



NEWS RELEASE

Newly Renovated Centennial Building Opens in Historic Downtown Abbotsford

ABBOTSFORD – Sept 14, 2020: The new home for the Abbotsford Downtown Business Association, Tourism Abbotsford, UFV CityStudio, and Banter Ice Cream has officially opened in the renovated Centennial Building in Historic Downtown Abbotsford, announced Mayor Henry Braun today.

The new Centennial Building will be a key community gathering space and innovation hub within the growing Historic Downtown Neighbourhood. This project will allow for the further development of Abbotsford's vibrant and diverse economy, now serving as the home to some of the dynamic organizations that are shaping the City's future.

The Centennial Building features:

- 5500 square feet of space, including offices and retail space for a commercial kitchen
- Office space for Tourism Abbotsford, UFV CityStudio and Abbotsford Downtown Business Association
- Retail space for Banter Ice Cream
- An exterior deck space overlooking the park with an accessibility ramp
- Energy efficiency improvements:
 - Upgrades to building insulation, heating, ventilation and cooling systems
 - Replacement of windows and doors.

Quotes:

“On behalf of the City of Abbotsford, I would like to welcome the Abbotsford Downtown Business Association, Tourism Abbotsford, UFV CityStudio, and Banter Ice Cream to their new home at the Centennial Building. Historic Downtown Abbotsford continues to be a vibrant and dynamic neighbourhood in our community, and this new space will support community connections and growth in our City.”

Henry Braun
Mayor, City of Abbotsford

“The ADBA is extremely satisfied with the end result of the Centennial Building improvements and looks forward in collaborating with its other users, Tourism Abbotsford and UFV CityStudio. This historic downtown building is a vital component of the already improved Jubilee park that together will once again, create a central location of community projects and celebrations. Having the ice cream shop located here is just another example of how private enterprise contributes to the value of placemaking in our community.”

Jennifer McEwan
Executive Director, Abbotsford Downtown Business Association

“Tourism Abbotsford exists to serve the community and the tourism sector and our team is incredibly excited to move in to the Centennial Library Building in the very near future. With our new Handmade & Homegrown brand and sharpened focus on destination development, we want to be accessible and available to our partners on a 32315 South Fraser Way, Abbotsford BC V2T 1W7

daily basis. Collaboration, creativity and community will be more important than ever as our industry travels the road to recovery post-Covid. This building and new office space will create some great opportunities ahead.”

Craig Nichols
Executive Director, Tourism Abbotsford

“The CityStudio HUB in Centennial Building will be a great place for innovation in Experiential Learning, providing a dynamic environment to experiment, prototype and present. It will enhance students' educational journey and their career preparedness, as well as serve the betterment of our community.”

Larissa Horne
Experiential Education Coordinator, University of the Fraser Valley

“We couldn't have picked a more perfect location for Banter. We love the historical aesthetics and story behind the building - many of our customers have personal connections with the old library. We've felt an overwhelming amount of community support, and Jubilee park has never been busier. We have loved seeing the park come to life - from family potlucks, kids playdates and pickleball tournaments. We are thrilled that the City of Abbotsford has invested so much into this little corner of town.”

Laura & Zach Janz
Owners, Banter Ice Cream

Background:

The Centennial Library building was constructed in 1967 as a community project for the celebration of Canada's Confederation. After more than 40 years in service, the building was closed in 2012.

In 2018 the City initiated a renovation program to create the gathering space and innovation hub, and at the same time make significant improvements to accessibility and energy efficiency of the building. The total cost of the renovations was \$1.3 million; with partial project funding of \$500,000 from Federal Gas Tax Funds.

Associated Links:

About the Centennial Building:

https://www.abbotsford.ca/city_services/seasonal_construction_projects/centennial_library_building.htm

Opening Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r3zj5zhewuQ>

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