



# Beginning the Dialogue: Issues & Ideas

Community Dialogue on Neighbourhood Character & Housing

westvancouver  
THE WATERFRONT COMMUNITY

Newsletter #1  
September 2007



## How to Get Involved?

- Visit [www.westvancouver.ca/communitydialogue](http://www.westvancouver.ca/communitydialogue) for more information and regular project updates
- Join the **Online Community Forum**
- Come to the **Neighbourhoods Fair** at Park Royal, October 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007
- Read the Community Dialogue newsletters
- Watch for information displays at District facilities and at community events
- Participate in a community workshop (January - February 2008)
- Share your thoughts in a public survey (May 2008)
- Attend a meeting of the Working Group (open to the public)



For more information, please contact the West Vancouver Planning Department at **604-925-7055** or send an email to:

Stephen Mikicich, Sr. Community Planner  
[smikicich@westvancouver.ca](mailto:smikicich@westvancouver.ca)

Leanne Sexsmith, Planning Analyst  
[lsexsmith@westvancouver.ca](mailto:lsexsmith@westvancouver.ca)

Joshua Bassett, Planning Research Assistant  
[jbassett@westvancouver.ca](mailto:jbassett@westvancouver.ca)



## The Importance of a Community Dialogue

The 2004 Official Community Plan (OCP) identifies housing and neighbourhood character as central issues in our community. Some people are concerned about affordability and housing choice — both for seniors and younger households. Others are concerned about changes to housing character (e.g., size, scale, street presence, and diversity of styles), and how new development may alter the established character of their neighbourhood.

During the OCP review process, it became apparent that there are diverse views about housing and neighbourhood issues in West Vancouver, and that more work was needed before more focused policy directions could be identified. Since that time, staff have prepared a series of background studies on demographic and population trends in West Vancouver. These have now been compiled into one comprehensive volume, titled "West Vancouver Facts and Stats." (visit [westvancouver.ca/communityplanning](http://westvancouver.ca/communityplanning) for more information)

*The Community Dialogue on Neighbourhood Character and Housing* will include a sharing of information and ideas. It will provide a series of opportunities for residents to talk about what makes their neighbourhoods special, what they would like to preserve about their neighbourhoods, and what types of alternative housing might be considered for meeting future community needs.



## Let's Talk About Neighbourhoods & Housing!

The purpose of this inaugural newsletter is to provide an overview of the process and time-line for *The Community Dialogue on Neighbourhood Character and Housing*, and to outline various opportunities for public involvement.

The first major event will be the **Neighbourhoods Fair**, which will be held on the weekend of October 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> at Park Royal Shopping Centre - North Mall Centre Court. This will be followed by a series of community workshops in January and February 2008, and a follow-up survey in May. It is anticipated that the Working Group and staff will be reporting to Council with the results of the Dialogue in June or July 2008 (see p.2 for details).

The success of this process will depend on extensive public involvement, and we are looking to all West Vancouver residents to engage in this Dialogue through various opportunities over the next several months.

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### The Dialogue is an opportunity:

- to learn more about demographic trends, and future housing needs in the community
- to share your ideas on what makes West Vancouver a special place and what you value most about your own neighbourhood
- to share your ideas and opinions on possible new housing types

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# The Process



## PHASE I

### Beginning the Dialogue: Information and Ideas (June - November 2007)

The purpose of this phase is to get people thinking about what they value about their neighbourhoods, what aspects they would like to see preserved, and/or what changes might be appropriate. It will culminate in a **Neighbourhoods Fair** where residents will be invited to share their neighbourhood visions, and their ideas about housing and related issues.

## PHASE II

### Exploring Ideas and Options: Community Workshops (December 2007 - March 2008)

A series of community workshops will be held in early 2008, to provide a forum for more in-depth discussion of housing issues and opportunities in West Vancouver. Participants will be provided with background information and context for informed discussion. A key focus will be current and future housing needs within the community, and how these might be met over time.

## PHASE III

### Making Choices: Confirming Future Directions (April - May 2008)

A community survey will provide an opportunity to gauge public opinion on the key issues, opportunities, and directions coming out of the workshops.

## PHASE IV

### Recommendations: Achieving the Community Vision for Neighbourhood Character and Housing (June - July 2008)

The Working Group and staff will review the results of the Community Dialogue, and report to Council with recommendations for possible District actions.

# The Working Group

Council has appointed a volunteer Working Group of West Vancouver residents to assist staff in designing and implementing a public participation program to engage the community in this important dialogue. The Working Group members are:

Susan Anderson	Jacqueline Gijssen	Barbara Pettit
Christine Banham (chair)	Andy Krawczyk (v. chair)	Beverley Pitman
David Crilly	Freda Pagani	Keith Pople

The Council liaison is Councillor John Clark.

The staff liaison is Stephen Mikicich, Sr. Community Planner.



# The Neighbourhoods Fair

**Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup> (10:00am - 5:00pm)**  
**and Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup> (12:00pm - 5:00pm)**  
**Park Royal Shopping Centre, North Mall - Centre Court**

The purpose of this event is to present background information on housing and neighbourhood character issues, and to provide an opportunity for residents to tell us what they value about their neighbourhoods, and to talk about the community's future housing needs and opportunities. We encourage displays by individuals and community groups, in response to the following questions:

- What do you cherish most about your neighbourhood, and what concerns you most about your neighbourhood's future?
- Will your current housing be suitable for your or your family's needs in the future? If not, let us know what type of housing would be optimal, and why.

Displays can consist of annotated photographs, maps, drawings, and/or text, and should be no larger than 24" x 36" for posting on a display board. Table-top displays can also be accommodated. All displays should be submitted to the West Vancouver Planning Department, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, 750 - 17<sup>th</sup> Street by noon on Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007, along with a completed registration form. If you have any questions, please call 604-925-7055, or log on to [www.westvancouver.ca/communitydialogue](http://www.westvancouver.ca/communitydialogue) for more information.

# Online Community Forum Launched

Information on the Community Dialogue, including background documents, upcoming events, and Working Group meetings is available at [www.westvancouver.ca/communitydialogue](http://www.westvancouver.ca/communitydialogue). In addition, we have established an **Online Community Forum**, to encourage ongoing public discussion on housing and neighbourhood character issues. Staff will periodically post topics and/or questions, and participants will be asked to respond and to post their own questions, ideas, and/or issues. We look forward to making use of this online technology, and hope that it will provide a convenient communications tool for West Vancouver residents.

To register for the Community Forums:

Type in the following URL in your web browser:  
[www.westvancouver.ca/forums](http://www.westvancouver.ca/forums) (and follow the instructions)

For assistance, please contact Colin Hibbard (Webmaster) at [webmaster@westvancouver.ca](mailto:webmaster@westvancouver.ca) or call 604-925-7065



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