



TIMES & TRANSCRIPT

Riverview's Findlay Park is about to have a new tenant with the expected construction of a new, large building supplies retailer on Pinewood Road across from Riverview's new fire station.

Building supplies retailer sets up shop in Riverview

■ After three decades in Hillsborough, Downey-Castle Building Supplies relocates to Findlay Park

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Downey-Castle Building Supplies Ltd. is building a new flagship store, this one on a five-acre lot in Riverview's Findlay Business Development Park.

After three decades of selling building supplies from its Hillsborough location, the company has decided to move to Riverview, closer to many of its long-time contractor clients and to better compete for local market sales, said spokesman Stephen Downey.

Site preparation work is completed and construction work is under way. Downey said the plans call for completion of the single-storey building this year followed by stocking of products, including new lines and training of staff, over the winter months. The grand opening should be in March. He declined to say how much the project will cost, but did add the 18 staff members at the Hillsborough store will likely relocate to the new store. More employees may be needed.

As for the Hillsborough outlet, it will continue to operate with a new staff selling much the same products as a secondary retail store.

The planned construction of the east-west corridor — providing a second major access route through

town — was not the deciding factor, despite the promise of increased traffic flowing by the park, he said. The company had been considering the move for 10 years and thought the time was now right.

The corridor, which runs parallel to Coverdale Road and which will link up to the new bridge across the Petitcodiac River, is to be completed in 2006. The route has spurred considerable interest among business developers who see an opportunity, said a spokesman for the town.

The project required approval of building variances by the Greater Moncton Planning District Commission, including four entrances, one on Pinewood Road, two on Cleveland Road and the last to be used by delivery trucks on Pine Glen Road.

Downey said the new store will also offer some things not always found in building-supply stores, including landscaping materials for the do-it-yourselfer. He said the company has about 10,000 product numbers in its store and is expected to increase that number by 25 per cent at the new location.

The store will have 16,000 square feet of retail space and another 8,000 square feet of warehouse area besides the open lumber yard and large parking area. The store in Hillsborough has 5,000 square feet of retail and 8,000 square feet of warehousing.

It will mean being able to bring a lot more products out front for sale from the warehouse section, he said.

The site is adjacent to the Credit Union Central building at the corner of Pinewood Road and Pine Glen Road, and across Pinewood from the new Riverview Fire Department station. There is also a dentist's office and a convenience store in the park.