

## Locals Back Community Forest: City Councillor

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By Karen Boden

People are interested in the city's Community Forest initiative and seem to be in support of it, says a Port Alberni city councillor.

During September, the project's advisory committee held open houses in the city and at Sproat Lake and also manned a booth at the fall fair.

"Most of the visitors said they were supportive," said Jack McLeman Wednesday.

The proposed Community Forest consists so far of two small plots, offered up by the Ministry of Forest and Range, both near Sproat Lake Regional.

McLeman said for the community forest to be successful and compare favourably to other communities' projects, there has to be substantially more forest land involved.

"It needs to be a big enough one to make it worthwhile for Port Alberni and the regional district," said McLeman.

The initiative has been in planning and development stages since October 2003. Proponents expect to begin physical work on it in the spring and summer of 2008.

Information on the project can be found at <http://www.communityforest.ca/>

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