

Hope rising for mobile home park residents



Plans to build a new mobile home park for Ivy Green residents was announced at an April 23 meeting.

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By Stephen Thomson - Ladysmith Chronicle

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There's hope Em Blatchford will have somewhere to move to when she is evicted from the Ladysmith mobile home park she has called home for 22 years.

Mayor Rob Hutchins has announced a plan to create a new park in the north end of town to accommodate the tenants displaced from Ivy Green's 38 units.

Blatchford and the other park residents were told in January they would have to uproot to make way for residential redevelopment on the waterfront property owned by Oak Bay Marine Group.

With help from local developer Guy Bezeau, owner of Seven Links Marketing Development Ltd., the town wants to see the park created on an area of public and private land at the end of the Fourth Avenue extension.

"It certainly has brought a lot of relief and hope. It's been just iffy for two months," said Blatchford, who was among 70 people, including other Ivy Green tenants, who heard the news of the partnership during an April 23 meeting.

Oak Bay Marine Group told tenants they would have to move out after 12 months to make way for a 210-unit residential project.

Hutchins said the proposed new park will be zoned to prevent that from happening again.

“We’re going to ensure that this is a new zone that is going to be mobile-home-park-only so nobody can displace you in the future,” Hutchins said.

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