

New franchise coming to Swift

A major Canadian franchise is perhaps just months away from doubling its presence in the city of Swift Current.

During a presentation on assessment exemption for the new business at Tuesday's council meeting, Director of Business Development Marty Salberg revealed the company that owns Tim Hortons could be breaking ground downtown as early as September.

The TDL Group purchased property in the city on the corner of Chaplin Street and 1st Avenue Northwest several months ago, have just completed soil testing in the area. Construction is scheduled for this fall with possible completion in late 2004 or early 2005 pending the results of the soil tests.

The company has indicated the downtown Tim Hortons' location will be smaller than the full-sized restaurant already located on the highway, but will likely still have a drive-thru. TDL Group estimates its new business venture will create between 30 and 40 new jobs.

"With respect to the downtown area, it shows once again that there's more and more interest in locating businesses in the downtown core," said Salberg. "With the Tim Hortons it will also provide a service to people who do business downtown as well as those who shop downtown. We do believe it will increase the traffic which will be a benefit to everybody."

The building, like all new and expanding businesses in Swift Current, will be exempt from taxation 100 per cent in the first two years, 50 per cent in the third, 25 in the fourth with full taxation in year five. Taxes on the land will not be exempt.

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