

Trailer park residents fear forced removal

Last Updated: Thursday, July 17, 2008 | 7:01 AM AT [Comments 7](#) [Recommend 6](#)
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Approval for a condominium on the site of Idlewheels Trailer Court has some residents of the Charlottetown trailer park worried about where they will go when they receive eviction notices.

The trailer park on Mt. Edward Road has been a neighbourhood fixture for many years, mostly hidden from the street by mature trees. But the owner, L and A MacEachern, has other plans for the property. It wants to build a condominium. Some of the residents fear when that happens, they won't be able to sell their trailers and will have nowhere to go.

'You're going to lose your homestead.'

— Irene Saunders

"There's nothing anybody can do about it," Irene Saunders, who has been living at Idlewheels for six years, told CBC News this week.

"You're going to lose your homestead. It's not very nice what they're doing to us. If I knew that, I would never have moved here in the first place."

Council rejected plans

City council rejected plans for apartments on the trailer-park land in February. At the time, Saunders thought her worries were over. But unbeknownst to the residents, L and A MacEachern appealed the city's decision to the Island Regulatory and Appeals Commission, and won.

L and A MacEachern owner Ken MacEachern said he doesn't know when the apartments will go up.

'My property value is going to go down.'

— Lynn McArthur

Saunders said she doesn't know what she will do when she gets her six-month notice to leave, because she says all the mobile home parks she has looked into are full.

Resident Elwood Coakes also worries he will have nowhere to go, and doesn't know what he will do with his trailer.

"Just give it to somebody, or put it on somebody's land and sell it. It's better than bulldozers taking it away," said Coakes.

Some neighbours are also concerned about the plans.

Lynn McArthur and her husband own three houses across from the trailer park. She says the new development will bring too much traffic and garbage with it.

"My property value is going to go down," she said.

"It's going to be really hard to sell, because eventually these are all going to go apartment buildings down this street."

The city has not appealed IRAC's decision, but the public will get one more chance to comment when the developer applies for a building permit.

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[A.D. Gagnon](#) wrote: Posted 2008/07/19

at 2:56 PM ET Would like to suggest that the residents of the trailer park research the case of Ryder Trailer Park in Milford, CT USA. Similar events happened, developer comes along offers big money to land owner and the fun began. Took years of court battles but residents were moved to new area not too far away and given new trailers to replace the old ones. What went in their place? A Walmart, Staples, Barnes & Noble, Circuit City, etc., etc.

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[TWSmith](#) wrote: Posted 2008/07/18

at 9:59 AM ET It astounds me how many people posting already are more concerned with the relative merits of renting vs. owning, or some preconceived notion that trailers are blights on the city. People are losing their homes and I hope they find a way to keep their residences.

Oh, and MrBigTime, if you ever lived in Charlottetown you'd understand that there are very few apartments, partially because isn't much room for congested traffic in town. Land value in certain area's could definitely decrease.

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[MrBigTime](#) wrote: Posted 2008/07/17

at 2:02 PM ET Land value across the street will go down with the removal of the trailer park??? I strongly doubt that... Having a nicer, cleaner neighborhood with new condos will surely only make the area nicer, and increase its value

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[The Itchy Beaver](#) wrote: Posted 2008/07/17

at 8:58 AM ET The 'Idle Wheels' site has reached it's expiry date. If you inspect the site, it is clear that these buildings are nearing the end of the useful life. Most are 40 years old...

These trailers may find a new home on the Rustico Road along side many other similar buildings.

New residents will move to the beautiful Mount Edward Road site to start their life experience as condominium owners.

Good for IRAC in over turning the City's short sightedness in wanting to keep an out dated trailer park in the middle of historic Charlottetown.

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[Srakken](#) wrote: Posted 2008/07/17

at 8:39 AM ET This is really sad. Leased trailer parks are a complete scam. The home prices are usually pegged much higher than what the actual trailer is worth. So some of these people may have bought the trailer and the right to lease the spot it is on for lets say \$90,000 but the trailer (a lot of the times they can be really, really old) itself may only be worth \$15,000. The government should be

doing more to protect these peoples interests especially from the crooked realtors who artificially inflate these trailers to unacceptable levels. Who in their right mind would spend that much money on something that we devalue like a car if it isn't tied to a lot.

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