

## **Whistler reveals proposed Games legacies**

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Clare Ogilvie  
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WHISTLER -- Whistler outlined last night, in a much anticipated open forum, what it hopes are the legacies it will receive if it is chosen, along with Vancouver, to host the 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

Dozens of residents milled around a conference room scrutinizing the location of the athletes' village as part of a community land-bank deal, a proposed multi-use complex, the Nordic event venues and other projects associated with the Games.

"I think it is interesting," said Steve Henderson, owner of Whistler's Great Games and Toys. Peering at the plans for the "land bank," he said this legacy alone could sway his decision toward supporting the Olympics coming to Whistler.

"I need families settling in Whistler and raising kids here to survive," he said.

Under the "land bank" plan, the government would promise Crown land to the municipality for use in the future. It would be the site of the athletes' village but would also be a location that could be developed in the future.

The land would be limited to resident housing and other related social uses. It could not be used for commercial development unless the government was compensated.

Other legacies included a revamp of the existing convention centre and the construction of a multi-use complex to seat for the Paralympic skating events. After the Olympics the centre could be used for trade shows, large concerts and other events.

Whistler wants to get control of its watershed and is proposing to expand its municipal boundaries in the Callaghan Valley.

Other legacies being sought include the use and promotion of sustainable practices, investment in sport development, new financial tools that will help Whistler achieve financial sustainability and maintain affordability, and the promotion of the resort globally.

"I am very satisfied with the negotiations and where they have gone," said Whistler Mayor Hugh O'Reilly.

"This is amazing, and we are doing it on our terms."