



For Immediate Release

## FAIRWINDS PRESENTS DRAFT PLANS FOR SCHOONER COVE AND THE LAKES DISTRICT TO PUBLIC FOR COMMENT

Nanose Bay, British Columbia – May 6, 2009: Fairwinds Real Estate Management Inc. hosted the third in a series of Public Open Houses on Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at Nanose Place (Schooner Cove neighborhood) and Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at Fairwinds Golf Clubhouse (the Lakes District neighborhood). These sessions marked the continuation of a public planning and consultation process that began with the First Public Open House held on May 14<sup>th</sup> 2008, a series of three public design workshops in October 2008 and the Second Public Open House held on November 27<sup>th</sup> 2008. While the Second Open House presented several exploratory design concepts based on outcomes from the public workshops, the Third Open House sessions presented comprehensive draft neighbourhood plans for Schooner Cove and the Lakes District. Attendance ranged from just under 300 at the Schooner Cove session to over 120 for the Lakes District session. The workshops, open houses and other initiatives form part of an extensive public consultation process, the purpose of which is to engage the community in a meaningful way and to inform Fairwinds and its professional planning team as comprehensive plans for the Lakes District and Schooner Cove neighborhoods are prepared.

The foundation of these plans is the RDN Regional Growth Strategy which designates Fairwinds and Schooner Cove as urban growth areas within Nanose Bay. The public consultation and planning process responds to this mandate and has been endorsed by the RDN Board. "At the Lakes District, the draft plan envisions a very special residential community in harmony with this area's dramatic landscape, its two lakes and its host of significant environmental features. The Schooner Cove draft plan reflects a new seaside village, focused on meeting the daily needs of the surrounding residents with meaningful public access to the waterfront and a vibrant mix of community-oriented retail shops, services and food & beverage establishments, as well as residential apartment homes offering the ability to 'age in place'. The experiences at Schooner Cove Village would appeal to a range of interests: from coffee at the bakery, to shopping at the general store, a beer at the pub, a stroll along the waterfront, access to the Marina or a kayak paddle out to the islands," said Russell Tibbles, Vice President of Development & Operations for Bentall LP, which manages Fairwinds on behalf of its owner, British Columbia Investment Management Corporation.

Community residents, interest groups, government approval agencies and the general public reviewed and discussed display boards describing the draft plans. "At the Lakes District, the issues relate mainly to the conservation of sensitive ecosystems, the extent of parks, the connectivity of neighborhoods, and quantity and location of housing. For Schooner Cove, the issues relate to the creation of a village serving the surrounding neighborhood with broader public access to the waterfront, neighborhood shops and services, community amenities and a broader choice of housing to accommodate a range of life stages. Concerns expressed included: the replacement of the boat ramp with a jib crane hoist, the conservation of views from surrounding residences, and the overall scale of development and the associated implications for parking and traffic," said Paul Fenske, Principal of Ekistics Town Planning, the lead planning and design consultants.





Fairwinds ultimately intends to seek RDN approval of the Neighborhood Plans and this would involve amendments to the Official Community Plan.

Copies of all materials presented are available at [www.fairwinds.ca/futuredevelopment](http://www.fairwinds.ca/futuredevelopment).

## ABOUT FAIRWINDS

The Fairwinds Community & Resort is central Vancouver Island's premier master-planned, oceanfront community with over 700 homes and homesites developed to date. It includes the award-winning Les Furber designed 18-hole Fairwinds Golf Club, the 20,000 square foot Fairwinds Centre health club and the 360 berth Schooner Cove Marina. Its Bonnington Heights and Rockcliffe real estate projects are currently selling and its future developable lands include approximately 736 acres at the Lakes District and 12 acres at Schooner Cove. For more information, visit [www.fairwinds.ca](http://www.fairwinds.ca).

For further information concerning the draft neighborhood plans, please contact:

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