



LAURA WALZ PHOTO

AIRPORT ANCHORS THE PLAN: Don Greer, president of Yrainucep Development Corporation, presented plans for a development in Wildwood that includes an international airport, a five-star hotel and convention centre, an 18-hole championship golf course, an equestrian centre and residential lots.

Grand plans revealed for Wildwood

LAURA WALZ
PEAK EDITOR

A proposal for vacant land in Wildwood includes an international airport, a five-star hotel and convention centre, an 18-hole championship golf course, an equestrian centre and residential lots sprinkled throughout.

Don Greer, president of Yrainucep (pecuniary spelled backwards) Development Corporation, made the plans public at a meeting between the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) and the city. (See ALC story on page 1.)

The proposal is anchored around an airport community, Greer said, and the area in Wildwood works well for the proposal.

"There's two combinations here, estate amenities and airport amenities," he said. "The estate amenities amount to providing a community that allows for secure living lifestyle."

The airport would have

to meet Transport Canada rules and regulations and would be "the most modern, the most secure airport in North America."

The model includes starting with an 80-room hotel with the capacity to expand to 200 rooms, restaurant, convention centre and golf course.

"When we've shown photographs of Powell River to people in Japan, in China, throughout Asia, over in Germany, throughout Europe, in the United States, they actually asked us if these photographs are for real," said Greer. "Is this lifestyle for real?"

A unique part of the model for Powell River is an equestrian centre. The land bordering the eastern part of Wildwood will remain as a buffer between Wildwood and Catalyst. "This is a public park and we want to put in some walking paths. But we also plan to put in horse trails, put in paddocks and build an equestrian centre. On the west side of the

property we're planning on leaving 100 acres for the same purpose."

The plan also calls for home sites, about 60 on the golf course fairways, some in the nature park, some with ocean views and others part of the airport.

Greer showed plans for homes with a two-car garage and an aircraft hanger. He said there are in excess of 3,000 taxiway, air homes in the United States, but Canada has very few. "The idea is that you land your Cessna or similar smaller aircraft, clear the airport authority, taxi up to your home site, and park in your own hangar."

Greer also outlined plans for water collection and sewage treatment systems and mentioned a new fire hall and a medical facility.

Airport development is the business case that makes the model work, Greer said. "It is important to know without the airport entering this community, you will not be able to attract the corporate clientele that is needed, that

would come in here and set up manufacturing in many different industries."

The company is talking to seven major airplane manufacturing companies, Greer added. "We've promised them that within three months we'll put a model together for them that will allow them to come as a business cluster to the community."

Businesses now operating at the Powell River airport would relocate, Greer said. The company would build a new facility for the Air Cadets and purchase gliders or put the money forward for them to build a new aircraft, Greer also said.

"Some of it may seem perhaps a little overwhelming," he said. "Any one part of it by itself will not work. That's why we call it a model. It's a model that requires all of those parts to come together."

Greer also said his company needs to know by February 2007 if the land will be available.

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