

West Sechelt Community Association Newsletter



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The greatest compliment is to be referred to a friend or colleague.

Message from the President

I extend a warm welcome to all new residents who have just moved into the West Sechelt area. Sechelt is one of British Columbia's fastest growing communities showing a population increase of 4.5% last year. Most of the growth took place in our neighbourhoods here in West Sechelt. This rate of change puts considerable pressure on the community, its infrastructure, programs and governance.

In the summer of 2006, the West Sechelt Community Association was reestablished. Our goal is to create a 'voice' to interact with Council, District staff, fellow citizens, and developers to ensure the interests of our residents are being heard and acted upon by decision makers.

This is our first newsletter, and we intend to publish two or three a year to keep the community informed. Between issues, please take advantage of our website, which can be accessed through www.sechelt.net.

We encourage all individuals and families to join our association and participate in ongoing activities and meetings. We have committees set up to address issues such as sewer, water supply, and parks and recreation in our growing community (954 homes to date).

Help is always needed and we are always eager to hear the concerns of our growing community. Please contact any director if you would like to volunteer to serve on a committee or support us in any way. A strong membership means a strong voice for our community. Please join us.


-Ken Matheson

Lights Out

Community member Bill Brown has written BC Hydro requesting information on our never-ending hydro problem. We have lost power three times due to the same problem in the same location. Hopefully this will come to a resolve soon! Thanks for your help Bill!

Goals of the West Sechelt Community Association

- Act as a watchdog in council and related meetings
- Represent West Sechelt citizens in several development project meetings including Silverback, Silverstone, Clayton/Trail Bay, McLean, The Trails, Lot 6 subdivision on Nickerson Rd
- Keep an eye on sewer and water systems and expansions
- Participate in creating new beach access points (two last year)
- Submit a list of capital items for the next five years, which are subject to update each year



Our Next Meeting:

February 13, 2007
7:00pm
West Sechelt Elementary

Please Join Us!

What's Our Name?!

You have no doubt noticed the creativity of our newsletter's name. We assure you that our next issue will have a much better one as Ken has asked the students at West Sechelt Elementary to brainstorm ideas for a newsletter name!

Hot Sheet

With each newsletter, we will aim to grow community awareness about hot topics that need our attention. With this issue, we encourage you to attend the Public Hearing for the proposed Tower Road Seniors' Housing Development, which would be the largest building in Sechelt. The proposal is currently raising more questions than answers about the type and location of the facility, which allows for 202 units and 11 commercial units.

Questions we already have include:

- Is this a seniors' housing project or simply housing for seniors over 55 years of age?
- How do they see the development fitting in with the rest of the neighborhood? This is a 700 % increase in density!
- At the last public information meeting, it was not clear if the project came under assisted living, independent living, or congregate care. The proponent seemed quite confused saying the various government offices had different interpretations. When will we be informed about what they actually intend?

Please attend the meeting and learn more. Informed citizens found strong communities. Let's work together to make ours great!

**Please
Participate!**

Tuesday, January 30th
7:00pm
Seaside Center • 5790 Teredo St.



Get Prepared

In light of our recent severe storms, we encourage all members of the community to prepare their family for such events. All of us should be diligent and keep emergency kits handy in our homes. Information on creating a kit can be found at www.getprepared.ca

Contact Us

West Sechelt
Community Association
P.O. Box 792
Sechelt, BC
V0N 3A0

westsechelt@sechelt.net



Our Committees

Members of our community have already stepped up and volunteered to lead the association's committees. Each committee works with the district and our community to make sure our fast growing area will develop properly.

Below are brief summaries of each group's actions and goals. We encourage everyone to visit the website and participate in our meetings to learn more.

Water Committee

- Look into water supply, usage, and quality
- Shortage allocation strategies
- Future topics such as metering, new construction, and environmental impact of usage

Sewer Committee

- To review guidelines and historical information
- To tour the district's facilities to become acquainted with the infrastructure and answer basic questions
- To review available information and compile a list of questions that need to be addressed

Parks and Recreation Committee

- Identify, assess, and clearly sign and mark existing beach accesses in West Sechelt
- Encourage creation of "greenway" trails/paths leading into Sechelt center and connecting to existing major parks.
- Encourage non-vehicular transportation routes into West Sechelt
- Close monitoring of new subdivision developments to ensure adequate park space designation.

Visioning Committee

- Attend community vision meetings to participate in the strategies for local development
- Create strategies for balanced, managed, and sustainable growth
- Learn about alternatives to conventional subdivisions that include innovative design, energy efficient sitings, green construction, more density and are both attractive and environmentally friendly
- An open house on Feb 22nd will bring the public up to date. Check the newspaper for details

or
www.deeprooted.ca/secheltvisioning
www.sechelt.ca

Steering Committee

The District's Official Community Plan and The West Sechelt Neighbourhood plan call for the need for a Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) for the Clayton/Sangara lands. The association's Steering Committee is working with the district to create the CDP, which will define land use and provision of services and amenities.

Public information meetings will be held, and the association will inform members of their dates when known.

Sponsorship

In the effort to continue to keep our community informed, we look forward to working with new local sponsors to help support our newsletter. We thank Angie Sita for generously supporting this issue.

Membership

We now have the largest of any community association in Sechelt thanks to the efforts of Bill Endert, and this was accomplished in a mere 3-4 month period. We hope our numbers continue to grow and look forward to meeting and working with more members of the community.

WEST SEHELTT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Mail to: P.O. Box 792, Sechelt, B.C. V0N 3A0

Website: Sechelt Community Associations Host Website @ www.sechelt.net
& click West Sechelt button

Not a Member? Support Your Association & Join Now

\$10 per yr/per household - Oct 1 to Oct 1

Date _____ New Member ___ Renewal _____ Cash/Chq. _____

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

Street Address _____

Home Phone _____ Email _____

For Stats:

#in Household _____ Primary or Secondary Residence? _____ Retired? _____

West Sechelt Community Association is here to serve YOU! What are your concerns?

Water _____ Sewer _____ Resource Extraction (forestry/mining etc) _____

Development (commercial/residential) _____ Tree Preservation _____ Views _____

Traffic _____ Transit _____ ALR _____ Air Quality _____ Beach Access _____

Parks & Trails _____ Affordable Housing _____ Zoning _____

Other _____