

Work underway on new mosque

Written by Citizen staff
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Dr. Firas Mansour, left, and Dr. Mostafa Mohamed look over the building site of the new Islamic Cultural and Educational Centre in Prince George, while Sharifa Mohamed and Alima Karido look at a promotional brochure. The centre will be located at Fifth Avenue and Foothills Boulevard in Prince George. (Citizen photo by David Mah)

Beginning with a celebration by Prince George's Muslim community, work has begun on construction of a new mosque at the corner of Foothills Boulevard and Fifth Avenue.

"Everybody's feeling excited about it. It's a good thing, not just for the Muslim community, but the Prince George community at large," said Mostafa Mohamed, president of the Prince George chapter of the B.C. Muslim Association and a physics professor at UNBC.

The celebration, held Sunday, drew most of the city's congregation of about 200 families and some out-of-town guests. An even bigger one is planned for when the project is completed in about a year's time.

The first phase, which will cost \$1.2 million and cover about 650 square metres (7,000 square feet), will hold a main prayer hall and a multi-purpose hall for holding conventions, youth and sport activities and other gatherings.

Future phases call for classrooms, a day care and a library.

About \$400,000 has been raised for the project so far, and once the foundation is in place, Mohamed hopes the ball will start rolling.

"We are hoping to collect another \$800,000 to \$1 million," he said.

City council approved a rezoning application for the project in April 2004 and a building permit was taken out this month