

THE RICHMOND NEWS DECEMBER 24, 1996

study on ress. project is w female espond to from day course of

from the l be kept anonyry of the be providon of the

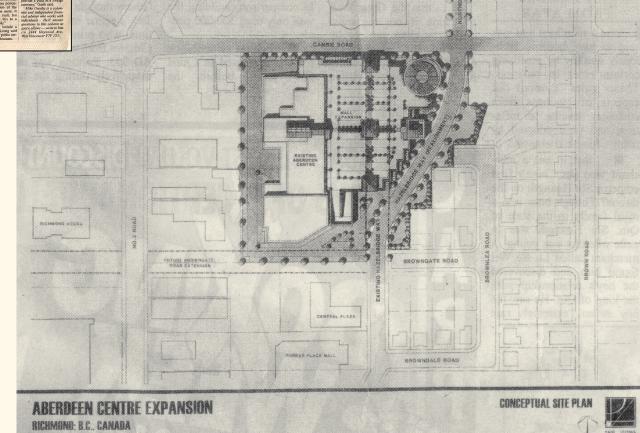
willing to tudy, or if questions, t Sidhu or 822-9199

SS S

usiness in the first of top Hand Detailing the sale hise. The ill create amond, is 5 No. 3 op offers e-though

as raised 97 Midl Lantern United Lower colorful lantern promosnopping mond in he Asiag malls upported received plaques Way on

nas With that's agenda)ay at The ed to run and will wareness n distribroughout well, the money to mated 1 ;ees in



Concept drawing of the proposed expansion of Aberdeen Centre. The project must be approved by city council before it can proceed.

Aberdeen eyes expansion

By Bob Mackin News Reporter

The centrepiece of Richmond's Asia West shopping corridor is hoping to double in size before 1999.

Aberdeen Centre's parent company, Fairchild Developments, announced last Friday plans to expand the thriving mall. Pending city council's approval, the \$60-million project will begin construction by the end of 1997 and open by early 1999.

"It's intended to be one of the major tourist attractions, not just for the City of Richmond, but on the west coast of Canada," said Patrick Wong, Fairchild's executive director. "Aberdeen Centre always wanted to be an international shopping centre with a touch of Asian flavor."

Aberdeen, which opened in 1990, has 60 retail shops and parking stalls for 400 vehicles. The expansion project will increase the amount of shops to 400 and parking spots to 1,000.

Fairchild plans to achieve this through a number of

\$60-million project will double the size of the mall

"Going underground in Richmond is comparable to loading a boat, so to speak."

— Paul Leong

potentially controversial methods. The whole project goes under the public microscope sometime in the new year when Fairchild's development proposal goes before city council.

The construction will take place in Aberdeen's parking lot and part of Hazelbridge Way. Fairchild is hoping city council will approve its proposal to reroute and curve Hazelbridge in such a fashion that it meets up with Northgate Way on the other side of Cambie Road. Architect Paul Leong said it will be the solution to the chronic traffic congestion in the area.

"To facilitate a smoother flow, or transition in this area

it was necessary to align Hazelbridge with Northgate Way to the north," said Leong, who designed Aberdeen Centre and its neighbor, Parker Place. "That's one of the key issues for the success of this plan."

Browngate Road, to the south of the Aberdeen property, may eventually be expanded for traffic between No. 3 Road and Hazelbridge.

The new parcel of land would house two levels of parking, (one underground, the other rooftop) and two levels of retail space in between. The underground parking garage would be achieved by raising the first retail level by more than two feet off the ground. The

parking wouldn't be fully underground, however. Leong said it will be 80 percent submerged.

"Going underground in Richmond is comparable to loading a boat, so to speak," he said. "One of the issues that we need is sufficient weight to load it down. It is an additional cost, but it's also going to be a key element for the overall success of the project."

The project will involve landscaping around the perimeter of the property.

Leong said the mall's design, both inside and out, will be a reaction to the big box mentality overtaking retail property throughout the Lower Mainland. In his presentation, he used phrases like "user friendly" and "pedestrian oriented."

"It'll be less sterile, (with) more identity, more personality. The direction of the mall will stay the same. It will be a retail mall, but we're looking at this as a place for everybody."

The site will include a civic plaza that Leong said could be used for public ceremonies and celebrations.

L

Garth Turner letaking for married, and made

ment.

"We in newspape just enough us eight Dorothy, gave us a ling, esprealized of dent on hoods."

The T business papers, w ally sold million d risk-takin

"The first ins which vincome t gain we said. "The bankrupt nothing learns and the said."

Garth
of nation
just before
down in
longer be
as an inv
ing demo
push price
areas. Al
do own a
it represe
cent of th

They he their investince in cent in eccent in m

"To m Bouchard many in provide a currency,"

Mike (
nist and i
cial advis
individual
questions
space allo
c/o 2444
West Vano