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Trailer park deadline looms



WAWMEESH G. HAMILTON/Alberni Valley News Falls Road trailer park resident Rose Churchill, 71, stares into an uncertain future outside the window of she and husband Lionell's trailer. The pair have to move by September, and haven't found a buyer for their trailer, or a home to move in to.

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The end of the road is near for the remaining tenants of the Falls Road Trailer Court.

While most former tenants have moved, some like Lionell and Rose Churchill remain, and a Sept. 1 moving deadline looms.

RiverBank Estates purchased the trailer court land in 2007. They applied for rezoning to accommodate mixed residential units, and had their request granted in 2008. Tenants were subsequently given one year's notice to move.

"As of Sept. 1, 2009, the trailer you own has to be removed from your rental pad at RiverBank Estates," a moving notice dated June 30, 2009 notes. The trailer park's water and power will be discontinued as of midnight Sept. 1, it further noted.

With a month to go before they have to vacate, the Churchills have been trying to sell their 14x70 foot trailer or find a new trailer pad to rent.

"We've had a couple of inquiries, but nothing firm yet," Rose said. "We're still hoping though."

With the clock ticking and options running out, the pair refuse to get down about it.

"We try to stay upbeat because there's no sense in making ourselves sick," Lionell said. "But we often wake up at night wondering what we're going to do."

Some trailers in the park are old and would be damaged if moved. That isn't the case with the Churchills.

"Our trailer isn't that old (1982) and it's CSA approved so it can be moved," Lionel said.

A Nov. 2, 2008 moving notice from RiverBank Estates shows the names and phone numbers of seven local trailer parks and two trailer movers.

The Churchills have called them all, but nothing is available.

Despite the development being approved by the city, and moving notices being issued, the development isn't a lock yet.

Several items have to be completed before a building permit can be issued, city planner Scott Smith said.

Site access design and a surety has been completed, Smith said, but a shoreline engineering report and environmental

study are yet to be done.


"There's a restrictive covenant, and they won't get a building permit until that work is done to the satisfaction of the city and Fisheries and Oceans," Smith said. "I haven't heard where the developer is in that process yet."

Calls to RiverBank Estates weren't returned.

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