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BHP Billiton responds to rumours of layoffs at Jansen

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Rumours circulating about the BHP Billiton Jansen mine project shutting down have been greatly exaggerated.

Last week, rumours were flying around Humboldt that workers at the Jansen mine were being laid off and the project might fold. According to Bronwyn Wilkinson, a communications

representative with BHP Billiton, the rumours are not true. "Work at the Jansen Project is progressing," said Wilkinson.

"Certain elements of the scope of work for surface construction site preparation have been completed and the number of contractors on site has been reduced as part of that process."

She explained a lot of the

surface work has been completed and they no longer need some of the contractors on site. Since the surface work is completed, they will now be moving to more underground work.

"We expect another 100 people to arrive on site in the coming months as other activities ramp up," said Wilkinson. "We have progressed work on the surface site enough to stabi-

lize it for surface construction and our focus for the rest of this financial year has shifted to the excavation of the two shafts and completing the engineering for a four (million tonnes per annum) first phase."

Wilkinson explained many people may have noticed the steady number of trucks headed to the site has decreased and said that may be why many thought the project was slow-

ing down. "It is just the natural ebb and flow of the project," Wilkinson said.

Work continued this month with the installation of one of the specialized boring machines into a service shaft and continued on the modules for the first 500 beds at the Discovery Lodge construction camp, which the company expects to fill in the upcoming months.

Quill Centre adding more to west side development

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It will be an eye-catching piece of the development. The Quill Centre, a commercial development on the west side of Humboldt, is continuing to add to its tenants.

The development, currently home to Canadian Tire, will be installing a main pylon this week, explained Martin Blair, president of the West Humboldt Properties Limited, the company developing the Quill Centre.

The pylon will have a time and temperature display at the top, while the rest of the display will be available for businesses in the Quill Centre to display messages.

Installation of the pylon started on November 20, but Dave Wasko of Pattinson Signs said most of the installation will occur on November 21-23.

"We will have a semi on site Thursday morning to deliver the pylon," said Wasko. "Most of the work will be finished on Thursday and anything that is not complete will be done on Friday."

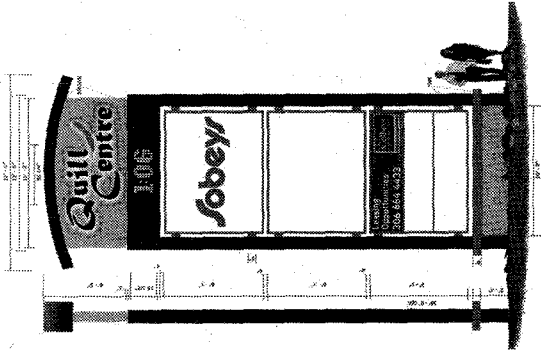
Blair is excited to see this step in the process. "I feel this is an important and newsworthy addition to Humboldt because of the community service provided by the time and temperature display at the top of the pylon," said Blair.

Along with the main pylon installation, they will also be switching out other pylons on site.

Other changes are also coming. Within the next month, both Sobey's and the new Humboldt Vision Centre location will be opening their doors.

"We have a couple of grand openings taking place in the coming weeks," said Blair. "On December 3, the Humboldt Vision Centre will be opening and on December 7 the Sobey's will be staging their grand opening event."

At right: The artist's rendering shows the main pylon, which is scheduled to be installed at the Quill Centre, located on the west side of Humboldt, on November 21-23.



artist rendering courtesy of Martin Blair