

Subject: The Way It Really Is - Revised
From: Irwin Jerome <jerome_irwin@yahoo.com>
Date: 14/03/2013 8:41 PM
To: Corrie Kost <corrie@kost.ca>

For the sake of greater clarity and comprehensiveness, I've tweaked the piece earlier sent. Cheers!

— Attachments: —

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- THE WAY IT REALLY IS; LIKE IT OR NOT! -

A recent trip to Australia, and what was gleaned about politics Down Under seems germane to the recent "turning of the screws" on our own "Up Over" end of the planet and especially here upon the North Shore of British Columbia.

While scanning the mainstream media in Sydney, New South Wales and the country at large what quickly became obvious is the enormous amount of corruption, greed, and tribalism that is rife throughout the culture: in politics, law enforcement, finance, sports and entertainment industries, not to mention a rampant gangland with its own underworld code: in short, the culture at large.

To Australia's credit, their investigative journalism is second to none and journalists constantly dig up and are able to get into print all the unvarnished dirt and truth. It doesn't ever come as any shock, however, to the general populace. For the populace already knows full well the extent of the historical corruption and greed. It knows that the tribalism ("mate ship") that, since the arrival of "The First Fleet" to Australia's shores, has historically existed in every sector of society in whatever political circle, law enforcement agency, financial market, sports club or dodgy underworld pursuit will, in the end, stymie whatever fair and just outcome to yet the latest outrage. Mate Ship & Tribalism Rules! The mob under attack or scrutiny simply circles the wagons and defends or covers for their mates! Few ever end up going to jail or are thrown out of office for whatever the latest outrage! Wrongs are seldom righted! And so it goes! The whole thing continues to roll on until yet the next scandal is uncovered and there's more of the same ol', same ol, yaddah, yaddah!

Getting caught up to speed on what politically has recently transpired, to a much lesser extent in the City & District of North Vancouver has been instructive. In a very real sense it is just more of the same ol', same ol', yaddah, yaddah but on an obviously much smaller, more local scale. Cases in point: North Van City Council's recent controversial vote regarding the hotly contested Onni development at 13th & Lonsdale, and North Vancouver District's long-standing proposals regarding the Seylynn Village & Lower Capilano-Marine Village Centre developments. Even the

citizenry of West Vancouver have their own tales to tell of political dissimulation and subterfuge. For instance, after numerous citizen discussion groups with the developers the block height established for proposed development along the 1300 block of Marine Drive was believed to end up being three to four storey's. Yet when an Open House was held to display the development it somehow had morphed into a seven to eight story project.

In spite of all the similar such open hearings and palaver that has ensued over recent years, the majority of the citizenry of the North Shore sense they aren't really ever listened to by the local Councils and their staffs. They know little of whatever secret, devious negotiations or tomfooleries that have transpired behind closed council doors. They haven't a clue what council's actually are doing regarding sweeping density and height changes to their OCP's until it is a *fait accompli*.

Like politicians everywhere, who ultimately know what side their bread is buttered on, our politician's are no different than all the rest in the world. They know where the real money, power and control resides and who their mates are who control them. We have our own brand of Mate ship and Tribalism on our side of the Big Pond, as well! Most of our elected politicians either already are professionally involved in various real estate endeavors or some other form of development-oriented corporation. So, to begin with, if the whole thing was on the up and up, such politicians would either constantly have to recuse themselves from voting on such matters or should never be allowed to hold office in the first place due to an obvious conflict of interest.

But such compromised politicians are indeed allowed to hold office and smooch with their development-oriented mates, over power breakfasts-lunches-dinners, while constantly changing the rules of the game whenever it suits them to do so to accomplish whatever end run around the citizenry.

Is it any wonder that when one watches televised sessions of council meetings that the citizen galleries are mostly always empty, save for the developers and their skills? Is it any wonder why every year the percentage of the voting public on the North Shore gets lower and lower as fewer and fewer citizens even bother to cast their votes. Perhaps unless and until voting is perceived as

every citizen's sacred obligation and responsibility, and so made mandatory in local, provincial and federal elections in Canada, this reality, like it or not, will never ever change!

Words (800)

Jerome Irwin, 1398 Hope Road, North Vancouver, B.C. V7P1W7 (604)984-7598

jerome_irwin@yahoo.com