

Work begins at new Credit Union site

It's a case of down with the old and up with the new for the Southwest Credit Union in downtown Swift Current.

Preparations have begun for the construction of Southwest Credit Union's new building on 1st Ave. N.E. Demolition of the former First Ave. Flowers and Gifts and the former City Hall site began this past week.

In order to preserve some of the history associated with the old City Hall building, bricks and entrance archways from that building will be saved and integrated into the new construction.

Once the site is prepared crews will switch their focus to construction of a new three-story branch, which will house approximately 110 employees. The building will be classed as an environmentally friendly "Green" building.

Southwest Credit Union will be consolidating all of its Swift Current operations in the building, which is expected

to be complete in the spring of 2005.

"This building is part of a strategy that will see Southwest Credit Union better positioning itself for the future. We expect to see operating efficiencies of between \$650,000 and \$800,000 each year," President of the Credit Union Board of Directors, Gordon Lightfoot said. "We know that closing the Wheatland Mall and Southside branches will be significant change for some of our members, and we plan on working with those members to ensure that they can continue to access their Credit Union in a convenient manner."

"We are excited about this new building. We are doing this in the long-term best interests of our members and our goal is to be there for them and our communities for years to come," Lightfoot said.

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