

Developer pitches student and staff housing for CapU

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A North Vancouver developer is pitching plans to build rental apartments exclusively for Capilano University students and staff, just off campus.

Darwin Properties has submitted an application to the District of North Vancouver to build 346 units of rental housing in two six-storey buildings, plus a cafe, at 1310 Monashee Dr.

“We’re really excited about this project. We know there is a major housing crisis that is affecting the North Shore with the lack of rental housing and housing options,” said Darwin president Oliver Webbe, a CapU grad. “This gave us an opportunity, right next to the major transit hub on the university, to build some housing geared just towards Capilano University students and staff.”

Capilano University already rents a former boarding school on Old Dollarton Highway from Darwin for use as student residences. Webbe said the proposal fits within Capilano

University’s campus master plan completed last year.

Webbe said the company is just starting to crunch the numbers on what the rental rates would be.

“But we know they would have to be affordable for the university staff and students,” he added.

Currently, there is no outside subsidy planned for the project.

In order to limit the housing to CapU students and employees, there would have to be a covenant included as part of the rezoning process.

The property, which is immediately east of the school’s Nat and Flora Bosa Centre for Film & Animation, is zoned for parks, recreation and open space. It currently houses Northwest Kennels & Daycare and storage for industrial construction equipment. Darwin has agreed to purchase the 1.19-hectare lot, which was last assessed at \$2,675,100, subject to District of North Vancouver council’s approval of the rezoning for the apartments.

Council has made it clear they intend to slow down residential development but Webbe said he is predicting



An artist’s rendering of the proposed six-storey rental buildings on Monashee Drive in North Vancouver, just off Capilano University’s campus. IMAGE SUPPLIED

the staff and student housing project will fit within council’s vision.

“We’ve already connected with several of the council members before we made

our application,” he said. “I’m hoping this council is going to be looking to

advance this project as soon as possible.”



In a letter to the district, CapU president Paul Dangerfield urged council to support the project, as it would benefit the students and North Shore residents alike.


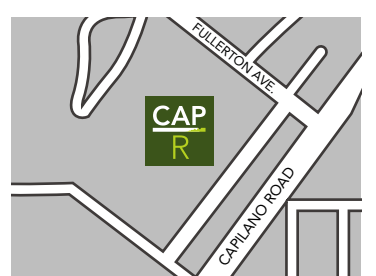
“With its immediate proximity to our main campus, the site is positioned to be an ideal location for student and employee housing,” he wrote. “As market rental housing for CapU students

See Plan page 16

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PAPER TRAIL Florene Belmore examines a winding pulp structure at CityScape Community Art Space in North Vancouver. The mollusk-like sculpture is part of *On the Same Page: Transforming Paper*. Three of the artists who created the exhibit are slated to be at the gallery from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday to offer an overview of their work. PHOTO CINDY GOODMAN



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