

# **North Harbour Sacred Heart Church Corporation**

*Box 23, Site 5, North Harbour, NL A0B 2V0*

19 July 2023

The Board is pleased to advise the North Harbour faith community that we are days away from concluding the purchase of our church. There has been a significant delay as neither the church, its parcel of land nor the cemetery were ever surveyed or registered with the Registry of Deeds.

As you are aware, a few years ago the Supreme Court ordered the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation (hereafter referred to as “The Archdiocese”) to pay millions of dollars in damages to victims of Mount Cashel abuse. The Archdiocese filed for bankruptcy and was ordered by the courts to sell its assets in order to raise funds to pay the damages. As such, many churches in the Archdiocese, including our own, were last year listed for sale.

Once our church was listed, a small group with close ties to the community gathered to discuss the level of interest in purchasing the church, how to fund such a purchase, and what kind of organisational structure was required. The group agreed to establish a corporation and fund the purchase and associated costs.

## **The Corporation**

We retained a chartered accountant to guide us through the process of incorporation. The North Harbour Sacred Heart Church Corporation is a legally registered corporation and it is the Corporation that made the offer to purchase the church.

Four members of our funding group agreed to serve as directors - Terry Power (President), Mary Ann Butt (Secretary/Treasurer), Ida Young (Director) and Mona Pearce (Director).

It was always understood that, once the purchase was complete, the Board would be expanded to include members of the community. Ann Power, Eileen Power and Ken Walsh have stepped forward to offer their services and formally joined the Board a few weeks ago. We will hold the first meeting of our newly expanded Board on 19 July in North Harbour.

It is important to note that Board appointments are not permanent; each member is appointed for a limited term.

## **Church Survey**

One of the conditions of our offer to purchase was that the Archdiocese assume responsibility for a legal survey of the church and its parcel of land; we agreed to

share the associated costs on a 50/50 basis. The Archdiocese retained Martin Surveys, who completed the survey on 23 May 2023. A copy of the survey is attached. You will note that the survey does not include the cemetery.

As a professional survey company, Martin Surveys has access to both the Crown Lands and the Registry of Deeds databases. We were quite pleased that the North Harbour Community Committee and our Corporation share a boundary on the left side of the church's parcel of land. Our board has agreed that our Corporation will enter into a formal agreement with the Community Committee on joint use of the driveway and parking lot.

### **Our Cemetery**

The Archdiocese is still in the process of developing policies and procedures on transfer of its cemeteries. We have been advised by Bishop Hundt that, once the bankruptcy process is concluded, a new corporation will replace the RCEC. It will be named the St. John's Archdiocese Inc. (SJAI), and the Good Shepherd Parish will now be part of this. He indicated that the SJAI would prefer not to own the cemeteries. In many small communities, churches have been sold and many communities may not have a formal group to assume responsibility for its cemetery. Our Corporation is in an excellent position to assume responsibility for our own cemetery. Conversations on the cemetery transfer should be happening in the coming weeks.

### **Financial/Funding**

Our purchase/funding group agreed that we would not conduct any fundraising activities until the purchase of the church was complete. We are now ready for donations. Cheques should be made payable to the Corporation and forwarded our President or Secretary/Treasurer.

We are aware that there is keen interest in contributing to the church and cemetery. Our Board will also look for grant opportunities.

Our Corporation applied earlier this year to the federal Canada Revenue Agency for consideration as a charitable organisation; the CRA approved the application. This is great news.

Charitable status means that all contributions are tax deductible and receipts will be provided to each donor by 31 December in the year in which the donation was made.

Charitable status also means that the Corporation is HST exempt on most purchases. The HST exemption is important when considering large item purchases, such as shingles, etc.

A bank account has been established in the name of the Corporation and Board approval processes are required for any withdrawals.

We are legally required to have our finances annually audited by a chartered accountant. Those statements will be available publicly.

The following is a general summary of our revenue and expenditures to date:

**Revenue**

Butt, Mary Ann Walsh  
Dalton, Anne Marie (on behalf of the Dalton family)  
Pearce, Bradley Bonia  
Pearce, Mona A. Bonia  
Power, Terry  
Walsh, Gerald (Judd) (on behalf of the Walsh family)  
Young, Ida Linehan  
North Harbour Recreation Committee  
*(proceeds from 2022 Christmas Tree Lighting Fundraiser)*  
North Harbour Altar Society

**Total Revenue** **\$ 46,800.00**

**Expenditures**

Church Purchase	\$ 27,500.00
Survey (50% of total cost)	750.00
Legal Fees	2,500.00
Incorporation ((Accounting)	5,800.00

**Total Expenditures** **\$ 36,550.00**

**Balance** **\$ 10,250.00**

We are anticipating a HST refund of approximately \$1000.00 on expenditures to date.

**Next Steps**

We are meeting prior to the cemetery Mass to discuss our priorities as well as establish processes to engage the community in decision-making with regards to both the church and cemetery. We are committed to keeping you engaged and informed. We are exploring several options in this regard – our own website, the North Harbour Facebook page, and for those of us who are technologically challenged, a newsletter like this one stuffed in your mailbox.

Thank you for your interest and support. Please feel free to contact any of us at any time.

A special thank you to Father Ken and Father Cecil for their guidance.

*Thank you to our Postmaster for funding the mailbox distribution of this newsletter.*