

March 31, 2011

Work on New Simms Creek Pump Station Completed Ahead of Schedule, Under Budget

The City of Campbell River achieved another significant milestone on the Highway 19A Upgrade project this week with the completion of the new lift station, named the Simms Creek Pump Station. The City issued a certificate of substantial performance to contractor Ketz Pacific Construction 1993 Ltd. for the completion of the new lift station on March 29, 2011.

This contract, which involved the replacement of the sanitary lift station and the construction of the new pump station, was completed ahead of schedule. The original deadline for completion was March 31. The City received an extension on this project from provincial and federal funders allowing the completion date to be extended to October 31, and was still able to achieve the original completion goal date of March 31 for this portion of the project.

This portion of the project is projected to be completed with the final cost being approximately five per cent under the approved budget.

"This is a significant achievement and an important upgrade to our infrastructure," said Mayor Charlie Cornfield. *"Being able to manage our current sewage needs and enable further growth in our city and beyond means that Campbell River can continue to grow."*

The new pump station is fully automated and features wireless communications, emergency back-up power, odour and noise control technology, and sewage lift pumps with capacity to handle all present and future sewage flow for the growing population in the south end of the city. Commissioning and testing of the system was completed in February, with the new system coming into full operation in the second week of March.

The building that houses the lift station pumps also includes facilities for the general public such as women's and men's washrooms, water fountains, and five parking places situated in a park setting. Innovative green features of the building include a solar hot water system and drought-resistant landscaping. The washrooms will be open for public use starting this spring. They will be open from April 1 to September 30 from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., and from October 1 to March 31, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"We have essentially upgraded vital water and sewage infrastructure, while housing the pumps and pipes in a building that also serves a public function as a rest-stop for sea walkers and visitors," said Ron Neufeld, general manager of operations for the City of Campbell River. *"We're pleased to have completed this project before the original March 31st deadline, even though we had options to extend the deadline."*

This project was part of the \$13.5 million Highway 19A Upgrade project, which was made possible through two-thirds funding provided by the federal and provincial governments through the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund as part of Canada's Economic Action Plan, with the balance coming from the City's water and sewer capital reserves.

Residents are invited to visit and view the public areas of the new building. An official celebration event is being planned for the Simms Creek Pump Station and the Highway 19A project once all elements of both projects are completed in mid to late May. Interior and exterior photos of the new lift station can be viewed on the Highway 19A Upgrade pages on: www.campbellriver.ca

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