

March 10, 2011

Sybil Andrews cottage on new foundation

The Sybil Andrews cottage was lowered onto a new foundation Wednesday, Mar. 8 – one week ahead of the restoration project schedule.

The cottage's new foundation replaces the concrete blocks, cedar rounds and a variety of other material (including rocks and driftwood) previously used to support the structure.

"The new foundation will ensure the building is properly set and will provide enough clearance to reduce the chance of wood decay related to rot," says Ross Milnthorp, the City's general manager of parks, recreation and culture.

"The crawl space beneath the new foundation will provide proper ventilation under the building while allowing for upgrading of electrical and plumbing systems, a benefit to people who will be working and meeting in the cottage," Milnthorp adds.

Next steps for the restoration work include installing drainage improvements, re-roofing the building, replacement of rotten framing and siding materials and installing a wheelchair ramp and access door. Landscaping the site will use heritage plants salvaged from the property. All restoration activities are confined to the work site and will take place during regular work hours.

"The Sybil Andrews cottage restoration will ensure that this remarkable community heritage site is around to help us celebrate our arts heritage and enrich community life for many years to come," says Mayor Charlie Cornfield.

The cottage is scheduled to be re-opened in time for Sybil Andrews Day, Apr. 19, when the Sybil Andrews Heritage Society will host a free afternoon celebration open to everyone in the community.

The Sybil Andrews Cottage is located next to Frank James Park in Willow Point and was the home of Sybil Andrews, an internationally famous artist. The Sybil Andrews Heritage Society was formed in December 2004 with a mandate to improve the appearance of the property while advocating to preserve the artist's property. Sybil Andrews' cottage restoration work is supported by \$190,000 in funding from the Heritage Legacy Fund, the Coast Sustainability Trust Fund, Heritage BC and the Sybil Andrews Heritage Society.

People can learn more about Sybil Andrews through the Sybil Andrews Heritage Society's website (www.sybilandrews.com). For project updates, check the City's website (www.campbellriver.ca), and follow the contractor's blog (will be posted at www.2hillsrenovation.com).

– 30 –

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Photos available



Quick facts

The Sybil Andrews property at 2131 South Island Highway was purchased by the City in 1995 as part of the Waterfront Acquisition Program.

In 1997 the Campbell River Arts Council moved into the cottage and continues to this day to manage it on behalf of the City.

In 2008, the Sybil Andrews Cottage and Property was the first property to be placed on the City of Campbell River Community Heritage Register, recognized as having heritage value by the community.

In 2009, a Conservation and Feasibility Plan was prepared for the property. This plan outlined the heritage values, assessed the current condition and made recommendations for the restoration of the cottage.

Funding for the project has been obtained from the Heritage Legacy Fund, the Coast Sustainability Trust, Heritage BC, the Sybil Andrews Heritage Society and the City of Campbell River.