The Big One” will cause the same hard-nosed political re-alignment in the Capital Regional District after that devastating event — by whatever politicians are left to pick up the pieces.

Ron Armstrong

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