



ARCHITECT RICK HULBERT discusses planned redevelopment to the Schooner Cove area with attendees of an open house last Wednesday.

PHOTO: FRED DAVIES

Public eyes Fairwinds changes

By FRED DAVIES
NEWS REPORTER

A sizable turn out was at Schooner Cove's Anchor Room May 15 to gain better understanding of what their Fairwinds neighbourhood could look like in the near future.

Fairwinds Real Estate Management Inc. hosted the public as first step in a process that will guide the next phase of the area's development anticipated to add roughly 800 more living units to the existing 700 homes as well as more retail shops, services and food and beverage outlets.

"It's time to revisit Schooner Cove and tie it in with the Lakes District," said Chuck Brook, a development consultant on hand from Brook Associates out of Vancouver.

"This is probably the largest [development] of its kind in the region and it'll

be sometime well into 2009 before we reach public hearing with a neighbourhood plan."

Russell Tibbles, vice president with Fairwinds management arm, Benall Investment Management, described the project's vision thus far.

"At the lakes district our goal is to create a residential community in harmony with the area's dramatic landscape ... At Schooner Cove we envision a new seaside village that functions as a community hub."

Planners on hand said the recently closed hotel at Schooner Cove is slated for demolition and will not be replaced.

"This is an opportunity to replace the hotel which has not been viable," said Brook.

"What we contemplate here is a mix of residential units. There would also be commercial activity, such as a maritime pub ... we're talk-

ing about things like bakeries and coffee shops, things that will really animate the public realm around the marina."

Brook said a basic traffic analysis for the area is underway and that some environmental assessment is already complete.

"We're now able to talk about land uses and that's why we wanted public input before we plan the site rather than after."

The public in attendance were able to raise any concerns with architects and others on hand to answer questions.

One Fairwinds resident took time from answering a questionnaire to give his initial impressions. "I love the area, it's why I moved here," said Michael Simard. "Like any developer they want to make a profit ... hopefully it will be done tastefully and they'll continue to work with the community."