

Stream makes it official

Call centre takes its 900 jobs to Chilliwack, not PG

By JENNIFER FEINBERG

for The Free Press

Here comes the company everyone in Chilliwack has been talking about.

Stream International announced Tuesday it has selected Chilliwack as the location of its next Canadian call centre after months of consideration and an in-depth study of the area. The company started looking at Chilliwack after attempts to secure a facility fell through in Prince George.

Once fully operational in August, Stream's third Canadian centre will employ up to 900 employees.

"We are very pleased with the commitment we've received from the City of Chilliwack, CEPSCO, Human Resources Development Canada, the province of B.C. and the local Sto:lo First Nations community and from all the people who played such a critical role in helping Stream reach this decision," says R. Scott Murray, Stream president and CEO.

The U.S. based company, an outsourcing and support services provider for tech companies and e-business, recently signed a 10-year lease for the Oak West Building at 7955 Evans Road.

"We believe that Stream International will be an outstanding corporate partner for our community, providing significant economic benefits to the city and the entire region," says Chilliwack Mayor Clint Hames. "We were very impressed with Stream's commitment to training and the willingness to invest in the people of Chilliwack to create a wealth of great new career opportunities for our local residents."

Chilliwack Economic Partners Corporation (CEPCO) has a mandate to create new employment, expand the commercial tax base and create economic growth in the community, says John Jansen, CEPCO president. "The new Stream centre will achieve CEPCO's economic goals and provides a major boost to the local economy," says Mr. Jansen.

The provincial government, through the Linx BC program, provided \$500,000 to assist with training workers. Other training funding came from HRDC, B.C. Ministry of Social Development and Economic Security, as well as the Sto:lo Nation.

Roy Russell, manager of Sto:lo Nation Human Resources Development, says he is pleased with the Stream announcement.

"Our commitment of a half a million dollars supports aboriginal participation with Stream International and we look forward to being one of their many new partners," he adds.

Stream had more than 2,500 potential employees visit the local open house events held here in February, according to Mr. Murray.

"This reception and the resulting skill set that we saw was just tremendous," he says. "We appreciate the hard work put forward by the city and in particular, the mayor's office, CEPCO and its staff, to assist us in reaching our decision to become a long-term member of the business community in Chilliwack."

Industrial NOTES

Housing

Starts drop in Prince George

While the rest of British Columbia seems to be enjoying an upswing in home construction, Prince George continues to drop.

According to figures released by the Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation, Prince George in April dropped 33 per cent from the same time last year.

And the year to date, the decline in housing starts in PG is 43 per cent.

Tourism

Northwind is now running

The Whistler Northwind, B.C. Rail's new luxury train, left the station for the first time yesterday.

A fusion of railroading's golden era with modern amenities, the train is expected to boost local tourism.

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Blooming Good News



I have learned from personal experience that most mothers prefer to receive flowers for Mother's Day rather than a shovel.

There is such a large selection of flowers that you are sure to find one that you like. It can be fresh cut flowers, a single flowering plant, an indoor flowering basket, or an outdoor flowering container or hanging basket. Some Mothers are even lucky to receive a beautiful shrub or tree! Whatever you choose to give or receive with a few helpful hints you can make your flowers last longer.

If you have a fresh floral arrangement check to make sure that it has enough water as sometimes water

may spill out during transport and then check the arrangements on a daily basis for water. On a fresh wrapped bouquet (cut flowers wrapped in cellophane) recut the stems of the flowers before arranging them in your vase.

When choosing an indoor flowering basket choose one where the individual plants are left in their original containers. (These baskets are easy to identify because they have moss spread over the top of the container) This makes it much easier to water as each plant requires different watering conditions. You can also replace individual plants as they finish blooming. To promote many flowers fertilize your basket with a flowering plant food such as 12-

36-12 on a biweekly basis and water the plants when the soil becomes slightly dry. Outdoor flowering hanging baskets and containers are a wonderful gift to give or receive, as they will give pleasure throughout the summer. For the first couple of weeks, you can place your container outdoors during the day but it should be protected at night if the weather forecasts predict frost. When choosing a spot for your container you need to look at what type of flowers are most dominant in the container. Begonias, Impatiens, and Fuchsias prefer and do best in full to partial shade. Petunias, Geraniums and most mixed planters do best in full and sheltered sun. To keep your outdoor basket blooming and

healthy fertilize it on a weekly basis with 12-36-12. Check the container on a daily basis for watering and if it needs water, water in the morning. If you have a begonia basket try not to get the foliage wet. Every week go through your plants removing any dead flowers before they go to seed, and taking away any yellow or broken leaves to prevent mildew or decay.

"All that I am or hope to be I owe to my Mother" Abraham Lincoln

Happy Mother's Day and Happy Gardening! Jos

If you have any other gardening questions you can phone me at 963-7676, or 562-1711 or 964-6056

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