There are many large projects in the planning stages for the Comox Valley, Campbell River, Powell River and for the Ucluelet and Tofino areas.

The construction of the projects for these area total approximately \$640 million.

The construction of a new \$334 million Comox Valley Hospital has now been announced. The facility is expected to go to procurement this spring, with construction to begin in 2013, and completion estimated for 2017.

The new Comox Valley Hospital will be built at the intersection of Lerwick and Ryan Roads, next to North Island College in Courtenay. The project, jointly funded between the BC government and Comox-Strathcona Regional Hospital District, will have the capacity for up to 153 beds.

The provincial government has announced construction of

\$640M in building projects

a new \$266 million Campbell River and District General Hospital.

The facility is expected to go to procurement this spring, with construction to begin in 2013 with completion estimated for 2017. The current plans call for the hospital to have capacity for up to 95 beds, including mental-health and addictions beds, in three buildings including acute care, clinical support and parking at the site of the current Campbell River and District General Hospital.

Preliminary designs have been submitted to the Campbell River planning department for the new Target store at the Discovery Harbour Shopping

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Centre.

Planning staff have asked for revisions to the elevations on the east side of the building. This application is expected to be reviewed by planning staff in June. Target purchased the leasehold interest in the site, which is currently operated by Zellers Inc.

The Campbell River location is scheduled to open in spring 2013. The store will employ approximately 150 to 200 and hiring for the store team will begin in 2012.

Berwick Retirement Communities have submitted preliminary design plans for a new building to be located on a two acre piece of property located in downtown Campbell River.

The property has frontage on Roberts Reach Drive,

Discovery and 16th Avenue in Campbell River. This project is expected to be similar in scope to other Berwick buildings located in various communities in BC. This will be a multi-unit building that is expected to have approximately 100 new units for seniors.

This property has the appropriate zoning in place. Campbell River planning staff will proceed with processing the application once the provincial environmental approvals for the site profile are in place.

Vancouver Coastal Health has hired architects and the planning has started for a new complex care facility to serve the Powell River community.

The new facility could provide 102 bedrooms for complex residential care and would

Meeting Places

allow for the renovation of the Olive Devaud facility. It will be an all-wood building. It could be accessed through a new service tunnel connected to the Powell River General Hospital. The new facility will be located on the existing hospital site. The project's construction budget is estimated at \$20 million.

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The West Coast Multiplex Society (WCMS) held its annual general meeting to present a business plan and a cost analysis for the proposed new Multiplex to serve the Ucluelet and Tofino region.

The WCMS believed an initial estimated price tag of about \$18 million was expensive and has altered its strategy to implement a series of phases. The first phase will incorporate an ice surface and fitness centre for a projected \$7 million. A referendum will be held in the fall and to allow residents to vote on the project.

- Clarice Coty is the owner of Building Links & 1stView.ca. www.1stView.ca