

June 25, 2009

Spirit Square Construction About to Begin

City Council has approved the award of the construction of phase one of the Campbell River Spirit Square to Ketz Pacific. The value of the contract for this first phase of the Spirit Square is \$1,306,556.

Spirit Square funding support was provided by the provincial government (\$500,000), Island Coast Economic Trust (\$250,000) and the provincial Trees for Tomorrow program (\$27,500). The remaining costs will not be paid from general taxation but from a City reserve fund.

Work on Phase 1 of the Spirit Square is scheduled to begin July 6, 2009, with completion by the end of October 2009. Phase 1 will include seating areas, green space for community events, Logger Mike and the Veterans' Memorial Cenotaph.

Coinciding with the construction start, the transit interchange will be moved to a site selected by BC Transit next to the Campbell River Community Centre, with all associated costs covered 100 per cent by provincial government funding.

"Spirit Square will be a place to celebrate our heritage and achievements, and some of the first events to take place at the new Spirit Square will include the Olympic Torch Relay on November 2 and the Remembrance Day ceremony November 11," says Mayor Charlie Cornfield. "We look forward to the completion of this new amenity for our city that will reinvigorate downtown as a vibrant place 24 hours a day, seven days a week – a strong central core to our community."

The Spirit Square is expected to help attract residential development in the downtown core, the Mayor adds. *"By revitalizing public spaces, we are supporting walkable, healthier places to live. We thank people in advance for their patience and support as the construction activities associated with these community-enhancing changes occur in the downtown area,"* he says.

The Spirit Square design was guided by a steering committee made up of representatives from the City's Community Advisory Committee, the Development Advisory Committee, the Seniors Advisory Committee, Youth Advisory Committee, Success by Six, the Heart of the City Business Improvement Association, Rivercorp, Branch 137 Royal Canadian Legion, the Campbell River Access Awareness Committee and Councillor Andy Adams.

In Campbell River's early years, the site of the Spirit Square was beachfront. The area was filled with dredged material to create Tyee Plaza (shopping centre) and the ferry terminal. This was formerly the centre of the community, with schools, the community hall, police station and fire department once in close proximity.

"This has always been the heart of Campbell River, and the Spirit Square will pump new life into downtown," the Mayor concludes.

More information will be available in the coming weeks.

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