

Robertson would unite CO West

Dave Robertson believes the structure of the regional district is unworkable for residents of Central Okanagan West, but said if he is elected regional board director he will bring residents together and get them a little more power than they have today.

Robertson, who lives in the North Westside area, is taking another crack at Central Okanagan West after losing to Jim Edgeson in 2005. "The community was split, antagonistic towards each other," said Robertson, referring to the Fintry-Killeney Beach area.

The area had problems with the fire department, garbage and development and Robertson said the problems were not being properly addressed. "I put my name in so Mr. Edgeson would have to fight an election," said Robertson.

"One of my main priorities... (is) to pull the community up here into a cohesive community and work on governance to come up with some kind of solution so people on (WFN) lands don't feel left out," Robertson said. Living in the north end of the area for 30 years, Robertson said he has watched it grow from a few houses scattered along a narrow, winding gravel road to what it is today.

"I've always been active in the community as a positive force," said Robertson, who wants to hold town hall meetings frequently if he is elected. The North west side needs democracy and Robertson said he ran in 2005 because he was dismayed about the silent majority being allowed no voice in community affairs. "Our present director has failed in representing us adequately and fairly and in addressing the many critical issues facing us," said Robertson, who added his taxes have gone up this year with no corresponding increase in services.

"An important issue is making our community safe. That starts with fire safe," said Robertson, who wants to encourage residents to trim brush, branches, ladder fuel and flammable debris from around their homes. A means must be found for them to dispose of it either by supervised, permitted burning on site or hauling it away for a reasonable cost, Robertson said.

Other issues Robertson sees as needing attention include:

- Building a firebreak around Westshores
- Getting drinking water to the Upper Fintry and Valley of the Sun areas
- Resolving a garbage issue by building a transfer site
- Improving policing
- Pushing for more road improvements
- Getting better control over the fire department because one third of taxes go to that department

"I would require annual elections be held for all officers including the fire chief," said Robertson.

"Parks are always an issue with me," Robertson said. "I worked hard to improve and make Evelyn Park accessible to the locals and make it fire safe." Robertson said he was successful in getting improvements at the park because he can work with the people in Ministry of Forests and the Regional District. "More great things are in store for that park," said Robertson.