

August 12, 2013

Work on the St Ann's Downtown Revitalization Project Progresses: Crews Deal Successfully with the Challenges of Old Infrastructure and Coordinating Access with Seymour Pacific

The upgrade project in the St Ann's block of downtown Campbell River has been progressing well since construction started in July. Progress to date includes the successful laying of a new water main along St Ann's Road, tying in water services to the new main for buildings along St Ann's, and connection of hydrants on this section of the project. Storm drainage piping has been upsized and replaced over approximately 50% of St. Ann's Road and will be complete by the end of this week.

Traffic is flowing smoothly along current road detours and aside from speeding vehicles in the construction zone, traffic controllers are not noting serious traffic issues.

Campbell River Mayor Walter Jakeway is impressed with everyone's patience and adjustment to the detours and the project:

"I'm pleased with how residents and visitors are coping with the construction inconveniences. The end result will be worth the interruptions to our daily routines," he said. "I commend everyone--residents and visitors alike--for adjusting their routes. I would also like to recognize local businesses in the construction zone or who are affected by occasional loss of services, and thank them for their patience."

One of the challenges so far on the project relates to the removal of old pipes, many of which contain asbestos. Up to the 1970s it was common for water and sewer main pipe to be manufactured from a mix of asbestos and concrete so it's often encountered on water and sewer upgrade projects. (For example over 600 lineal metres of pipes containing asbestos were taken out of the ground and disposed of during the recently completed Highway 19A project without incident.)

Removing pipes with asbestos involves specific procedures including proper protective gear for entering the excavation, pipe cutting, securing it, making it safe to handle by bagging it, and moving it off site to an approved location where it can be properly disposed. It's specialized work.

The contractor, Upland Excavating of Campbell River has crew who are experts in this area with individual's having over 15 years of experience each in the handling of this type of material. Much has been removed and taken off site already for the St Ann's project. Sections of the old six inch water main running from Shoppers Row up St Ann's contained the material, as did the four inch sewer service pipe on St Ann's.

City of Campbell River Capital Works Manager Jason Hartley is satisfied with project progress and especially with precautions being taken to ensure the safety of the public and crews: "We have had two recent WorkSafe BC assessments of the project. The inspector completed a safety inspection for which we essentially got a gold star, no instruction being issued requiring any changes in how we're operating, which is a positive indicator of the contractor's procedures. We are proactively working with all the regulatory services including WorkSafe."

Another area of cooperation on site involves coordinating access to the Seymour Pacific site where the company is constructing a multi-million dollar office building. The City of Campbell River, Upland



Excavating and project representatives from Seymour meet weekly to coordinate activities for both projects in an effort to minimize any conflicts including site access. With the two projects being so close to each other, proper coordination is key to each project's success.

Up next the crews will be removing asphalt on Dubeau Street and planning ahead for the September shift of work to Alder and Beech Streets. Detour updates will be posted in local papers. The City of Campbell River thanks residents and businesses who are in the construction zone for their patience and reminds everyone that businesses in the project zone are open and accessible during construction.

For full project details visit the St Ann's Upgrade project visit the Downtown Revitalization project pages on the City's website [here](#).

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