

Chronicle

Kwantlen •

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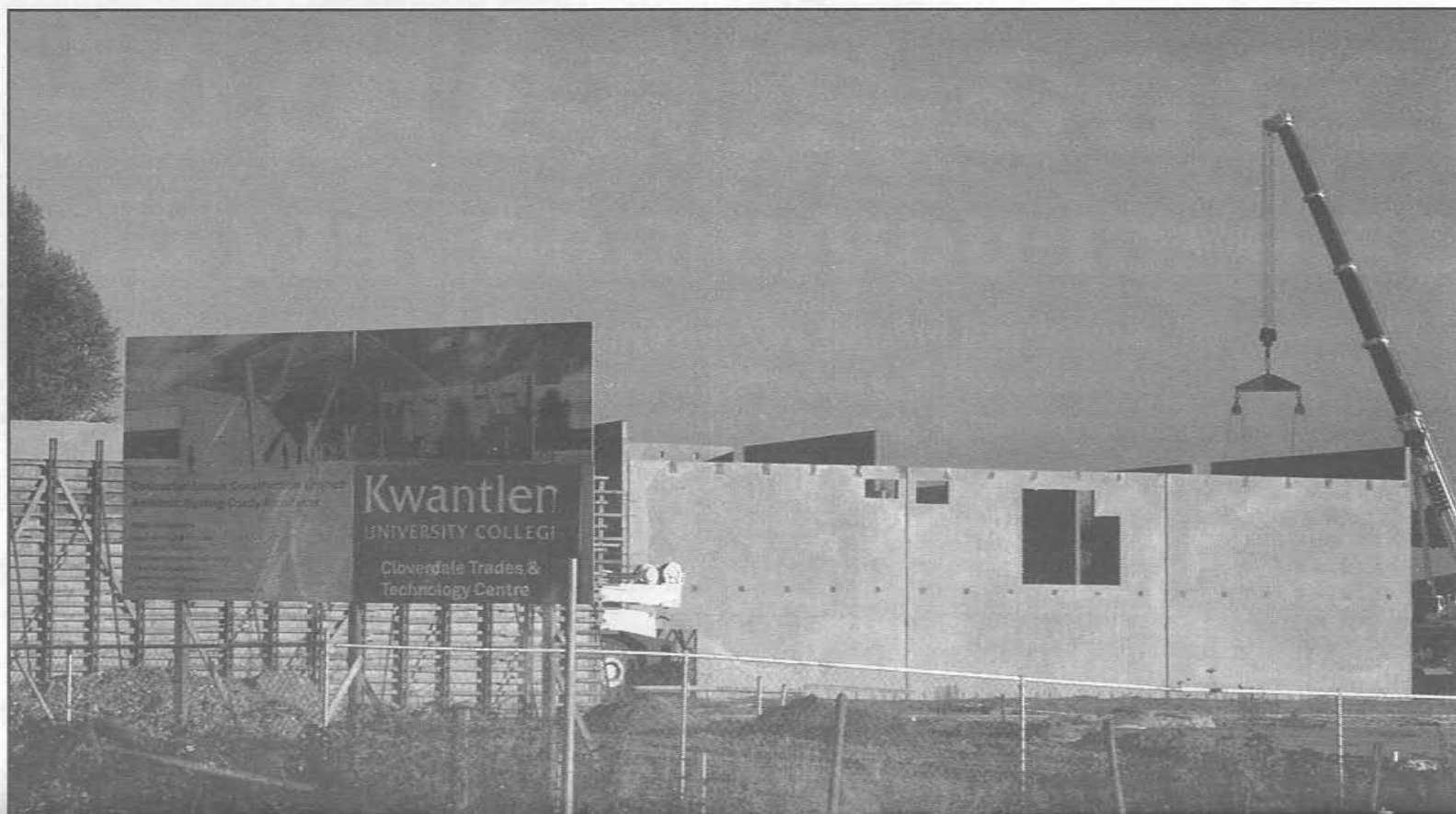
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Kwantlen's expansion plans include a trade and technology centre in Cloverdale, which is suppose to open in fall.

Kwantlen moves to White Rock

As part of Kwantlen's expansion project, a new campus is to open in January at a White Rock location offering art and business courses

By Daniel Wilson
Kwantlen Chronicle

Kwantlen University College is setting up shop in White Rock, where it will begin to offer courses in January.

The new campus will be located in the Hillcrest Mall area, which is currently being redeveloped.

"People in White Rock and South Surrey are excited to have a university in their community that will provide a convenient location for young students and mature adults to learn," said Peter Chevrier, Director of Marketing and Communications at Kwantlen. "It also provides us [with] an opportunity for Kwantlen to become more involved with those communities on research and other projects."

The campus will be home to business, arts and other university courses initially, with exact course decisions still being made.

Currently, according to Chevrier,

there are no estimates on how many students may attend the new campus.

"[The] Kwantlen satellite for White Rock... is not within the Bosa project but on the periphery," said Margaret Woods, a White Rock city councillor.

The Bosa project land is a hotly contested piece of development property.

The Bosa Properties proposed development plan is to build four high rises in the area to revitalize the declining town centre.

Many White Rock residents are fighting this proposal, not wanting huge high rises to clutter the White Rock landscape.

"Our city's Official Community Plan, put forward by the citizens, was a height of no more than 12 storeys, in the town centre," said Gordon Hammond, chair of the White Rock Ratepayers Association (WRRRA). I feel the city should maintain that height until the citi-

zens again can put through a new

[Official Community Plan] for the next five years."

The WRRRA dispute with Bosa should not affect the new Kwantlen campus, however.

"High rises would not be around the school," said Woods, "as the school is scheduled to occupy the Russell location on Dec. 1 and the first phase of the Bosa project, if it goes ahead, will not be complete for about two years."

The White Rock project is one of several large-scale Kwantlen campus developments taking place in Surrey and surrounding areas.

Kwantlen is currently constructing a new \$42-million campus in Cloverdale, which will be home to trades and technology programs and courses.

This campus is set to open next September.

While the new campuses are being developed, the Newton and Surrey campuses are being expanded.

The B.C. government is providing \$36 million for the expansion at

the two campuses.

According to Kwantlen student data, in the spring of 2005, 13,921 students were registered at Kwantlen, including online and offsite learners. The Surrey and Richmond campuses held 78 per cent of these students.

A total of 4,563 students, or 39 per cent, reside in Surrey, while there are 2,342 students, or 20 per cent of the Kwantlen population, in Richmond.

With all the rapid changes to Kwantlen, a name change is also in the works.

The 'college' part of the school name will likely be removed and the word 'regional' will be added, thus creating Kwantlen Regional University.

According to Skip Triplett, president of Kwantlen, this is being done in hopes of attracting more students and the best faculty possible.

More information on the new White Rock campus will be released in the coming weeks on the Kwantlen website.

Mixed emotions sway the 'Rock'

By Bryn Horrocks
Kwantlen Chronicle

Kwantlen University College's plans for a new campus in White Rock are causing quite a stir among residents and business owners.

The school will be part of new redevelopments of White Rock Town Centre, a massive face-lift designed to bring in more business and residential options.

Bosa Properties, the company responsible for the development plans, has accepted Kwantlen's proposal to be built into the area and promises to have classes start as early as January 2006.

"White Rock is about to become a university city," said Kwantlen president Skip Triplett. "Isn't it nice to be able to say this?"

Mayor Judy Forster echoed Triplett's opinion.

"This is very exciting for our city," Forster said. "This is a dynamic op-

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White Rock centre plans cause city controversy

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“portunity for residents of all ages, to be in a city with a university.”

However, many do not agree with the new developments in the city, saying that the new look doesn't fit White Rock's long history, and small-town image.

“The Bosa proposal would be a fine fit in any number of Lower Mainland municipalities, but it's inappropriate for White Rock,” resident Gary Vidler said. “White Rock is a jewel that begs not to be tarnished.”

Five hundred people packed into the basement of the First United Church on Oct. 23 and Oct. 24 to voice their views on the whole idea.

Eighty people stepped to the microphone, with three-quarters of them rejecting the developments.

Former city councilor David Webb related the idea to a similar 1980's pitch for a 17-storey condo, which was turned down by council.

“We have turned it down in the past, and we should continue turning it down,” he said.

Students such as Taeya Hazel, a 15-year-old from Earl Marriot, also rejected the idea.

Hazel, who wore a red t-shirt that read “Small Town not Metrotown,” addressed future problems as her reason for turning it down.

“In the future, we will be the ones that will

have to deal with all the problems this will cause,” she said.

The proposal will see four towers being built, ranging from 14-19 floors on 3.7 acres of land surrounding a plaza space.

There will be 72,000 sq. ft. of retail space, along with a 12,800-sq-ft arts centre and \$250,000 in renovations to the White Rock Playhouse.

Dale Bosa said that the development would be a “positive” for White Rock.

“We are making sure we are delivering a world-class development that everyone in White Rock can be proud of,” he said during an hour-long presentation to open the hearing.

Local merchant are supporting Bosa's plan, as are the White Rock South Surrey Chamber of Commerce and White Rock's Business Improvement Association.

Kwantlen's announcement that they will be opening a campus in White Rock is just one of the recent expansions being made.

Earlier this year, the school put in a request to drop “college” from its name, in a bid to attract more high-profile teachers and more students.

Earlier this year the province announced that it would inject \$36 million to expand the Surrey campus in Newton, while construction continues in Cloverdale with the new \$42-million Trades and Technology centre, which should be finished by September 2006.



Daniel Wilson/Kwantlen Chron

A crane lifts a wall into place at Kwantlen's Cloverdale Trades and Technology Centre on Monday, Oct. 24.