

Letters TO THE EDITOR

Brainstorm strikes home

Although I do not often do so, I agree entirely with the statements made in the Maxed Out column this week (The brainstorming continues, Sept. 23). In particular, as a landowner, I grow increasingly concerned about rising Whistler property taxes, which seem, like a castle ghost, to predictably rise and scare the hell out of all who actually witness the event.

The problem with many incumbent councils is that they eventually run out of other people's money to spend. As Mr. Maxwell points out, having a laudable community vision is one thing, whereas having an "affordable" community vision may well be another thing.

I wonder how many Whistlerites have enjoyed salary increases which meet or exceed the percentage increases in property taxes we have seen these past couple of years.

In our personal lives, where we have no ability to pick a neighbour's pocket, we are actually forced to make choices and live within our allotted income. To adapt a quote by Ronald Reagan, a Whistler taxpayer could be defined as "a person who works for the municipality but doesn't have to take the employment exam."

The challenge should be taken up by council and administration to produce an annual budget

for community review which contains increases no higher than the annual Canadian Consumer Price Index. While citizens ultimately may or may not like what must be done to reach such a financial target, at least it would give everyone a chance to assess it, propose alternate ways to save and decide what are core deliverables in Whistler and what are "nice to haves."

This would also require an assessment of user fees to better understand what activities Whistlerites are currently subsidizing and to what extent they are doing so.

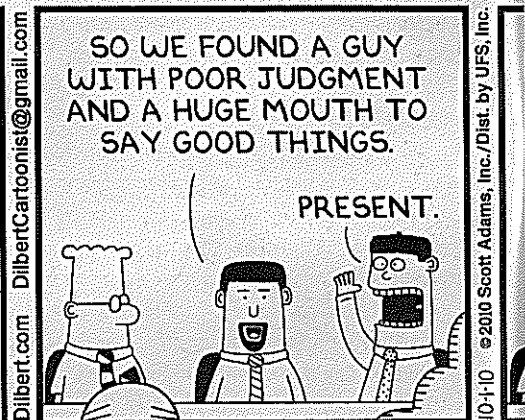
Bruce Thom
Whistler

WHISTLER'S LAST STANDS

Why the Cheakamus Community Forest (CCF) has the word "Community" in it is beyond me.

The Whistler community was never consulted when the decision by the Resort Municipality of Whistler, the two First Nations groups and the B.C. government was made to strip our forests of 250- to 1,000-year-old trees for the next 25 years. If these living, breathing, majestic ancient trees were instead mere 100-plus-year-old homes or building structures, the local and regional historical societies would be registering, restoring and protecting them for future generations to enjoy and appreciate. These societies may even turn a few of them into museums in order to share their architectural history and provide tours to schools and tour groups. Heck, the owners might even get a tax break.

The trees that are slated to be harvested started to grow in medieval times; the Middle Ages. These trees in our backyard are older



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8048 NICKLAUS NORTH BLVD.

Gorgeous south facing home overlooking the first fairway with spectacular views of the slopes. Great floor plan, superior finishing, with mahogany floors, log features, five fireplaces, hot tub, huge rental suite, and a great sun filled patio.

Offered at \$2,790,000



#214 LOST LAKE LODGE

Cozy, quiet two bedroom corner unit in a great building close to Lost Lake golf, and Valley Trail to village. Fully furnished, unlimited owner use, or nightly rentals with property management company in place. This is the best priced two bedroom in the building.

Offered at \$525,000



#225 ALPENGLOW

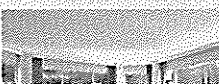
South facing one bedroom condo in the Village, fully furnished, with 9' ceilings, air conditioning, and a 93 square foot deck. The complex has a great pool and hot tub, and you can walk to all Village amenities from this central location. This is the best priced one bedroom unit in Alpenglow by far.

REDUCED TO \$199,000



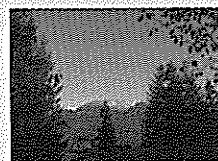
#403 WOODRUN

Stylishly upgraded and immaculately maintained, this is one of the best two bedroom condos in the best ski in/ski out building on Blackcomb. Owner managed, producing great revenues, this condo comes fully furnished and complete with owners management website. The Woodrun features great pool, hot tub, gym, front desk, and underground parking. Rent it out or live in it full time. REDUCED TO \$879,000



#307 NICKLAUS NORTH CLUBHOUSE

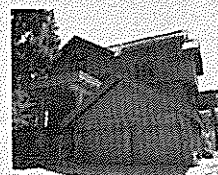
This gorgeous top floor two bedroom condo offers spectacular views of the



8219 MOUNTAINVIEW

Gently sloping lot in Whistlers fav buildable, easy access, with great and build this summer. This is on

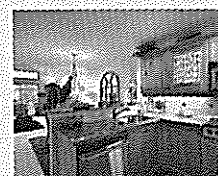
Offered at \$639,000



#3305 PEAK DRIVE

Spectacular views from this gorge include wall to wall windows with grotto steam shower, spacious de master suites, perfect for partners

REDUCED TO \$3,250,000



#3 ARROWHEAD POINT

Exquisite two bedroom townhome balcony. This townhome has been counters and heated slate floors parking, never been rented, and

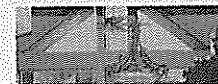
Offered at \$819,000



#520 PAN PACIFIC LODGE

You won't find a better location for amenities. Enjoy the roof top pool studio in one of Whistler's best hotels gondolas, the Pan offers general

REDUCED TO \$279,000



#510 WOODRUN

One of the nicest units in the best bedroom and den features include