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NORTH VANCOUVER'S OWN POLITICAL BLOG DEDICATED TO NORTH VANCOUVER'S POLITICAL PLAYERS AND THE DECISIONS THAT SHAPE OUR COMMUNITY: BELL, WHITTRED, SULTAN, JARVIS, MUSSATTO, WALTON, HARRIS, NIXON, MURI, LITTLE, MACKAY-DUNN, HICKS, HEYWOOD, PERRAULT, FEARNLEY, KEATING, BOOKHAM, SCHECHTER AND ALL THOSE WHO ASPIRE TO TAKE THEIR POSITIONS.

TUESDAY, JULY 25, 2006

Development at the Expense of Residents

We are all familiar with the term "military industrial complex". It is a term coined by Dwight D. Eisenhower in his farewell address to the American people in 1960. He warned about the dangers resulting from a coalition of industrialists, member of the defense establishment who benefited from the arms race and were in the process of assuming ever greater control over political, social, and economic strata of society.

A similar process, albeit on a smaller scale, is emerging in our own back yard in North Vancouver. It is not a military industrial complex, however, which is threatening our livability, but a coalition of development, real estate, and business circles, as well as government, determined to turn North Vancouver into another Surrey. What is new is that even community associations themselves, are becoming part of this coalition.

In the City of North Vancouver this trend has resulted in densification on a massive scale, but without the necessary facilities and infrastructure, such as playing fields, swimming pools, etc., to keep pace with the needs of this growing population.

In the District of North Vancouver, development by and large has been based on community needs rather than the goals and objectives of developers. Community associations, joined under the umbrella of FONVCA, have been successful in defending the interests of the public and maintaining livability of neighbourhoods. The exception, however, is Lynn Valley. The development of the Lynn Valley core in the name of creating a "pedestrian-oriented town centre" constituted a fundamental departure of the philosophy that planning must be based on community needs and take into account transportation, recreation, health, and other human needs. The Lynn Valley Community Plan promised more green space, designated bicycle lanes, etc. but nothing of the sort has materialized. The Lynn Valley Community Association has actively supported this trend even to the point of misleading the public.

The District Council is now preparing for the second phase of this ill-conceived plan, which once again is being done in the name of creating "more" affordable housing and more amenities. In reality it will result merely in more "market" housing, more pollution, more traffic congestion, and more line-ups.

The issue is not now, nor has it ever been, development versus no development, but development for the benefit of the people, not for the benefit of the developers. Phase One of the Lynn Valley Community Plan gave the residents of the District nothing in the way of enhanced livability, but saddled the residents with a huge debt to pay for the infrastructure needed to accommodate additional densification.

The Lynn Valley Community Association is poised to endorse the next phase of the additional and massive densification of Lynn Valley, which will do nothing for its residents. It has joined the developers, the real estate interests, and political elements to make this happen. The time has come to put a stop to this, which is the reason why a new organization has been formed in Lynn Valley. The purpose of this organization will be to fight for the livability of Lynn Valley and put a stop to all plans which run counter to this philosophy.

POSTED BY WENDY QURESHI AT 12:27 AM | 11 COMMENTS

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