

CONFRONTATION EXPECTED:

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Glenlyon wants to graduate

BY BRIAN DAVIS

A confrontation appears inevitable over Glenlyon School's proposed expansion.

The private school, located along the waterfront on Beach Drive, presently attracts 230 boys in Grades 1 through 10. Monday night, Oak Bay council heard the school's plans to add the final two grades to its

educational program and to open up those senior years to both boys and girls. A further 40 students are anticipated if the expansion proposal goes ahead as presently planned.

But it won't be easy to get that approval.

By the time the architect and a couple of Glenlyon representatives had made their preliminary presentation

Monday night they had already drawn their first opponent.

Ann Molloy, a resident of Shady Lane who said she was speaking on behalf of the other two owners along her block as well as herself, claimed the proposed Glenlyon expansion into their side of Beach Drive would completely destroy the neighbourhood.

"I can't think of anybody who lives in this area who would want

this," she said. The noise, traffic and congestion is bad now, this expansion will only make it worse, she added.

"My suggestion would be to sell all the property and move somewhere else" where they would have all the land they need to build their school and playfields on one campus, Molloy contended.

The Glenlyon proposal separates the school into two campuses. Since there is no room for growth on the current site of the school (on the east
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...Glenlyon seeks senior school

(continued from front)
side of Beach Drive) the expansion is planned for the west side of Beach where Glenlyon already owns the property it would need.

This land, at the intersection of Beach Drive and Shady Lane, and extending south to San Carlos Avenue, is now being used for a small playing field, the headmaster's residence and another single family residence.

The Glenlyon proposal retains the headmaster's house, a Cape Cod-style building (at 1720 Beach), for use as a library and resource centre; seeks approval to erect a two-storey teaching building on the playing field; and calls for a two-storey auditorium and arts centre to take the place of the other home.

The auditorium building, said architect David Hambleton, would be "designed to echo the scale and quality of surrounding residential construction. The existing landscaping features, including oak trees and a high perimeter hedge would serve as an effective screen from streets and

adjoining residences. The south wall is designed as a trellis for creeping plants."

Hambleton added, "The existing playing field is the site for a new teaching building which is also designed to a residential scale with pitched roofs and dormer windows and with ample surrounding landscaping.

Concerning parking, Hambleton told council that a parking lot with access from Beach Drive is planned in hopes of avoiding "any interference with the smaller residential street traffic patterns.

Keith Walker, assistant headmaster at Glenlyon said the expan-

sion is needed for two reasons.

Being unable to complete the final two years of schooling means a Grade 10 boy must make a difficult decision during his last year at Glenlyon as to where he will go for graduation, explained Walker, adding that making such a disruptive move is quite emotional for boys at that age. If Glenlyon can provide Grades 11 and 12, he said, a student could view his high school years without fear of change and the trauma that goes along with it.

The other reason the school is seeking expansion into the senior years, he continued, if

for the parents, who have been continually asking, "Why can't you go to Grade 12?"

The school would like to begin construction and remodelling in the spring of 1984.

Council turned the proposal over to its land use committee for study, which prompted the Committee's chairman, Ald. Susan Brice to note that it will take "a lot of discussion."

Brice explained that the situation now is a school ensconced in a residential zone, but the Glenlyon proposal would significantly change that to a few homes situated in a school area. ★

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And along Beach Drive, Glenlyon School, a Grade 1-10 private school for boys, wants to expand into Grades 11 and 12 and admit girls for the final two senior years. But to do so it has to expand its premises adding a western campus across the street between San Carlos and Shady Lane. (see front page story).