



Big plans for Cornwall Building site

By DAN BELLEROSE, THE SAULT STAR

The Cornwall Building, which began being demolished last week, hopes to be reborn within five months as a new structure.

"Weather permitting, we're hoping to have the new building up, and ready for occupancy by late November, early December," said Sam Biasucci, spokesperson for the numbered Ontario company that acquired the property about a year ago.

The new building has been confirmed as a two-storey, 10,000-square-foot office structure that will be leased to one tenant -- the Sault Community Career Centre, currently occupying space in Station Tower.

The new building will be "about half the size of the former building," said Biasucci, allowing for increased on-site parking, and have an exterior that blends in with surrounding properties.

The old building, which opened 112 years ago as a 33-room hotel, was "old, tired, and uninsurable," he said.

The provincially funded Community Career Centre has served the Sault for 18 years, the past 14 years out of Station Tower.

The agency offers assistance to employers and people seeking long-term sustainable employment, as well as settlement services for new arrivals.

Community Career Centre, with 22 employees, has entered into a five-year lease arrangement with building developers, according to executive director Karol Rains, and hopes to offer any surplus office space to yet unidentified community partners.

Seven to eight tenants were affected by the decision to rebuild and were asked to vacate the building by the end of July.

The building at the corner of Queen and Spring streets opened in July 1898, as the Hotel Cornwall, catering to hard-rock miners from southern England who worked the copper deposits at Bruce Mines, 70 kilometres east of Sault Ste. Marie, according to The Sault Star archives.

It served as the downtown general offices of Algoma Steel Corp., for more than 70 years, being acquired by the steel maker in 1917, and sold to private developers in 1990, about the time of the first of two court-supervised restructurings of the city's primary employer.