Hirst Avenue West Streetscape and Utility Upgrades Project

The City of Parksville will launch the Hirst Avenue streetscape and utility upgrades project on August 1 for Hirst Avenue West, between McMillan Street and the Alberni Highway. The project consultant, McElhanney Ltd, will plan, design and oversee construction for the renewal of underground storm sewer, sanitary sewer and water utilities and upgrade the streetscape corridor to the City's current downtown standard. Construction is preliminarily anticipated to commence spring 2020.

This section of Hirst Avenue West is located in historical downtown Parksville and hosts numerous businesses and residences. The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch #49 – Mount Arrowsmith and the Rod & Gun Bar & Grill are both located on Hirst Avenue West and are historically significant buildings which encroach onto the road right-of-way. These encroachments will be accommodated in the streetscape design. The Rod & Gun building in particular, was one of the earliest buildings in Parksville; built and owned by the Hirst family.

Some of the first steps for the project will be to collect information about the existing utilities, encroachments and subsurface conditions. A geotechnical engineer will assess the existing road structure to evaluate its condition and will provide recommendations for detailed design. The project team will also assess how this section of Hirst Avenue West is being used within the transportation network by pedestrians, cyclists and drivers. Local stakeholders will be contacted and their input will help inform the streetscape design.

As this project progresses, the City's website will provide information about the project. Questions about the project should be directed to Engineering@Parksville.ca.

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