



Concept sketch of what ICBC drive-in claims service centres will look like.

Tenders opened in first stage of auto insurance centres

The government-owned Insurance Corporation of B.C. received 13 tenders Wednesday for general contractors' services to supervise construction of 11 drive-in auto insurance claims service centres on the Lower Mainland.

Project architect Arthur Allen said the lowest tender of \$531,453 for all 11 buildings was submitted by Commonwealth Construction. The government's estimate for the project will not be released until after a contract is signed.

Work is scheduled to start Sept. 24 on the buildings which are to be open for use by March 1 when the government's monopoly car insurance plan goes into effect.

The claims service centres are to be drive-in buildings each with a number of covered bays where damaged cars will be inspected and appraised and with an office area for filing accident reports.

The buildings will be used solely for this purpose, Allen said.

Tenders are being let separately, as soon as design drawings come off the boards, in order to speed up the construction process to meet the spring deadline, he said.

Initial site work and laying of foundations will begin while several tenders have still to be let, he said. A design for steel components is expected to be completed in November at about the same time as the

project will be ready for them, he said.

Tenders also were broken down for companies to compete for work on groups of three or four buildings instead of 11. The Commonwealth bid was also lowest for all but one of these, Allen said.

Highest bid for all 11 buildings was the Foundation Co. of Canada at \$1.2 million.

The 11 new claims service centres will be located at the following intersections in Vancouver — Kootenay and Charles, Broadway and Vine, Kingsway and Windsor, and S.W. Marine and Cambie.

Elsewhere: Wayburne Drive and Moscrop, Burnaby; Dollarton Highway and Amherst, North Vancouver; No. 5 Road and Steveston Highway, Richmond; Thirteenth St. and Third Ave., New Westminster; Dahlstrom Ave. and Trethewey, Matsqui, and Blue Mountain and Tupper, Coquitlam.

The smaller Matsqui and Richmond centres are to cost about \$500,000 to build while the largest, in Burnaby or Vancouver, will hit about \$1.2 million, Allen said.

\$265,000 grant

Gov't offsets losses under mobile home tax

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Grants totalling \$265,000 will be given to municipalities to make up for losses incurred under the new Mobile Home Tax Act, Municipal Affairs Minister Jim Lorimer said Wednesday.

The grants are aimed mainly at small communities in northern B.C., which, because mobile homes make up much of the housing, would "suffer severe financial hardship as a result of these losses."

The losses have been caused by a lag in the effects of the act, which was passed in the spring session. It replaced the Mobile Park Fee Act through which municipalities gained revenues, but taxation of mobile home owners will not begin until 1974.

In the meantime "this will basically bring the income of these municipalities up to the level of last year," Lorimer said.

Stab trial set

KAMLOOPS (CP) — A preliminary hearing for John Lukin, 73, of Savona, charged with intent to wound, has been set in provincial court for Oct. 24. Lukin, released on his own recognizance with a \$5,000 surety, is charged with stabbing Donald Arthur Dandault of Savona.

No commitment on 4 Seasons site -- Phillips

Province Staff Reporter

PRINCE GEORGE — Vancouver Mayor Art Phillips and Ald. Jack Volrich said here Wednesday that Dawson Developments does not have an inside track on buying back a portion of the former Four Seasons site, should voters approve the city's purchase of

the property for \$6.4 million Oct. 24.

Vancouver city council voted Tuesday night to ask the voters to approve purchase of the two blocks north of Georgia at the entrance to Stanley Park in the Oct. 24 plebiscite. Voters then will be asked to choose between the city retaining both blocks between Chilco and Denman, or

selling the land lot between Denman and Gifford for a low-profile development, winding up with a net cost to the city of about \$2 million.

No commitment has been made to Dawson to enable it to buy back the property, Phillips said. Another reliable source said Jack Poole, president of Dawson, asked for but failed to get city officials to

give him first refusal rights during a closed meeting.

"Our options are open," Phillips said.

He and Volrich said the city could determine what type of development it wished and then invite proposals.

But Phillips said council hasn't discussed yet how it would sell the property if that course were followed.

As to Dawson's position, "it depends on how hard they campaign against the proposal (to buy the blocks)," Volrich quipped.

Poole has said he still wants to develop the site along the lines of a new proposal not yet publicly unveiled but said to consist of a relatively small-scale proposal for just over one block.

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