

# Report to **Development Permit Panel**

To:

**Development Permit Panel** 

Date:

May 21, 2008

From:

Brian J. Jackson, MCIP

File:

DP 07-399254

**Director of Development** 

Re:

Application by The Great Canadian Casino Corporation for a Development

Permit at 8811 River Road

#### Staff Recommendation

That a Development Permit be issued which would permit the construction of a small addition of approximately 3,511 m<sup>2</sup> (37,798 ft<sup>2</sup>) on the north side of the existing casino resort located at 8811 River Road on a site zoned Comprehensive Development District (CD/87).

Brian J. Jackson, MCIP Director of Development

BJJ:ca Att.

#### **Staff Report**

#### Origin

The Great Canadian Casino Corporation has applied to the City of Richmond for permission to develop a small addition of approximately 3511 m<sup>2</sup> (37,798 ft<sup>2</sup>) on the north side of the existing casino resort located at 8811 River Road on a site zoned Comprehensive Development District (CD/87).

The existing zoning can accommodate the proposed addition. No rezoning is required.

The applicant is required to have a Engineering utility capacity analysis completed prior to future Building Permit issuance. A Servicing Agreement will be required prior to future Building Permit issuance to address any services upgrades identified in the analysis.

## **Development Information**

Please refer to attached Development Application Data Sheet (Attachment 1) for a comparison of the proposed development data with the relevant Bylaw requirements.

#### Background

Development surrounding the subject site is as follows:

To the north, a conference centre, marina and the North Arm of the Fraser River zoned Marina District 2 (MA2);

To the east, light industry, zoned Light Industrial District (I2);

To the south, River Road and the Bridgeport Canada Line Station parkade currently under construction and River Rock Resort hotel expansion zoned Comprehensive Development District (CD/87); and

To the west, the west parkade for the Great Canadian Casino resort, zoned Automobile-Oriented Commercial District (C6).

#### Staff Comments

The proposed scheme attached to this report has satisfactorily addressed the significant urban design issues and other staff comments identified as part of the review of the subject Development Permit application. In addition, it complies with the intent of the applicable sections of the Official Community Plan and is generally in compliance with the Bridgeport Area Plan Bylaw 7100 Schedule 2.12 and the proposed City Centre Area Plan concept approved in principle by Council on February 12, 2007.

#### **Advisory Design Panel Comments**

The Director of Development reviewed the proposed design and determined that referral to the Advisory Design Panel was not required given that the proposed addition is relatively small in scale and the design is in keeping with the established architectural vocabulary of the building.

## **Analysis**

#### Conditions of Adjacency

- The casino resort is at the edge of the North Arm of the Fraser River. The proposed courtyard enclosure provides a northern façade to the existing courtyard, which is currently surrounded on three (3) sides.
- Design development has taken place to ensure an appropriate interface with the public waterfront walkway along the north side of the building by incorporating a visually distinctive entrance pavilion and additional exits to facilitate pedestrian movement through the building to the waterfront walkway. The general public can access the waterfront from the Canada Line station via Great Canadian Way and the Sexsmith Road extension from the south, and along the water front (dyke) in a east-west direction.
- Preliminary plans showing internal layout have been reviewed to ensure that appropriate interface with existing functions and circulation is achieved.

#### Urban Design and Site Planning

- The proposed addition improves the circulation and operation of the casino resort by providing logical linkages at the sky bridge level to the new proposed Canada Line Bridgeport Station, parkade and hotel addition.
- The proposed addition is adjacent to the public waterfront walkway which provides both opportunities and challenges. The height of the proposed stone wall has been kept as low as possible and, where possible and practical, glazing has been incorporated along the proposed addition. The upper portion of the proposed addition is glazed along the entire northern façade.
- Generally, the urban design preference is to have as much transparency as possible to establish a seamless indoor/outdoor transition. However, given the nature and regulatory requirements for a casino operation, incorporation of significant amount of glazing along the lower portion of the north wall at the pedestrian level is not possible or practical. Instead, the applicant has proposed a landscaped edge with planting of a combination of conifers and deciduous trees, shrubs and ground cover to mask the proposed stone wall and to provide a green edge to this portion of the building.
- Garbage and recycling will continue to be stored in the existing location and picked-up by the existing commercial operator. No changes are proposed.

#### Architectural Form and Character

- The architectural expression of the proposed addition is in keeping with the existing design of the development. It employs similar finishing material, glazing and colour scheme to the existing development to provide continuity.
- The flat roof of the proposed landscaped atrium will be fully glazed with skylights to maximize sun penetration for the proposed planting and to maintain as much of the outdoor feel in the enclosed atrium space. The gable roof of the main addition will be finished with pre-finished standing seam sheet metal roofing to match the existing roof finishes.
- The applicant has considered the incorporation of a green roof to the proposed addition, but was unable to do so. There are only a few small flat roof areas adjacent to the proposed addition and these are either already taken up by a roof top mechanical unit or not designed for the extra weight to support a green roof. However, the developer expressed a willingness to incorporate a green roof into the next phase of the casino resort expansion.

## Landscape Design and Open Space Design

- The proposed addition is to enclose an existing courtyard. Six (6) of the existing 13 Trees in the courtyard will be relocated on the site in accordance with the proposed landscaping plan. The remaining seven (7) trees have been assessed and deemed not in a worthy condition for relocation. A total of five (5) new (11 total) trees will be incorporated into the landscaping along with other planting and landscape material.
- In addition, the developer has indicated their intention to incorporate a large landscaped courtyard to the north of the existing casino resort in the future as part of the next phase of expansion.
- The overall existing site landscaping and the design in the vicinity of the proposed addition provides an attractive amenity along the river's edge.

#### Amenity Contribution

• The developer has voluntarily proposed to contribute \$100,000 towards public amenities allocated between the public art and the Child Care Statutory Fund to be secured by a Letter of Credit. The developer is working with the City's Public Art Planner to develop a Public Art Plan to incorporate public art on the site. After the final cost of the public art is deducted from the \$100,000 voluntary amenity contribution proposed by the developer. The remainder of the voluntary contribution will be allocated to childcare.

#### Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

- The new addition is contiguous and well connected to existing areas within the building. As such, there are ample opportunities for casual surveillance to ensure safety and security for the users.
- In addition, the Great Canadian Gaming Corporation provides 24-hour security for the development. Detail of the security measures are described in a letter dated April 15, 2008 from G. J. (Greg) Pattison, Director, Corporate Security of Great Canadian Gaming Corporation (Attachment 2).

#### **Transportation**

- The developer has submitted a transportation study dated April 2, 2008, to the satisfaction of the Director of Transportation, illustrating that the existing loading arrangement is sufficient to service the development. No addition loading area is required.
- The existing parking provisions exceeds the Parking Bylaw requirements. No new parking is being proposed as part of this submission.
- The developer contributed \$12,000 to upgrade the Great Canadian Way/River Road intersection to an accessible signal as part of this proposed expansion to the resort.

#### **Engineering Works**

As identified above, the applicant is required to have a Engineering utility capacity analysis
completed prior to future Building Permit issuance. A Servicing Agreement will be required
prior to future Building Permit issuance to address any services upgrades identified in the
analysis.

#### Conclusions

Staff recommend approval of the proposed addition as it is in keeping with the existing architecture of the building and would help to enhance the interior layout and operational needs of the existing casino resort.

Cecilia Achiam, MCIP, BCSLA

Senior Coordinator, Major Projects & Development Applications

CA:rg

Attachment 1: Development Data Sheet

Attachment 2: Letter from Great Canadian Gaming Corporation describing on-site security dated

April 15, 2008.

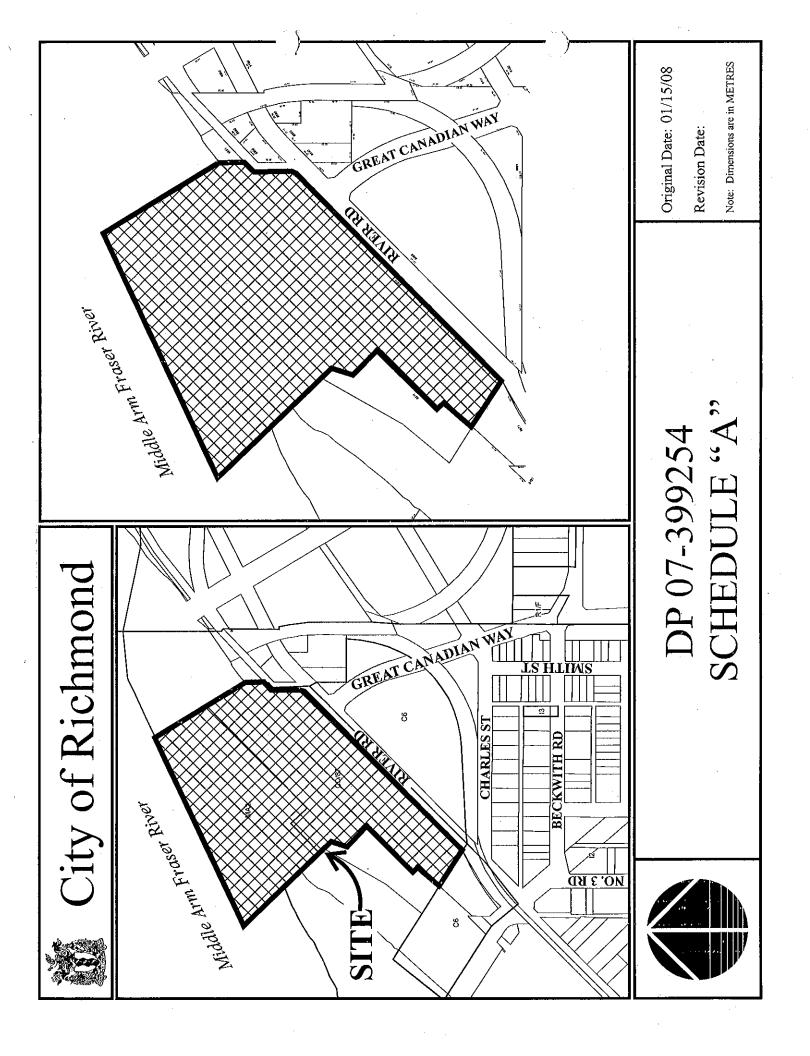
The following are to be met prior to forwarding this application to Council for approval:

• Receipt of a Letter-of-Credit in the amount of \$100,000 to be distributed between public art and child care;

- Receipt of a Letter-of-Credit for landscaping in the amount of \$38,000 (based on total floor area of 1,7588 sf).
- Receipt of \$12,000 towards the upgrade of Great Canadian Way/River Road intersection to an accessible signal.

Prior to future Building Permit issuance, the developer is required to complete the following:

- An Engineering utility capacity analysis completed to the satisfaction of the City's Engineering Planning Division.
- A separate Servicing Agreement for the design and construction of any services upgrades identified in the required Engineering utility capacity analysis.
- The applicant is required to obtain a Building Permit for any construction hoarding associated with the proposed development. If construction hoarding is required to temporarily occupy a street, or any part thereof, or occupy the air space above a street or any part thereof, additional City approvals and associated fees may be required as part of the Building Permit. For further information on the Building Permit, please contact Building Approvals Division at 604-276-4285.
- Submission of a construction traffic and parking management plan to the satisfaction of the City's Transportation Division (<a href="http://www.richmond.ca/services/ttp/special.htm">http://www.richmond.ca/services/ttp/special.htm</a>).





# Development Application Data Sheet

**Development Applications Division** 

DP 07-399254

Attachment 1

Address:

8811 River Road

Great Canadian Casino Corp.

Owner: Great Canadian Casino Corp,

Applicant:

Provincial Crown and Fraser Port Authorities

Planning Area(s):

2.12 Bridgeport

Floor Area

Gross: 3784.28 m<sup>2</sup>

Net: 3784.28 m<sup>2</sup>

	Existing	Proposed	
Site Area	36896.3 m <sup>2</sup>	36896.3 m <sup>2</sup>	
Land Uses	Casino/hotel	Casino/hotel	
OCP Designation	Mixed-use	Mixed-use	
Zoning:	CD/87	CD/87	
Number of Units	N/A	N/A	

	<b>Bylaw Requirement</b>	Proposed	Variance
Floor Area Ratio:	Hotel 1.5 / Other uses 0.5	Hotel 0.765 / Other uses 0.482	none permitted
Lot Coverage:	Max. 50%	39.2%	Complies
Setback – River Road:	Min. 6 m	N/A	Complies
Setback – Side Yard:	Min. 0 m	N/A	Complies
Setback – Side Yard:	Min. 0 m	N/A	Complies
Setback – Rear Yard:	Min. 0 m	N/A	Complies
Height (m):	Max. 45 m	22.95 m	Complies
Lot Size:	N/A	36896.3 m <sup>2</sup>	Not Applicable
Off-street Parking Spaces – Resident/Commercial:	125 and 2169	125 and 2565	Complies
Off-street Parking Spaces – Accessible:	40	75	Complies
Off-street Parking Spaces – Total:	2294	2690	Complies
Indoor Amenity Space:	N/A	N/A	Not Applicable
Outdoor Amenity Space:	N/A	N/A	Not Applicable



# GREAT CANADIAN GAMING CORPORATION.

April 15, 2008

City of Richmond Major Projects & Development Applications 6911 No. 3 Road Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1

Attention: Cecilia Achiam

## Re: River Rock Casino Resort Expansion Program

I am writing to you at the request of Douglas Stimson, Project Manager, Planning and Development, Great Canadian Gaming Corporation. I am advised that you have requested an overview of the Security program at the River Rock Casino Resort in furtherance of Great Canadian's development application.

Resort security is delivered by a 24-hour in-house Security Department that is responsible for security of all areas of the property including the hotel, theatre, parkade and marina. A contract security company provides additional security for exterior areas such as the boardwalk and parkade. Surveillance services are differentiated according to gaming versus non-gaming areas of the resort. Gaming space is covered by the Casino Surveillance department. Non-gaming areas such as the hotel, theatre and exterior portions of the property are covered by the Security Monitoring department.

## Security Monitoring & Surveillance:

- Surveillance activities use digital recording technology capable of capturing high quality imagery.
- Great Canadian security protocols ensure high resolution surveillance imagery and the maintenance of a chain of custody to a criminal court evidentiary standard.
- The retention period for surveillance imagery meets or exceeds casino and hotel standards and is available to police upon request.

#### Enforcement:

- The Security department strictly enforces British Columbia Lottery Corporation Casino security procedures for gaming areas and, Great Canadian security procedures for nongaming areas of the resort.
- Department enforcement responsibilities include British Columbia Liquor Branch *Terms and Conditions of Licensing* and maintenance of a zero tolerance for public consumption of liquor outside of the licensed areas.
- Vagrancy, loitering and abandoned minors is not permitted on the property.

Cecilia Achiam City of Richmond April 15, 2008 Page 2

#### Training:

- Security personnel are BC Justice Institute trained by a combination of a previous inhouse Great Canadian security training program or a recently introduced Provincial government training standard for private security departments, also under the BCJI.
- Great Canadian staff receives mandatory training including but not limited to emergency management procedures such as fire evacuation and anti-robbery procedures, and BC Liquor Branch Serving It Right Responsible Liquor Service.
- Operations staff at point-of-sale locations receive additional security related training in anti-fraud procedures involving counterfeit credit cards and identify theft.

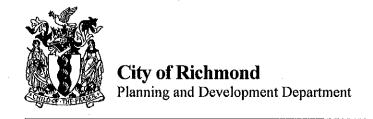
I trust you will find the foregoing summary of the Resort's Security Department operations meet your requirements. Please contact me direct if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

GREAT CANADIAN GAMING CORPORATION

G. (Greg) Pattison

Director, Corporate Security



# **Development Permit**

No. DP 07-399254

To the Holder:

THE GREAT CANADIAN CASINO CORPORATION

**Property Address:** 

8811 RIVER ROAD

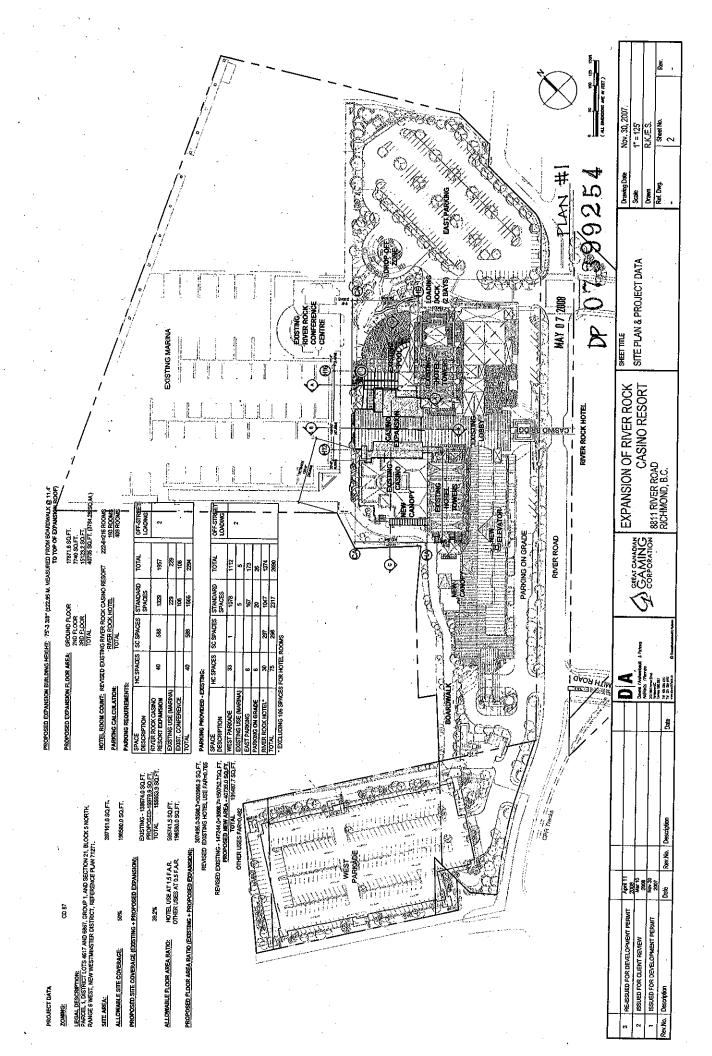
Address:

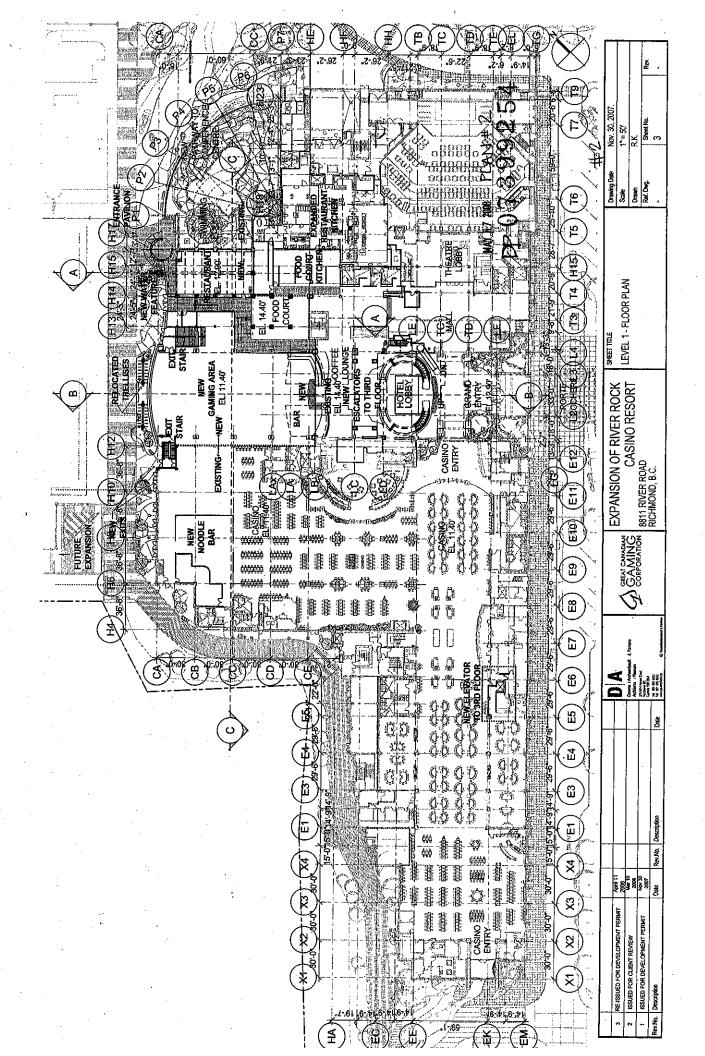
C/O 200-1014 HOMER STREET, VANCOUVER, BC V6B 2W9

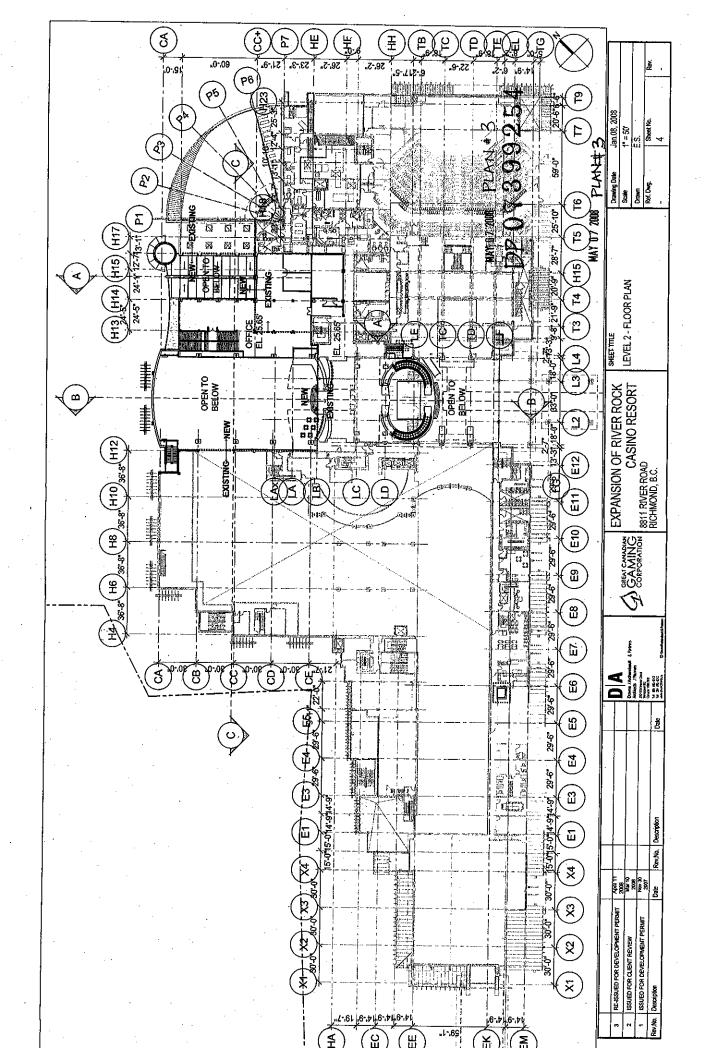
- 1. This Development Permit is issued subject to compliance with all of the Bylaws of the City applicable thereto, except as specifically varied or supplemented by this Permit.
- 2. This Development Permit applies to and only to those lands shown cross-hatched on the attached Schedule "A" and any and all buildings, structures and other development thereon.
- 3. Subject to Section 692 of the Local Government Act, R.S.B.C.: buildings and structures; off-street parking and loading facilities; roads and parking areas; and landscaping and screening shall be constructed generally in accordance with Plans #1 to #15 attached hereto.
- 4. Sanitary sewers, water, drainage, highways, street lighting, underground wiring, and sidewalks, shall be provided as required.
- 5. As a condition of the issuance of this Permit, the City is holding the security in the amount of \$38,000. to ensure that development is carried out in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Permit. Should any interest be earned upon the security, it shall accrue to the Holder if the security is returned. The condition of the posting of the security is that should the Holder fail to carry out the development hereby authorized, according to the terms and conditions of this Permit within the time provided, the City may use the security to carry out the work by its servants, agents or contractors, and any surplus shall be paid over to the Holder. Should the Holder carry out the development permitted by this permit within the time set out herein, the security shall be returned to the Holder. The City may retain the security for up to one year after inspection of the completed landscaping in order to ensure that plant material has survived.
- 6. If the Holder does not commence the construction permitted by this Permit within 24 months of the date of this Permit, this Permit shall lapse and the security shall be returned in full.

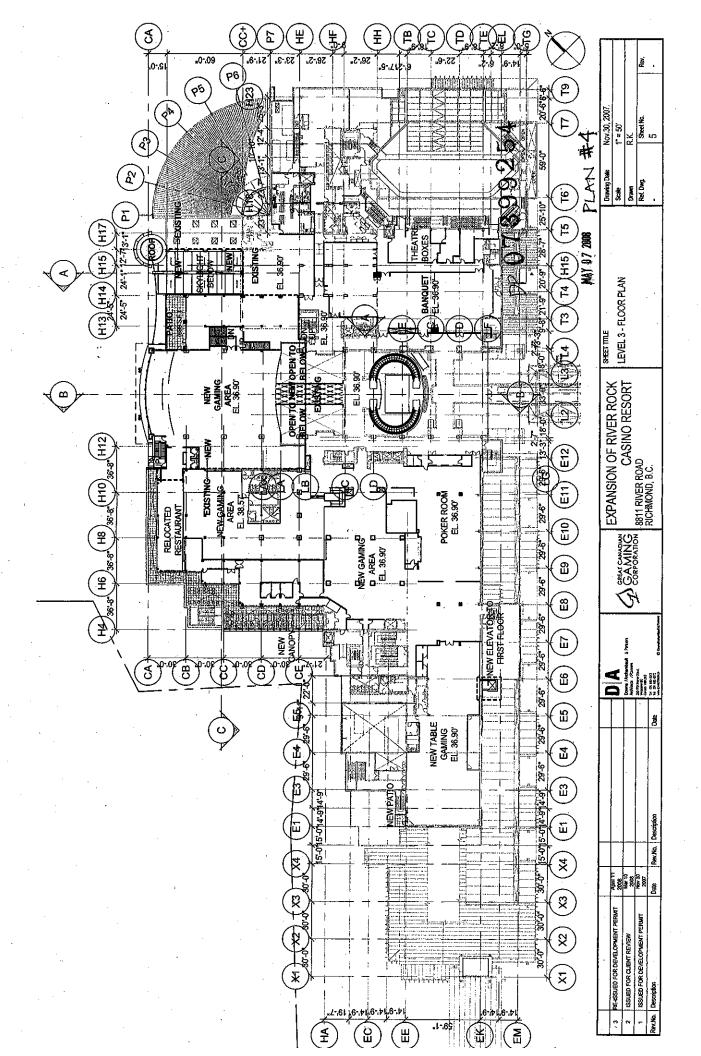
# **Development Permit**

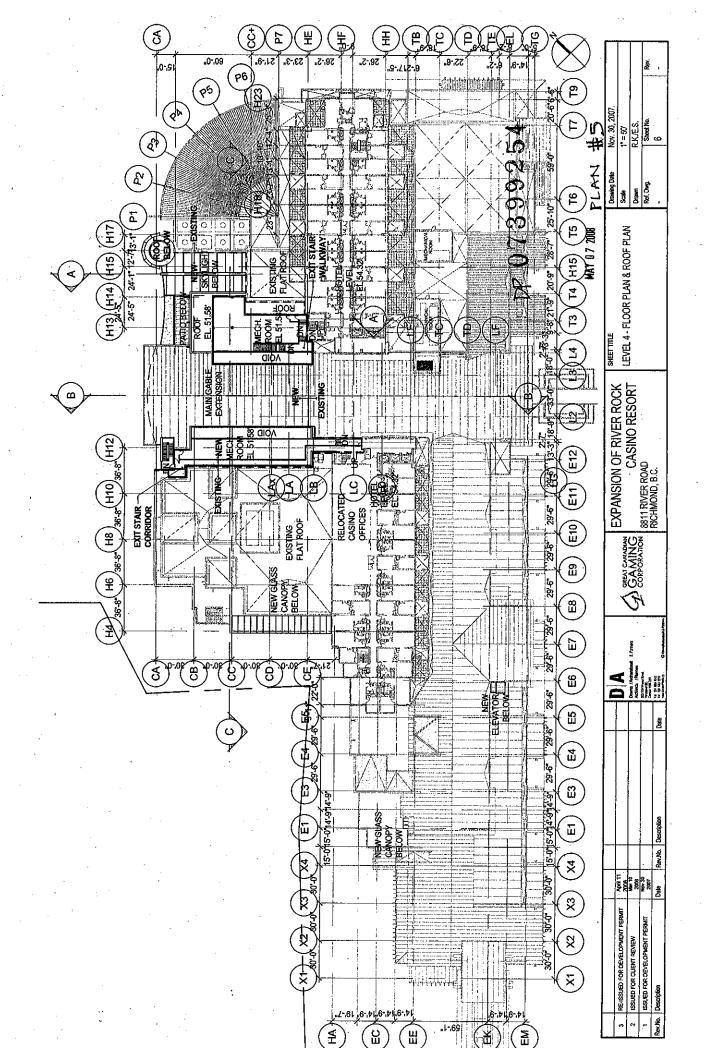
	No. DP	07-399254		
To the Holder:	THE GREAT CANADIAN CASINO CORPORATION			
Property Address:	8811 RIVER ROAD			
Address:	C/O 200-1014 HOMER STREET, VANCOUVER, BC V	′6B 2W9		
7. The land described herein shall be developed generally in accordance with the terms and conditions and provisions of this Permit and any plans and specifications attached to this Permit which shall form a part hereof. This Permit is not a Building Permit.				
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DELIVERED THIS D	DAY OF ,			
MAYOR				

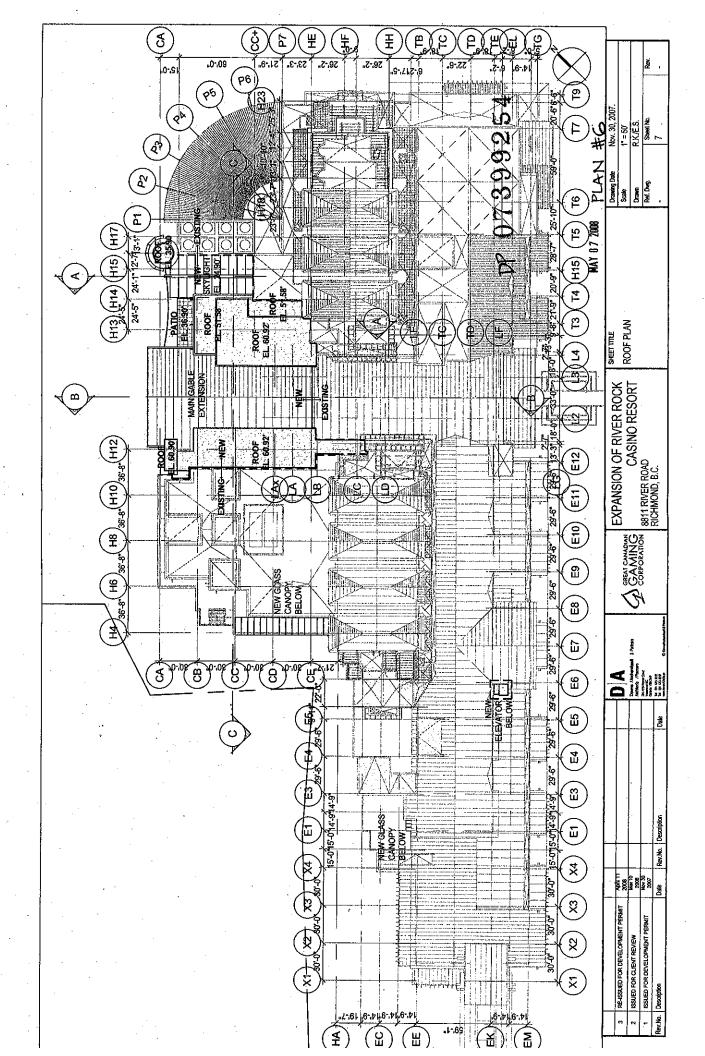


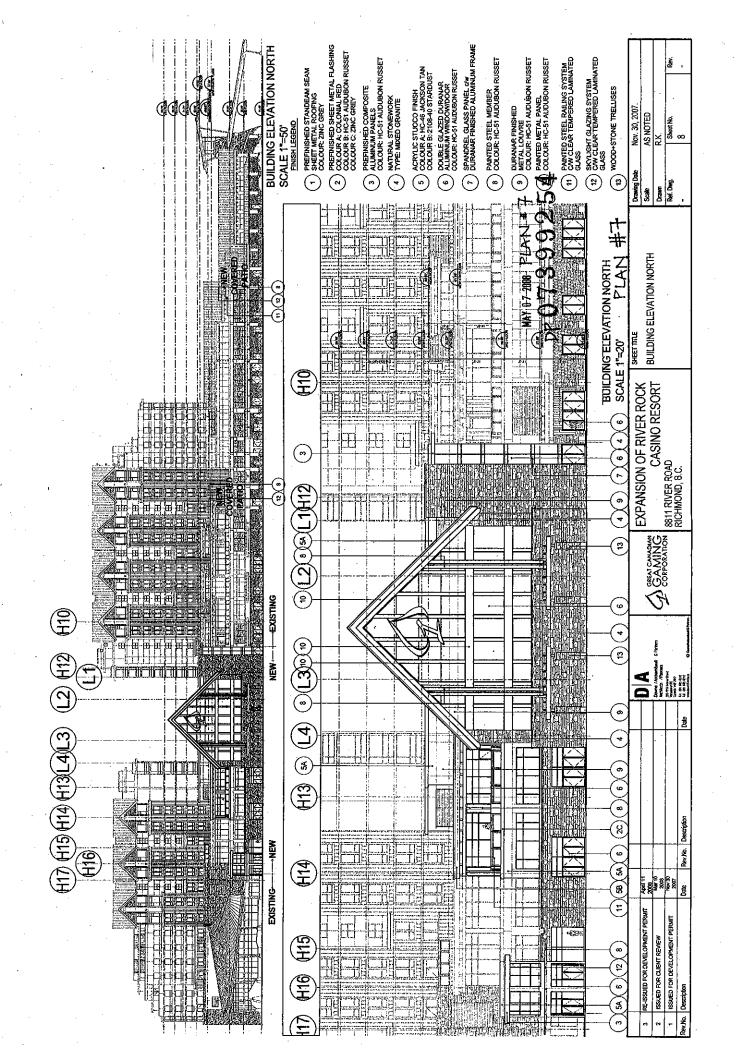


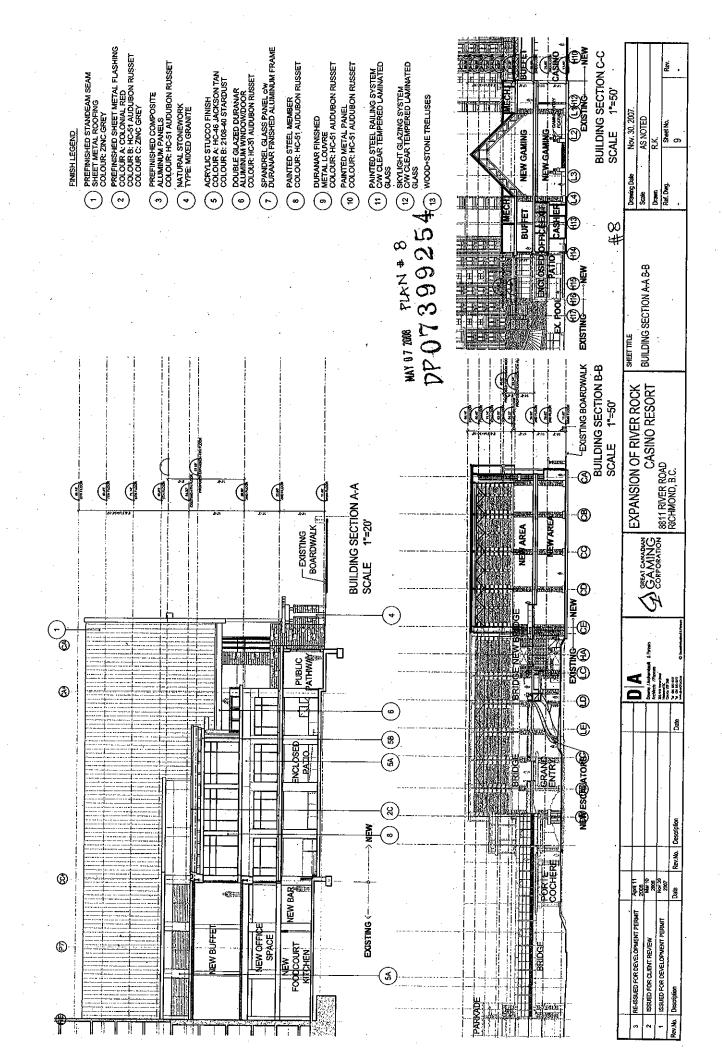


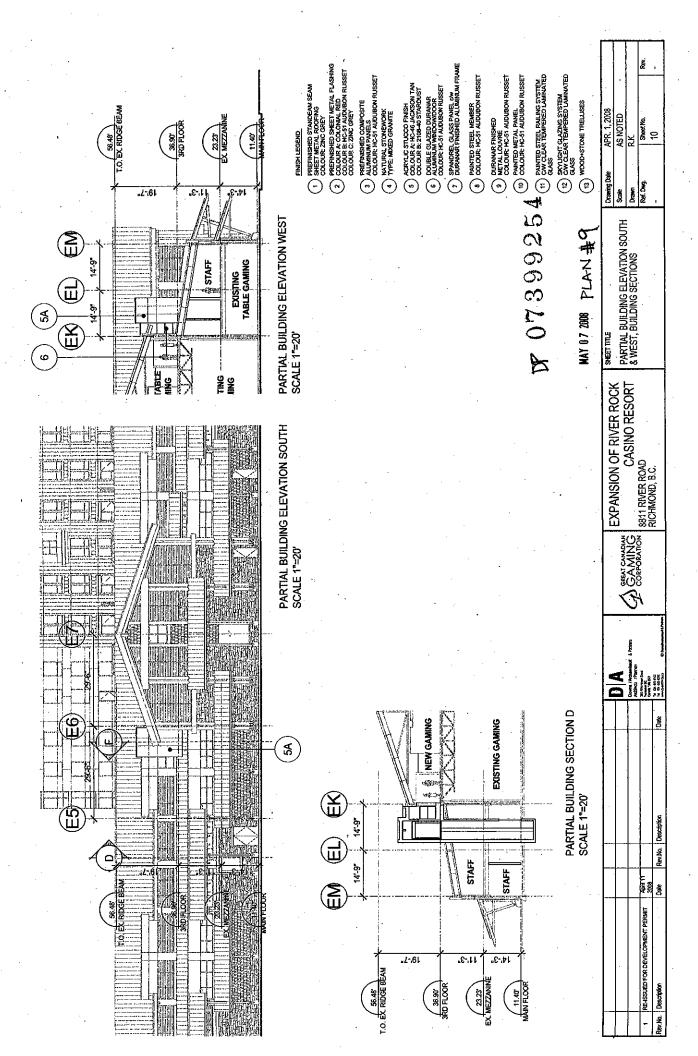


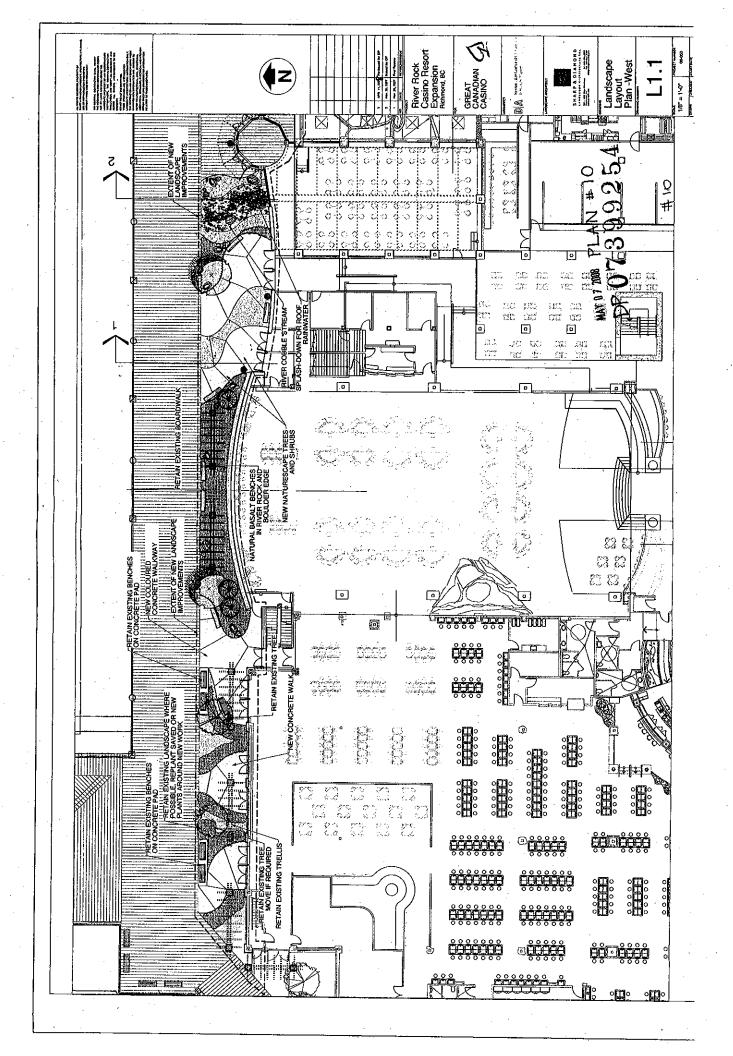


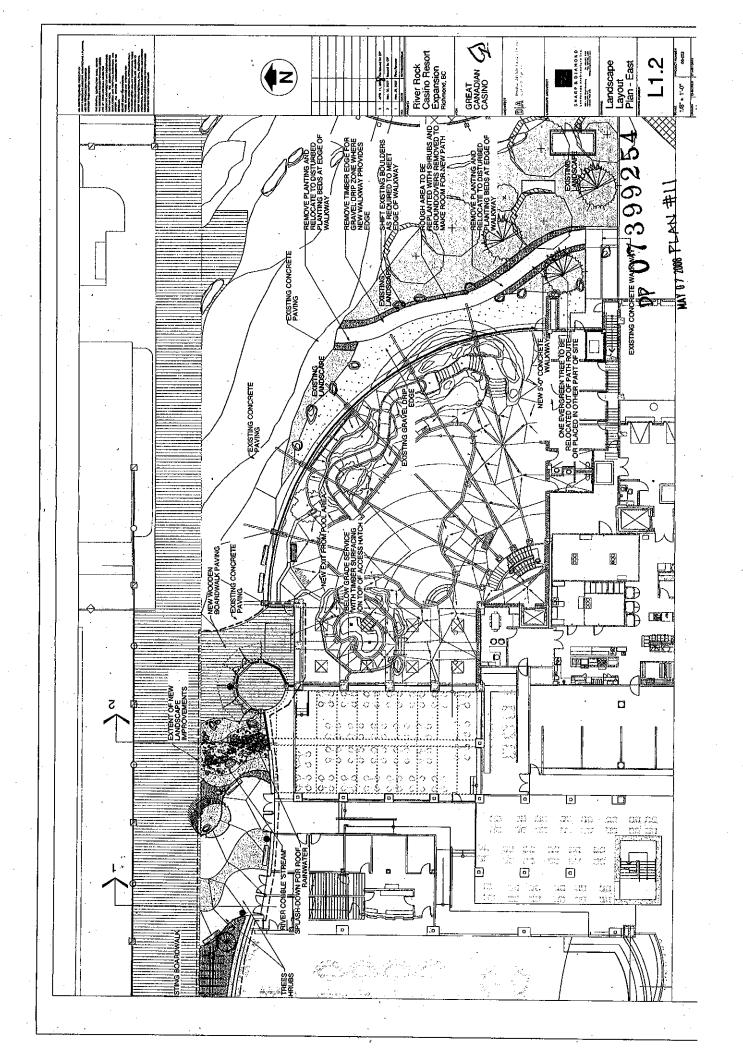


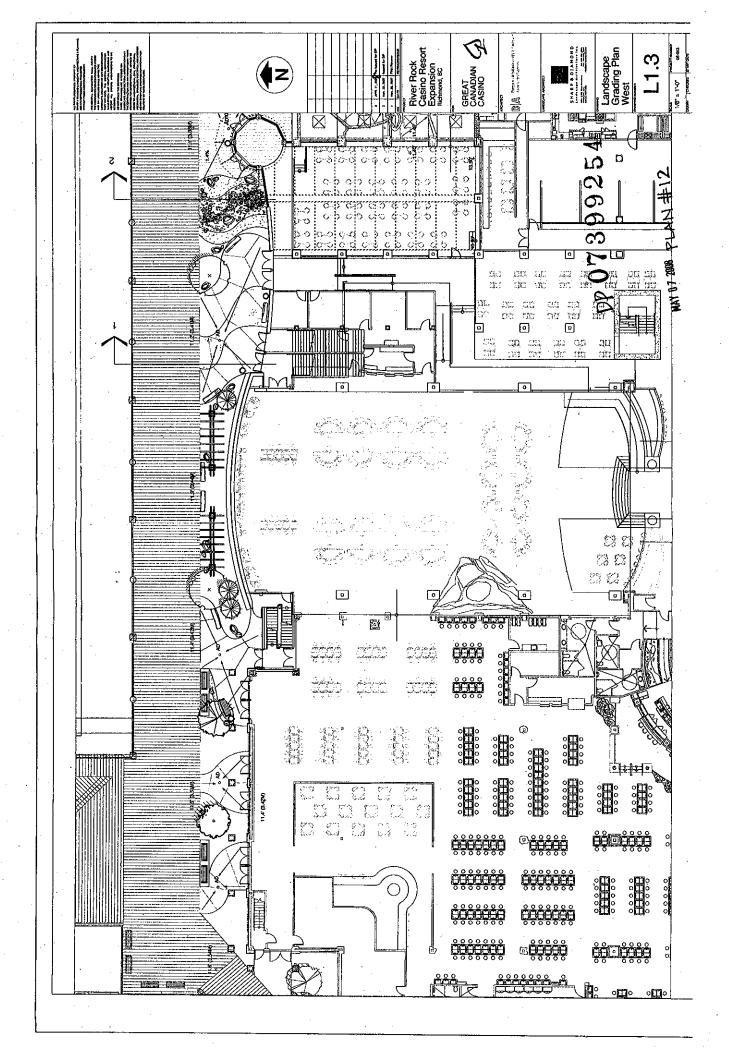


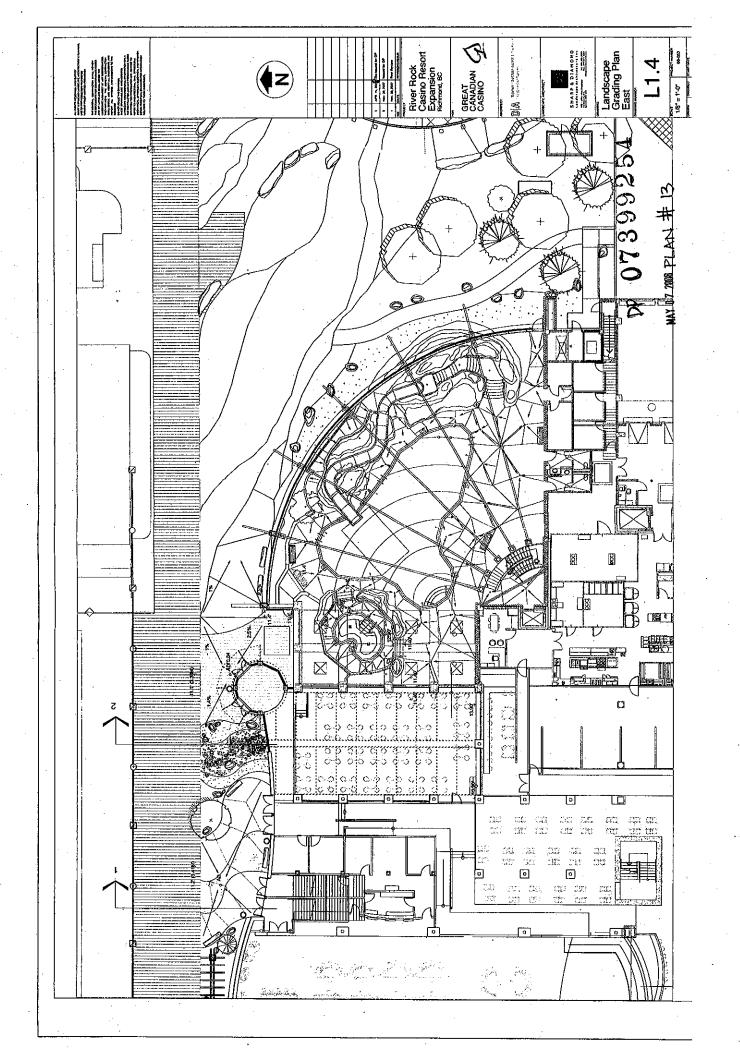


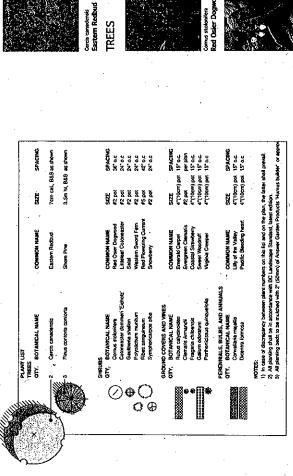










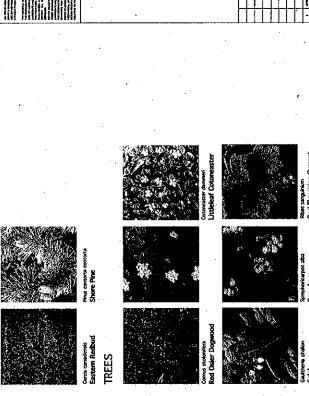


# PRELIMINARY PLANT LIST





MATERIALS AND FURNISHINGS



SHRUBS

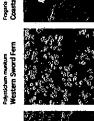


GREAT CANADIAN CASINO

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River Rock Casino Resort Expansion Echmond, BC

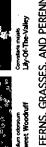






SHARP & DIAHOND

Landscape Materials



GROUND COVERS, FERNS, GRASSES, AND PERENNIALS

PLANT MATERIALS

pp 07399254

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MAY 17 788 PLAN #14

1/8" = 1'-0" 06-05:

