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Park tenants deserve help

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ousing is a problem that just doesn't seem to go away.

Housing, per se, isn't the problem exactly. It's affordable housing that causes the trouble. Ladysmith is looming towards even less of that particular currency, as Ivy Green Mobile Home Park is going to be part of a new, larger, waterfront development.

Where there were manufactured homes, there will be single-family residential, with townhouses and condo buildings looming next door. The developer's land use consultant said the focus is on creating affordable housing. No dollar figure is available yet.

There is "affordable" for the area or what you get with the price, and then there is housing people can realistically pay for.

What the manufactured home park offers to its residents is an actually affordable. It comes with an affordable pad rental and the cost of a manufactured home is significantly lower than typical housing. Moving, no matter where or how, is going to cost them a bundle and seriously upset their lives.

The developer should not bear the brunt of the blame for the situation those residents find themselves in. It does, after all, appear the developer is doing things by the book.

The trouble is with the book. There is no protection for home equity for mobile home owners. So if residents have to move because of a redevelopment, they never get back what they put into their homes. This needs to be handled first at a provincial level, and then at a municipal level. Only government bodies working together can provide for better financial restitution for manufactured home owners. Make it the cost of doing business for developers.

With better protection and support for manufactured home parks, there could be more affordable housing options for everyone — and no one would lose everything.

— The Chronicle

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