

December 11, 2012

**City open house draws wide range interest in downtown revitalization –
First design ideas presented for St. Ann’s Block project**

Residents, site neighbours, the business community, members of the arts community, media and the general public gathered to consider design options and a new vision for the area connecting 10th Ave. to Shopper’s Row.

More than 80 people attended the St. Ann’s Block project open house at the Tidemark Theatre on Dec. 3 to learn more about downtown revitalization in Campbell River, to review design concepts for the area connecting 10th Ave. to Shoppers Row, and to share their views on initial design ideas for the area.

“Stunning; modern; more trees – less parking; more parking – fewer trees” were some of the comments most often heard and discussed at the public event. The drop-in format featured 16 information boards. Seymour Pacific Developments was also present to share the latest design concept for their new office building planned for the St Ann’s block area.

The open house attendees—a mix of residents, members of the business community, arts community members, Council, and local media—posted their views and concepts directly on the information boards. Local consultant Highland Engineering and Surveying, the contracted architectural design team DIALOG/PWL of Vancouver and the City’s project team members spoke about and gathered input on the proposed design ideas, which included creating green links, designing shared space, animating public space and enhancing pedestrian routes.

The St Ann’s Block project involves upgrading underground water, sewer and storm services and making above-ground improvements to roads, landscaping, sidewalks and public areas that connect 10th Avenue to Shoppers Row via the St. Ann’s block. The St. Ann’s Block project is bordered north and south by 10th Ave. and St. Ann’s Road, and east and west by Dubeau and Alder streets.

The upgrades are scheduled to match the timing of a major private development project in this block: the new office building being constructed by Seymour Pacific. Coordinating the timing for the two projects is expected to minimize road closures and inconvenience in the downtown core. It’s also an opportunity to match public and private needs in this block to create vibrant, safe, pedestrian-friendly elements that will enhance downtown for everyone.

Information gathered through the open house will help finalize the concept design being prepared by DIALOG/PWL, which is intended to be presented as a staff report at the Dec. 18, 2012 Council meeting.

People unable to attend the event can view photos and information boards on the City website at www.campbellriver.ca. Click the Capital Projects button on the home page and select the Downtown Revitalization link.

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