

SECHELT

Silverback session, suddenly



Sechelt BRIEFS

Council watchers expressed dismay over the final order of business at the Wednesday night meeting of Sechelt council, when it was revealed the fourth reading for the 1,600-unit Silverback development in Porpoise Bay will take place at a special meeting next Wednesday, (Feb. 27).

The District and proponent Gabriel Khoury have been sitting at third reading of the rezoning bylaw since November 2006, trying to hammer out a development agreement with major implications for Sechelt's ability to manage its sewer capacity. That agreement will be reviewed by council before next Wednesday and made public less than an hour before the fourth and final reading will be voted on.

"What I'm not happy about is the lack of opportunity for the public to get

the same chance to understand the documents," said Sandy Hook resident Sue Jackel. "Last July, we were promised a public workshop to review the whole development agreement. Now, that piece is missing."

Approval of third reading was conditional on the developer committing \$8 million towards a new sewer treatment plant. Now, the District may be acting quickly to ratify that commitment from the developer, before councillors Ed Steeves and Barry Poole, both of whom support Silverback, take most of March off.

"This [meeting] is timely for both of us," commented Mayor Cam Reid.

Fourth readings

The housing agreement for the Walter Burtnick Seniors' Lodge received fourth and final reading on Wednesday night, as did the District's pesticide control bylaw and a ticket information bylaw that will make the new pesticide rules enforceable.

Director of corporate services Jo-Anne Frank noted the pesticide bylaw,

which was modelled after the one developed by the Town of Gibsons, will be brought back for the community to review in two years' time.

Housing

Council granted second and third reading for the affordable housing and community amenities policy, paving the way for the policy to soon be officially adopted.

Airport timber

Council requested Sechelt Community Projects Inc. (SCPI), better known as the community forest, to develop a plan to cut about 1,000 cubic metres of timber at the southern end of Sechelt airport.

The trees, growing near Husdon Creek, may constitute a safety hazard and need to be removed, the airport strategic planning committee determined. The estimated value of the timber is about \$30,000.

SCPI will include stream integrity measures in their plan, such as leaving stumps intact to prevent silting events into the creek.

— Greg Amos

*Special Open Council Meeting to consider
4th reading of Silverback bylaws:
Wednesday Feb. 27, 7:30 pm, Community
Meeting Rm, Library Bldg., Sechelt*