

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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Pedder Bay Residents

Evicted Pedder Bay Residents raise funds to save their homes

On Saturday, May 12th, the Metchosin Hall will be filled with friends, neighbours and supporters of Pedder Bay residents, all of whom are facing an eviction notice. The hall has been offered free to host the fundraising event. A local youth band ***District of Soul*** has donated an evening performance (up to \$1,500) to help Pedder Bay Residents save their homes.

“We are reaching out to our neighbours, friends and community to raise funds to help us save our homes.” said spokesperson and resident Terrill Welch “We really appreciate the donation of the Metchosin Hall, and the evening performance by the dynamic and popular band ***District of Soul***”

The highly talented, 18 member band consists of 15-17 yr. olds and one "seasoned" musician from the Metchosin, Colwood & Langford areas. ***District of Soul*** features 5 singers, an amazing rhythm section (piano, bass, guitar, drums) and a killer horn section! (4 saxes, trombone, & 3 trumpets) The group plays a variety of classic Rhythm & Blues tunes, along with popular titles from the 70' & 80's that are sure to get soles and souls moving!

Under the guidance of Glenn Whitney (Tenor sax), ***District of Soul*** formed in 2004, and has grown not only in skill and repertoire, but in popularity. From performing with guest artists such as Paul Wainwright, Chris Millington & Brooke Maxwell, and playing shows at Bear Mountain Arena (Grizzlies games) and to sold out shows at The Central Bar & Grill, this group has earned itself a place in this year's popular Victoria Jazz Fest!

The Doors of Metchosin Hall open at 7:30 pm and the family fun will continue until 10:00 pm – you can listen to music, visit with your friends or dance your heart out! The cost is \$5.00 per person or \$10.00 for a family.

Funds raised will be used to defer legal costs for residents of Pedder Bay to appear in the Supreme Court of British Columbia. “Our efforts to save our homes will benefit more than just Pedder Bay” said Shanne McCaffrey “there is a ripe opportunity to begin to explore, vision and dialogue about new models of modest income housing as well as protecting affordable housing. Our small community and the greater community believe that the issues of affordable housing and the protection of sensitive wildlife environments are worth fighting for.”

A court date has yet to be set. “We want to be ready when a court date is set” said Belinda Steeves. “We have already prepared a six inch binder of photos, and a Statement of Fact for each resident documenting our case.”

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Background:

On April 12, 2007, in the Supreme Court of British Columbia, Oak Bay Marina Ltd filed a Statement of Defence and Counterclaim; this was in response to the writ filed March 7, 2007 by evicted Pedder Bay Residents.

Evicted Pedder Bay Residents filed a writ in Supreme Court of British Columbia on Wednesday March 7, 2007 claiming an interest in the land.

In January of this year, Oak Bay Marina Ltd issued a 12 month notice to end tenancy to 29 homes at 925 Pedder Bay Drive, Victoria, British Columbia.

There are over 40 people living in the Pedder Bay Community. These include 5 children and 7 seniors. Some of the families have lived in this community for 30 years. Most of the residents are facing huge and complex problems. These homes cannot be relocated because of their age, construction or improvements. Even if they could be moved there is no place for them to go on southern Vancouver Island. Consequently the vast majority of these residents, many of them senior and several of them seriously ill, have no viable options for replacement housing.

Since the initial placement of the homes at Pedder Bay, the home owners have expended monies, time and effort in construction, re-design, renovations, additions, and landscaping that have improved their modest residences and the value of the land. The residences have provided rent monies for close to four decades. Pedder Bay homeowners are also tax payers who have contributed property taxes for these four decades to the district of Metchosin.

As a result of the age of the homes, changes in regulations and bylaws, and especially the re-design and major improvements condoned and approved by the landlord, the homes can no longer be towed or carried away from the property.

Residents are also deeply concerned that abandoning their homes could lead to serious environmental repercussions if they are torn down at Pedder Bay. The offer of about \$4,000 per resident to remove their homes from each site is not near enough to properly dismantle, recycle and environmentally dispose of the homes in a responsible way.

The alternative is to stay and continue to live a modest lifestyle in harmony with the bay and the green sensibilities of the Metchosin area.

[For more information about *District of Soul*, their website is <http://www.districtofsoul.com> .]