

LETTERS

WPT and development update

Dear Editor,

I thought that it was time once again to provide the citizens of Ucluelet with an update on the process, timing, and activities related to the development of the Weyerhaeuser lands.

I am pleased to tell you that we have now received Preliminary Layout Approval for our initial subdivision application. This approval sets out the district requirements for completion of the process, and it permits us to move forward on the project.

Those of you who have been out on the Wild Pacific Trail (WPT) in the last few months, or walked down from the ball field, will have seen that we have opened up the proposed roads for the Marine Drive extension and also the connector road down from Cynamocka. The next phase of the work will include blasting the rock where needed, and will take the roadbeds to their final grade. This work should begin within the next week or two. Once our detailed designs have been submitted and reviewed we will begin the installation of underground pipes. We are targeting the summer for bringing the first lots to the market.

At a council meeting late last year, I mentioned that I have had Jim Martin examine the bush and flag what he believes to be good routes for the WPT for the two sec-

tions we are approved to move. These are behind the first block of waterfront lots, and parallel to and west of the Cynamocka extension (the replacement for the current path down from the ball field).

Earlier this week I reviewed the alignment parallel to the waterfront and can see the potential for an amazing walk through an old-growth forest. I will review the alignment west of Cynamocka when next in Ucluelet. As also mentioned to council, we will then ensure that the WPT Society has reviewed the alignments and have the district approve them prior to design and construction. In addition, Jim and I are working on two more minor changes to the trail within this first phase of the development, and think they will be great improvements, potentially spectacular.

Late last year Weyerhaeuser filed two additional subdivision applications. The first dealt with the east side of the two hotel sites, immediately west of the first phase of planned building lots. The second was for the curved cul-de-sac in this general area.

There will be changes in this next year, but be assured that we will always try to minimize any disruption to the community. We thank you for your continued patience with the process.

Charles Smith, Weyerhaeuser