



Ucluelet among most livable towns in world; [Final Edition]

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When it's all over, the West Coast community of Ucluelet could very well be deemed the best.

Or, the winner could be the tiny Saskatchewan community of St. Walburg, which might be overshadowed by nearby Lloydminster but, according to an international competition, is one of the world's best places to live among communities with less than 20,000 people.

Ucluelet and St. Walburg are two of eight finalists in the International Award for Livable Communities competition, a program endorsed by the United Nations Environment Program. The other finalist from North America is Salt Lake City, Utah.

"This is advertising we couldn't afford to buy. If we get some people looking at St. Walburg as a place to live, this will be time well spent," said Gordon Hall, mayor of St. Walburg.

The award considers a town's quality of life created by the environmental practices, preservation of heritage, community sustainability and ability to plan for the future.

The town qualified due to its recreational facilities and its sound environmental and planning practices -- including an above-ground water storage system.

As well, there is art by German artist Count Berthold Von Imhoff, who lived in the town, found on a church ceiling.

Winners will be announced in Hangzhou, China, after presentations by each nominee at ceremonies taking place Nov. 9 to 13. St. Walburg will also compete for a \$20,000 bursary which helps to fund a town project.