

Second open house for Affordable Housing Working Group to be held tomorrow

The Affordable Housing Working Group (AHWG) is hosting a second open house to offer information and updates regarding the creation of affordable housing on Bowen. The meeting, on Saturday, Nov. 22, at 10 a.m. at Cates Hill Chapel, will include the launch of the Ownership Waitlist. Qualified applicants are invited to fill out a Purchase Waitlist application form to register for an opportunity to purchase affordable housing units, when they become available.

Tim Wake, an affordable housing consultant for the Bowen Island Municipality, and members of the AHWG will be on hand to answer questions regarding the process of registration. As well, representatives from First Credit Union will be in attendance to offer advice on obtaining a pre-approved mortgage, one of the waitlist criteria.

Other requirements include having residency, or full-time employment on the island. Applicants must not be owners of property currently, or within the past five years.

For the first three months, a priority sequence based on a point system will be applied to those applications received. Points will be assigned, with one point allotted for each year of permanent residence on Bowen for adults 19 and older, and half a point per year for each child in the same household. After the first three months, the point system will be dropped and qualified applicants will be added on a first-come-first-served basis.

The Bowen Island Municipality will receive the applications. However, they will be processed under the strictest level of confidentiality, initially by a designated authority of the AHWG and ultimately by the municipal housing corporation. The waitlist will help the corporation determine the needs of the community, in terms of type and number of affordable units sought by the island's population.

In addition to being available at Saturday's open house, Waitlist application forms can be obtained from the municipality, and downloaded from the AHWG website at www.bihousing.org. For more information, please email contact@bihousing.org.

**Affordable
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*Jacqueline M. Massey
On behalf of the Affordable Housing Working Group*
