

April 4, 2012

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**St. Ann's block demolition scheduled for next week**

Fencing will go up today around the land bordered by Alder, Dubeau and Beech streets and St. Ann's Road to prepare for the demolition of buildings in the vacant St. Ann's block in downtown Campbell River. Fencing will be installed along the St. Ann's sidewalk tomorrow. Demolition for the vacant block of buildings is scheduled to begin next week.

*"The permit to begin work was issued after the City received a formal demolition permit application for the site from Seymour Pacific,"* says Ross Blackwell, the City's land use services manager.

*"While no development application has yet been submitted to the City, anticipated new development on the site will be another positive step forward in the revitalization of the downtown core,"* Blackwell adds.

People can expect minor traffic disruption during the demolition, and every effort will be made to ensure safe movement of pedestrians and vehicles near the demolition area.

*"These buildings have sat vacant for several years and are showing serious signs of aging and neglect,"* Blackwell says. *"It's encouraging to see this tax exemption bylaw is recognized as an important economic development tool, and we hope property owners and developers will capitalize on this opportunity and further revitalize the downtown core."*

The area is subject to a downtown revitalization tax incentive that promotes and provides an economic stimulus to encourage revitalization of the City's downtown area.

The Revitalization Tax Exemption Bylaw was amended in 2011 as an incentive for property owners to invest in new projects within a key focused area of the downtown core. The long-term objective of these agreements is to create places that attract pedestrians, commercial activity and residential development – to create a great people place.

The buildings in the 100 block of St. Ann's Rd. were built starting in 1949 and have housed various businesses over the years, including a cabinet shop, restaurant, barber, book store, antique shop, florist and offices. The building at 943 Alder St. was built in 1955 for Overwaitea Foods and was used in 2004 for the Salvation Army's Light House Center.

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