

Cecil Clarke's port pals Barry & Al: Legends in their own minds

By Andrew Douglas

In **Barry Sheehy** and **Albert Barbusci**, it seems to me that **Cecil Clarke** has found himself the perfect fellows to work with.

Not perfect in the sense that they'll ever attract a container port in **Sydney**. Rather, I mean that Cecil must think of the two **Montreal** natives as kindred spirits, in that both of them possess the same high level of self-regard and general uselessness that Cecil sees in himself.

It's striking, really, when one of the alleged gazillionaires who will surely drag Sydney out of its economic doldrums seems to spend most of his time boasting of his greatness online.

Albert, who you've likely heard was recently fined **\$60,000** by the **Quebec Securities Commission** for some shady dealings a few years back, is "an accomplished business builder on two continents," according to a free **wordpress** blog in his name.

In the glowing review of his own competence, Albert paints the picture of an international business superhero, who spends his time leaping between **North America** and **China**, acquiring businesses by the armload as he goes. It must be true, because the same words appear on another free web page called **about.me**. Oh, and then there's his **LinkedIn**. And **Twitter**. If nothing else, he's accomplished at blowing his own horn for free online.

I can't help but wonder if he's simply so busy singing his own praises in cyberspace that he and his partner never got around to registering their business, **Harbour Port Development Partners**, in **Nova Scotia**.

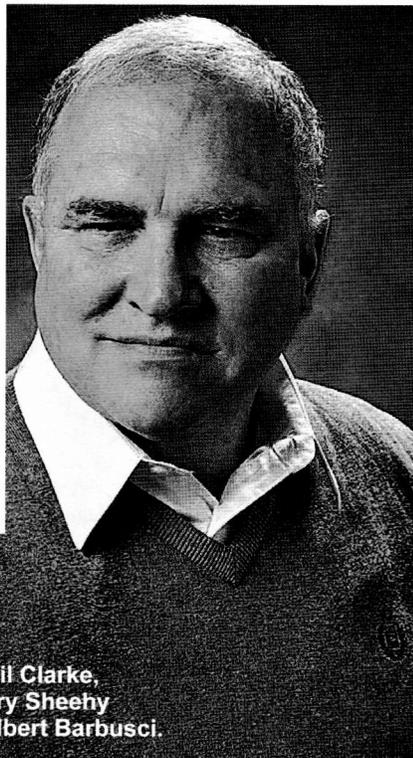
According to the **Registry of Joint Stocks**, there's no such company. But then, I suppose they've been working so hard spending a reported **\$1.2 million** of their own money to promote Sydney that spending another **\$100** simply slipped their mind. Oh, and, in case you were wondering, the company's not registered in **Quebec**, either.

Regarding that \$1.2 million, Barry got more than a bit defensive when **CBC Sydney Information Morning** host **Steve Sutherland** asked what they're spending their money on earlier this month.

"Well, in terms of the million, ah... is this going to be the focus of our discussion today?" he asked, sounding for all the world like **Conrad Black** addressing the hired help.

Steve was having none of it.

"It's certainly one of the reasons we were



Cecil Clarke,
Barry Sheehy
& Albert Barbusci.



interested in talking to you," came his reply.

Stopping just short of saying, "Very well, peasant, I shall indulge you," Barry proceeded to rattle off an impressive list of place names he'd travelled to, including many difficult-to-pronounce **Asian** locales that no doubt impressed all of the yokel listeners, hanging off the great man's every word.

There was also all of the important people they've engaged with: the marine experts, graphic artists, attorneys, rail experts... I can only imagine how conversations with the rail experts went.

Barry Sheehy: "Mr. Rail Expert, please file a report on the rail needs of our new Sydney port."

Mr. Rail Expert: "You're gonna need **\$400 million** to fix the crappy railroad you've got there. Since you're not a real company you can pay me in cash, if you want."

Barry also made it clear to Steve that he was hesitant to do the interview, but ultimately decided to grant one on a trial basis, just to see how things go. This, despite the fact that he's always being interviewed everywhere, including but not limited to a prior appearance on **Information Morning in March**. At that time, and in his more recent chat on the **CEEB**, he stressed how much he hates negativity.

It's a challenge, he said, to "overcome the

inherent and almost pathological negativity that one encounters within **Cape Breton**, (which) seems to centre mostly in **Tim Hortons**." (*They're probably cranky that the coffee sucks — ed.*)

"It's fairly unique in my experience... no matter what you're trying to do, the assumption seems to be that you're either up to no good... or you're probably going to fail".

It's just now occurred to me that Barry would likely find questions about why the respected businessmen haven't registered their company yet as "negative." Not to mention, he wouldn't like observations that you could fit every intelligent person on the planet who thinks a Sydney container port is feasible into an outhouse in **Alder Point**, and still have room for plenty of excrement, to boot.

Before Barry and his wiferoo graced **Cape Breton** with their presence **seven or eight years** ago, he operated a home business, **CPC Economics Inc.**, out of his bungalow in **Savannah, Georgia**.

Multiple messages left at his home in **Gabarus** were not returned before I went to press.

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