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Sites chosen for port expansion at Roberts Bank

Third berth for Deltaport expected by 2008;
Terminal 2 to be operational by 2012

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After months of study, the Vancouver Port Authority has chosen the spot for the Deltaport expansion and the construction of Terminal 2 at Roberts Bank.

"We were looking at several different options. We've now taken feedback from the community, looked at operational issues, early results from the environmental findings and have chosen the sites," said Patrick McLaughlin, the authority's director of container development.

The U-shaped design, which will add a third berth to the Deltaport container terminal, is positioned in front of the current footprint of the terminal on the south side. The location was also chosen to mitigate impacts on the natural marine environment.

"We've been able to define the full extent of the Deltaport expansion

and that's why we're holding a public open house," McLaughlin said.

The VPA hosted an open house in South Delta yesterday and will hold a second open house at the North Delta Recreation Centre today.

"We want to tell the community what the next steps will be in the environmental process."

The port authority believes it will have its environmental assessment application into government by November. At that time, the public will also be invited to make comment while the federal environmental assessment is ongoing.

Construction on the 20-hectare (49-acre) expansion is expected to begin in 2005. It will take more than two years to construct, with an opening date expected in 2008.

The port authority has also

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Playin' the blues



Councillor blasts Ottawa for limited help to acquire bog