

Maclure's last house gets wing approved

Oak Bay's land use committee has given its consent to an addition on what is believed to be the last house designed by architect Samuel Maclure.

The dwelling at 3265 Beach Dr. is not on the list of some 200 possible candidates for heritage designation recently completed for the municipal heritage advisory committee.

Committee chairman Ald. Charles Clayton said the house was being built when Maclure died in 1929. If it was his last design it may have historic significance.

Heritage designation by a municipality or the provincial government prohibits future exterior or structural alteration of a building.

The current owner of 3265 intends to add a 32.5-square-metre, one-storey family room to the south elevation.

In other business, the regulatory and community services committee urged Union of B.C. Municipalities support in canvassing the province to consider allowing refunds of the unused portion of municipal business licence fees. Legislation at present

forbids the practice.

Going to a system of six-month licensing would alleviate this problem, Ald. Neil Swainson suggested.

But building and planning director Harry Elsdon said there are already administrative problems in the collection of business licences, which would become more difficult if the exercise occurred twice a year.

Clerk Bill Cochrane said some businesses, like contractors from outside the municipality, might take advantage of such a system by claiming they would have only one job in Oak Bay for the whole year and therefore should recoup the unused part of the licence.

Amendments to the recently adopted zoning bylaw were recommended for first readings by council, with a public hearing at a later time.

The amendments are minor, except for a provision allowing for the inclusion of a garage building meeting lot coverage requirements in a principal building for one-family occupancy on smaller lots, to a maximum 36 square metres.