

## **North Harbour Sacred Heart Church Corporation**

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We trust everyone had a very happy Christmas and a healthy and safe start to 2024.

It has been several months since we last provided an update on the activities of our Corporation. The Board did post a summary on the North Harbour Community Facebook account, which has a large following, but we are aware that there are many in our faith community who do not use social media.

### **Our Corporation**

Our Board has not met in person since we met in North Harbour on 19 July 2023; however, we have been in touch frequently through email and telephone, and together have been making decisions to help move us forward. Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) is planned for April in North Harbour.

### **Our Church**

Our Corporation finally took ownership of the church on 11 September 2023! The negotiations were long, arduous, complicated, and required a great deal of patience, but it's finally done.

The most pressing priority once the purchase was finalised was the poor condition of the church's roof, which had many leaks that were causing interior damage. Kevin Butland, an experienced roofer from O'Donnell's, came highly recommended from both a quality of work and a cost perspective. The Board retained him to replace the shingles and this project was completed last October. At ~\$20,000, it will probably rank as our single costliest expenditure on the church. We were fortunate to have sufficient funds remaining after the purchase of the church to fund the

project.

Last Summer, significant mould was discovered on a number pews and kneelers in the church. It may have been caused by leaks in the roof or the extreme heat and humidity that we experienced last summer. Marie Tremblett and Trudy Linehan scrubbed the church thoroughly with mould cleanser, turned on the dehumidifier, and ensured that it was emptied daily. No additional mould was discovered from late Summer to early Fall. Thank you to Marie and Trudy for their efforts, as well as to Ann Power for her many trips to the church to empty the dehumidifier.

Our Corporation has also concluded a legal agreement with the Community Centre Committee on joint use of the driveway and parking lot.

This year, the Board will assess remaining priorities relating to the church building (doors, windows, heating, etc.) and determine how we might fund such improvements. Given the mould issue, the purchase and installation of a mini-split is likely a high priority. A mini-split should lower our heating costs, plus provide much cooling and dehumidifying during the summer months.

### **Our Cemetery**

Our discussions/negotiations on the transfer of the cemetery to our Corporation are nearing completion. We have a formal agreement with Archbishop Hundt for the transfer; it is formally called a deed of conveyance and will cost \$1.00! The matter now sits with our lawyer and the lawyer for the Archdiocese and should be completed in the coming weeks.

Based on our last meeting, we decided that there were two visible impacts that could be taken on during the Fall/Winter – clear the wooded areas and clear the garbage on the right side of the cemetery. As those living in North Harbour can now attest, the majority of trees from the large wooded area on the south end of the property has been cleared, while Neil Linehan did a wonderful job of clearing the property between their home and the church (the attached photos provide a visual). Thanks to everyone who donated their time to cut trees and remove wood.

In January, we rented a wood-chipper from CBS Rentals, as it was easier to mulch the piles of brush than burn it. We successfully applied for a JCP (Job Creation Partnership) grant that allowed us to hire four workers to assist with wood mulching and subsequent clean up of the cemetery, as

well as for the rental of the wood-chipper and fuel costs. As an added bonus, Greg Power, who was part of the programme, was able to replace the deck on the Community Hall (separate project provided funding for lumber).

The JCP grants are designed to support community-based, not-for-profit projects, so they fit perfectly with our Corporation. We received permission to use any leftover funds to pre-purchase topsoil/gravel for further use on cemetery grounds. The JCP grant provided us with \$5,700.00 (separate from the workers), and was expended through approximately \$2,700.00 for equipment and fuel, and \$3,000.00 for soil/class A stone for future use. A huge thank you to Marjorie Gibbons of the RDA for supporting us on this initiative.

It is important to note that that during the clearing and clean up of the cemetery, the ground was not disturbed in any manner, given concerns for unmarked graves. We

will make decisions in the Spring, with community input, on a broader plan for the cemetery. We have been looking into the possibility of using GPR technology (Ground Penetrating Radar) to identify unmarked graves; however, the costs are likely very prohibitive (minimally \$15,000).

### **Our Finances**

Our bank account currently holds ~\$6,000.00. We are pleased to announce that the fundraiser that MaryAnn took the lead on (tickets for two to a Taylor Swift concert in Toronto, airfare, hotel, and spending money) will result in us clearing ~\$15,000.00. We are also finalising insurance and the electricity bills (both retroactive to last September), so we should come into Spring with ~\$20,000.00 in our account.

MaryAnn is in the process of sending out tax receipts to our 2023 donors, as well as preparing to complete our annual returns for the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). If you made a donation and wish to remain anonymous, please contact MaryAnn or Terry. Full details on our revenue and expenditures - including donor list and donation amounts - will be made available at our AGM in April in North Harbour.

### **Website**

Melvin Leonard is helping us get our website up and running and we've been in communication with him over the past few weeks. One of his initial tasks is to set up an e-mail account by which you, as well as your families and friends living away, can communicate with us, and vice-versa. That e-mail address is [NHChurch@nhshc.ca](mailto:NHChurch@nhshc.ca) and will be active by the time you receive this newsletter.

That's it for now. We look forward to getting together with you in the Spring and charting the future of our church and cemetery together.

*Cemetery photos on next page.*





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