

An application to Port Alberni City Council has been submitted to build a new Ford dealership on Beaver Creek Road and has received first reading.

This site is the former location of the Athletic Hall which burned down in May 2009. Van Isle Ford would like to purchase this land for a new state-of-the-art dealership that would take up 2.6 acres of the 10 acres left vacant.

The land is currently zoned commercial, recreational and institutional, and it would have to be rezoned to highway commercial for this project to proceed. A public meeting will be held on March 26 at 5:30 pm in the City Hall Council Chambers. Council will consider public feedback before proceeding further with the application.

Work is underway for the new 5,000 square foot Mazda dealership building in Camp-

## New Ford dealership for Alberni

bell River that will include four service bays.

Tom Dishlevoy Architecture has designed the building and Ketza Pacific Construction Ltd. has been awarded the contract as the general contractor. The dealership will be relocating to a property along the Island Highway between Park Road and Woodburn Road. This \$1.15 million project is expected to be completed in June.

Bird Construction has been awarded the contract for the addition and renovation to the Courtenay Walmart building and work is expected to start on site soon.

A building permit was issued in December, 2011 from

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the City of Courtenay, in the amount of \$8 million. Walmart is proposing to renovate the existing building and construct an addition of approximately 28,700 square feet to the southeast of the existing building to create a Walmart Supercentre, which includes a full grocery department.

The expansion will also include a second entrance and a loading bay.

Construction on the John Hart Dam Generating Station has been pushed back a year.

The BC Utilities Commission board will make a decision on the \$1.35 billion project this spring. If it's approved construction could begin in the summer of 2013. BC Hydro spent last year re-considering its options.

The project will include replacing the wood stave pipeline running from John Hart Lake to the generating station with a two-kilometre long, eight metre in diameter, tunnel. The project also calls for a brand-new generating station, built beside the current facility.

The upgrades are also designed to erase the ongoing risk and consequence to fish from BC Hydro's unplanned river flow reductions and to increase the power generation capacity from the current 126 megawatts to 138 megawatts, by using more efficient equipment. Throughout construction, which is expected to last five years, the river trail near the generating station will be inaccessible for three years and the John Hart Dam to Brewster Lake Road will be closed to traffic for three years.

To find out more about the project visit [bchydro.com/regeneration50](http://bchydro.com/regeneration50) and look under Key Projects and Initiatives.

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