

September 18, 2017

BCG BEGINS RESTORATION OF HERITAGE HOME Owner of IOCO Lands Committed to Heritage Townsite

Port Moody, BC: BCG Developments announced today that it is restoring one of the remaining 11 heritage homes on the IOCO Lands townsite – the Tremaine Residence. BCG is working with heritage experts Donald Luxton and architect Jonathan Ehling to complete the restoration and bring the Tremaine Residence back to life.

The restoration is expected to take approximately one year. Once the restoration is complete, the Tremaine Residence will act as an on-site office for BCG's IOCO Lands project, as well as a community gathering space.

An initial rendering of the Tremaine Residence restoration will be on display during IOCO Ghost Town Days, September 24, 2017 from 12:00-4:00pm. Project heritage consultant Donald Luxton will be making a heritage presentation during opening festivities and will be on hand at a display booth about the Tremaine Residence to answer any questions in person.

"We're excited to begin restoration work on the Tremaine Residence," said Tony Cai, CEO of BCG Developments. "This site is truly special and BCG will continue to respect the IOCO heritage as a key component of the IOCO Lands Project."

"This represents a significant step forward in reclaiming the heritage character of this unique company townsite. The work will involve a restoration of the original exterior elements, while allowing for an adaptive re-use of the interior. As the work progresses, we will see the Tremaine Residence brought back to life," said project Heritage Consultant Donald Luxton.

"After 15 years of dedicated actions, persistence and a neglected site—in support of an amazing heritage conservation agreement between Imperial Oil Co., Ltd. and Port Moody in 2002— it is wonderful that BCG is restoring the Tremaine House as the first step in revitalizing the loco Townsite!" said Mary Anne Cooper, founder of IOCO Ghost Town Days and former member of the Port Moody Heritage Commission. "It will be a legacy for future generations!"

The IOCO Lands are located on the northern shore of the Burrard Inlet in Port Moody, British Columbia. The IOCO Townsite, which forms part of the land, was developed as a 'company town' for workers at the adjacent Imperial Oil refinery, which began operation in 1915.

BCG Developments has already made a substantial investment in the stabilization and maintenance of the 13 buildings—11 homes, a groceteria, and the community hall— on the former IOCO townsite, which was designated a Heritage Conservation Area by the City of Port Moody.



What the Tremaine Residence looks like now.



Artist rendering.

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About the IOCO Lands

BCG Developments (BCG) purchased the IOCO Lands from Imperial Oil in January 2015. The site is approximately 250 acres, with portions in the Village of Anmore and City of Port Moody, and includes waterfront, a park, walking trails, and rich forestry. The former IOCO townsite, straddles the land owned by BCG Development and Imperial Oil. BCG recognizes the IOCO Lands are unique and important to the community and region. Over the past two years, BCG has been engaging with local government, stakeholders and residents on the early stages of planning for a proposed community in Port Moody and Anmore on the IOCO Lands.

About the Heritage Townsite

The Heritage townsite was the location of a company townsite for an Imperial Oil refinery that began operation in 1915. By 1917, approximately 200 residents lived within the townsite which included a school and two grocery stores. Fifteen cottages and a large boarding house were built for accommodations. By 1924, 83 houses were built along with a community hall, a bowling green, a tennis court and two churches. Today, 13 vacant townsite buildings remain – the grocery store, the community hall, and 11 residences.

Over time, the remaining townsite buildings fell into noticeable disrepair. BCG has invested significant cost and time into restoration, maintenance, fencing, and on-going security work for all 13 buildings, based on recommendations from leading heritage consultant, Don Luxton.

About the Tremaine Residence

Built in 1921, the Tremaine Residence is additionally significant for its Craftsman bungalow form, and for its association with first owner, William A. Tremaine (1887-1974). Ontario-born, Tremaine was employed as a Purchasing Agent at the Imperial Oil refinery and later as a clerk. He was also active in IOCO's community and served as an employee representative for the IOCO Townsite Committee. This particular house features more refined Arts and Crafts details than other houses in IOCO, indicating that it was occupied by someone in a senior position with the company. The house is situated on a large lot on the east side of Second Avenue in the IOCO town site.

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