



MEDIA RELEASE

Demolitions Begin in Welland Next Month

For Immediate Release – January 30, 2008 – 4:30 p.m.

Welland – The City of Welland issued two demolition permits this week.

Demolition of the UCAR tower building is expected to begin early this February. The building located at 65 Canal Bank Street is about 19,100 square feet in size and was acquired by UCAR in 1917 – ten years after the plant first opened its doors as National Carbon Company.

An announcement by UCAR in late September 1998 that the company would be closing its doors caused reactions of shock and disbelief among employees, the community, and City Council of the day. On June 29, 1999, UCAR closed its doors for good putting about 280 people out of work. The reasoning behind the closure of the plant by UCAR's parent company was that the Welland plant was a "higher-cost operation", an Asian monetary crisis was being experienced at the time, and a slump in steel sales in general were factors considered when deciding which of their plants to close.

UCAR has contracted Quantum Environmental/Murray Demolition to demolish the building. Demolition is expected to wrap up by the end of April 2008.

The second demolition permit the City issued this week was to Empire Industries Ltd., the parent company of Ward Industrial Equipment Ltd ("Ward"). Ward began its industrial, structural steel fabrication business in 1966 and operates out of a 35,000 square foot shop in Welland.

A 4,300 square foot building on their site at 123 Victoria Street is in bad shape and the company is demolishing the building to make way for future development on the site. Ward is taking down the building and will ensure the removal and disposal of debris created as a result of the demolition.

Demolition on the Ward site is expected to commence early next month with a projected completion date sometime in March 2008.

For further information on either demolition project, please contact Planning and Development Services at City Hall.

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For further information contact:

Planning and Development Services
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