

lots with their cars.

They say their neighbourhood is starting to resemble a trailer park.

"There has been a huge failure of the system," said Rebecca Delchambre, who lives on the 1200-block of West 16th Street. "Nobody at the district was conscientious enough to raise the red flag."

After two prefabricated houses were delivered onto two vacant lots on Aug. 26, several residents attempted to block the next delivery with their cars the following day. A confrontation ensued with the delivery contractor, and RCMP officers were called to the scene. The second pair of houses was delivered the next day, without incident, after the district put up temporary no-parking signs.

The two-bedroom houses are currently resting on concrete blocks while workers complete the final construction. Delchambre

"Everything that has been done on this property has been done according to our existing processes," said Walton, adding that the homes meet the requirements for a single-family neighbourhood.

"The zoning bylaw controls the shape and size and the position of the building on the lot. The building code makes sure that buildings are safe and built to an acceptable housing standard. I think what we have here is an esthetic issue."

Municipalities have been historically wary of regulating the appearance of residents' homes, Walton said.

"To what extent can and should local government start getting involved in the esthetics of each individual lot? That starts to get past private property rights," he said.

Walton noted that while still rare in the District of North Vancouver, prefabricated housing is becoming more popular around Metro Vancouver. He has requested a staff report on the 16th Street situation, and said residents are free to argue their case

cost me a lot of dollars in taxes, and there is a housing shortage," he said. "I could fill a need of the community and defray some of my costs pending any rezoning."

Dammholz said he would remove the prefabricated houses "tomorrow" if the lots could be rezoned for the seniors' project. He has no active plan to apply for rezoning, but is waiting to see the results of the district's official community plan update process.

In the meantime, Dammholz defends the appearance of the four houses. "I wouldn't call them mobile homes. When I look across the street I would say some of the older homes don't look as good as these homes."

"Before, (on the empty lots) there were people building little tents on there and vermin running around, so rather than letting them get into a dilapidated state, I decided to put something on there in order to have a better piece of property with less problems and (be) more sightly for the whole community."

Fire destroys Indian Arm home

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A waterfront home on Indian Arm was destroyed by fire Sunday night.

Firefighters from the District of North Vancouver worked through the night to prevent the flames from spreading into the surrounding forest.

"It was a difficult fire to fight because of the steep access," said Mike Adams, District of North Vancouver assistant fire chief. "That's why we had to use the boats as well."

Three fire engines and two fire boats converged on the house in the 5600-block of Sunshine Falls Lane, on the western shore of Indian Arm, at 7:30 p.m. Sunday.

"It was a big fire," said RCMP Const. Quentin Frewing, who also attended the scene. "The house was completely engulfed in flames."

Frewing said the fire threw flames up to 10 metres above the house's roof and set nearby trees alight. The Coastal Fire Centre was notified

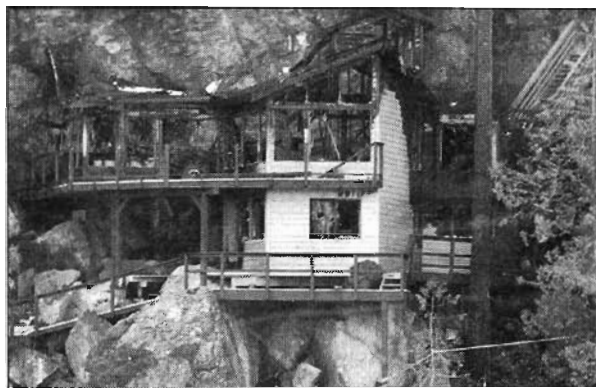


photo Jason Pender

THE home on Sunshine Falls Lane was already engulfed in flames and could not be saved when firefighters arrived.

as firefighters feared the flames might start to spread into the forest canopy.

Crews were still hosing down hotspots at the house Monday morning. The owners of the house were not home at the time of the fire, and nobody was injured.

Although investigators have not been able to examine the house yet, Frewing said they have no reason to suspect arson at this time.

Lottery clawback hits Celtic Ensemble

Professional musicians mentor young students

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A North Shore musical group that provides talented high school students with an opportunity to perform and be mentored by professional musicians is one of the arts groups shocked to discover that its funding has been cut by the provincial government.

Jay Knutson, director of the North Shore Celtic Ensemble, said he received a terse e-mail message Friday stating his group will not be receiving its previously approved \$10,000 grant from the province's lottery funds.

Knutson said the loss of the grant — which

provides about one-third of the group's operating budget — will hit the ensemble hard. "So much of what we do is already volunteer," he said.

Even more difficult, the cut is retroactive to the start of the current fiscal year in the spring. "That's the really scary part," he said. "We base our budget on the amount of money we expect to get in."

Knutson said one of the most infuriating things about the cuts is that expansion of gambling in the province was always justified by the idea that money generated would go back into community resources. "Now they've cut it all," he said.

The Celtic Ensemble started as a non-profit society, with the aim of fostering talented young wind musicians in the community. Currently the group works with about 45 young performers. The group was later granted charitable status in recognition of work done with the larger community. That allowed the ensemble to apply

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