2495 Arbutus
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Heritage house set for seniors

A Saanich-owned heritage house in Cadboro Bay will become a seniors activity centre, Goward House Society president Ken McNeill said Tuesday.

A preliminary draft of the society's plans for the 280-square-metre house are being studied by municipal planners and will be before council in a few weeks.

The Goward family sold the four-hectare Arbutus Road property, known as Woodlands, to Saanich in 1973 for $127,000.

Renovations are expected to cost about $150,000.

"We'll be applying for grants for the renovations," McNeill said.

The garden and lawns will be refurbished, and a wooded area will be cleared of unnatural growth and walking trails developed.

McNeill said some space in the house may be rented to local artists.

Seniors programs would be held five days a week between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Other activities will be arranged outside these hours and on weekends.

"It will be open to all Saanich residents," McNeill said.

It is planned to hire an executive director to be responsible for the program.

A plan to build 15 townhouse units for seniors and low-income families and renovate the house for use as a day-care centre, was proposed last year by the Bishop Cridge Centre for the Family.

The plan received a cool reception from Cadboro Bay residents, however, and they came up with the activity centre idea a few weeks ago.