

Saint Peter Quamichan

Transforming Futures Newsletter

July 7, 2020



Transforming Futures Team

Mark Hird-Rutter, Eileen Curtis, Tricia Datene, Keith Leewis, Trish Peebles.

Email mhirdrutter@shaw.ca

Introduction

It has been quite a while since your Transforming Futures Team have published a newsletter. COVID – 19 has affected all of us and caused significant changes to our lives and our church. Our Transforming Futures Plans have also had to change and include new possibilities for the future of Saint Peter Quamichan.

The Transforming Futures team has been working, collecting ideas, talking about possibilities, and thinking of the challenges that face Saint Peters and the Cowichan Valley. We decided to now put these ideas into this newsletter so that you, the parishioners, can take a look and hopefully give us some feedback.

The document is best viewed in two-page mode so that you can see left and right pages side by side. Most PDF viewers allow this under the View pull down or tab. If you don't have a computer we have printed double sided copies that allow the same view.

The first section is called “Problems.” This lists the major problems that we have identified in the Cowichan Valley. Do you think that this is a comprehensive list.

The second section is called “Vision External” It describes a practical action that we can take to address some of the issues in the downtown core of Duncan.

The third section is called “Vision Internal” It describes the practical actions that we can take within our church property to address the issues.

The last pages show some risks and benefits and there is a table where you can give us feedback. If this feedback form does not work for you we would still like to hear from you. Please send your comments by mail or by phone to:

Trish Peebles
6428 Larkspur Way S. W.
Calgary, AB
T3E 5P8

trishgpeebles@shaw.ca
1 (250) 701-3172

PROBLEMS

“Life is change. If you aren't growing and evolving, you're standing still, and the rest of the world is surging ahead.” Louise Penny

The primary problem facing the Cowichan Valley

For decades the Federal and Provincial governments have off loaded their responsibility for looking after the poor, underprivileged, disabled and mentally ill to religious organizations and non-profit societies. Our volunteers are taking on a huge range of tasks. According to Volunteer Canada there are 161,000 volunteer organizations with 12.7 million volunteers representing 2 billion hours annually. In effect volunteers represent about \$70 billion per year. This is 12 times the number of people in the oil industry.

The Cowichan Valley Community needs to consider supporting:

- A Safe Place where those who choose may turn to;
- A place to get guidance as to food, clothing, and shelter;
- A place to find a toilet, a shower, and maybe a place to stay overnight;
- A place to find someone to listen, a medical person, mental help;
- A place which houses the Foot and other helping Clinics;
- A place where church is done differently and speaks to different age groups; and
- Are there other needs we already provide that need to become sustainable?

Building a resilient church community

Our church numbers are dwindling. Are we reaching out to our community? Are our ministries appealing to the youth, the twenty, thirty, forty and fifty somethings? Are we relevant to our indigenous neighbours?

To be relevant we must continue to exist. To spread Gods message, we must continue to exist. To help our neighbours in time of need we must continue to exist. We need to find a way to become financially stable and sustainable.

Our community is facing huge and radical changes. We are currently in a pandemic. This has caused huge financial losses and drastic changes to our lifestyle and wellbeing. Looming behind the pandemic is climate change. Climate change will affect our valley and our country to a much greater extent than the pandemic. Floods, droughts, forest fires and food shortages are to be expected. More frequent pandemics are also likely.

Its therefore vitally important that we as the community of Saint Peter Quamichan find real and workable solutions to these problems.

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1: Homelessness



3: Crime



2: Drug addiction



7: Engaging the community around us.



6: Food Security



4: Pandemic



5: Climate Change

VISION (External Plans)

The neediest in the Cowichan Valley are located in the downtown Duncan core. Our focus on a community resource centre will bring our resources and talents directly to the needy.

One-Stop-Shop, Form a Community Resource Center in Downtown Duncan

- Individual Organizations, Churches and groups must join together;
- Ensure each outcome is sustainable;
- Paid Support across multiple needs;
- Continued Volunteer support ensures reasonable costs;
- Focused efforts –one at a time –to help ensure we continue to do what we do well;
- Cowichan Valley joint fundraising; and
- Force governments to step up.

One-Stop-Shop such as a repurposed Building –housing permanent locations for:

Food Bank

The existing foodbank is running out of room.

Soup Kitchen

Lots of overcrowding

Professional Help

People need professional help to find assistance, work through government agencies, find housing, find medical, dental and psychological assistance when needed.

Shelter

It will need toilets, showers, a gathering and transportation hub for transporting to and from overnight shelters,

Foot Clinic

The foot clinic needs more resources in order to be more sustainable. One big requirement is storage in the downtown area.

Other providers in a Shared Building

Lions, Kiwanis, Habitat for Humanity, CVDS, Duncan, and other BC and federal folks

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The One-Stop-Shop Idea



9: Community commitment from churches, Lions, Kiwanis, Habitat for Humanity, CVBS, the City, BC and Federal Governments



12 Larger building for the food bank.



13 Sustainable Foot Clinic



8 Repurpose an existing building, large enough to manage all the functions needed by the community, including possibly shelter for those in need.



10: Cooking facilities for the soup kitchen



11: Professional Help, find government assistance and programs, legal advice, and counselling.

VISION (In house plans)

The Tzouhalum corridor is seeking an outlet for spirituality and community building for all ages.

Green and Growing

Grow the Cowichan Green Community programs with additional allotment gardens, extend nutrition marketplace, star fish, etc. Garden plots are available for a donation. Grow food and flowers for yourself and your family. Greenhouse space for growing microgreens for home use and for sale.

Sanctuary

With the addition of showers and some more equipment our hall could be turned into a sanctuary on cold days or on very hot days. With our air conditioning we would be able to give those with respiratory problems a break from the smoke in fire season. This time could be used to mingle with the people for spiritual and emotional engagements.

Alternate Energy

Solar energy could supply 100% of our energy needs when combined with BC Hydro's net metering program. Though the initial costs would be significant the payback time would be under 16 years with a lifespan of 30-40 years.

Education & Communications

Education and companionship programs could be added. Messy Church, Alpha2.0, "New Beginnings", "Mums with Tots", "Who let the Dads Out?" All ideas designed to get the public to come and use out facilities and contribute to our community. Hire a Program/Communication Specialist to expand existing programs and design new programs reaching people of all ages. Create a church video centre to help create and distribute video content. The goal is to position St. Peter in the digital communication age.

Housing Assistance

With some 50 years of management experience in Housing Assistance for Low income Seniors, Crescent Homes has a proven success record. A new option would be to focus on a building for disability and senior residences. It could include a multipurpose building with a replacement church hall, for multiple community gatherings, daycare, meeting spaces and offices.

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15: Green and Growing, from rented allotments to commercial growing. Adding resilience and community on our land

14: Sanctuary for times of need and Education through seminars and retreats.



18: Alternate energy, reducing our long-term costs through investing now.



17: Youth and family education with dedicated paid staff.

Crescent Homes – Seniors Housing



- 50 Years of Management
- 7 Duplex Buildings,
 - 12 Studio and 2 One Bedroom
- Low Income Senior Housing

Seniors Homes Expansion?



- Possible to Build a New Small Community
- Multipurpose Building
 - Ground and Lower – seniors and disability residences
 - Upper - Commercial and Meeting Spaces
- Replaces Church Hall
 - Multiple Community Gathering Hall
 - Daycare
 - Meeting Spaces
 - Offices
 - Emergency Shelter



16: Advanced communication through digital signage, video and distance learning programs.

BENEFITS & RISKS

The criteria for evaluating the project are: Love of God, Financial Stability, Volunteer Sustainability, Community Engagement and Resilience.

Benefits	Risks
One Stop Shop	
Supports the area's most needy	The most expensive proposal
In line with the most challenging problems	Most challenging for long term support
Very high on God's Love	Very challenging for volunteers.
Sanctuary	
Set up hall as Hot Weather / Smoke Shelter	Showers / Sleeping / More comfortable furniture. Volunteers to clean and move
Work in conjunction with Education project	Paid Emergency Assistance
Communication	
Reach out to neighbourhood	Cost of leasing over time / Maintenance Costs
Bring more recognition for church Resilience in Pandemic or other disaster	City Bylaws / Programming Staff
Ability to reach broader community through digital media	Cost for video, sound equipment, staff or volunteers.
Green and Growing	
Rental Income	Some money for Startup end
Great outreach / Possibility of regular meetings, a Meeting place	Need fencing, water, electricity. Access to washrooms, need mentors
Education	
Program developer for supporting Messy Church, youth and adult programs	Sharing space, salary and program costs with other parishes.
Bring a variety of new spiritual opportunities to Tzouhalem corridor and Cowichan Valley. Bring new people to the parish. Relatively inexpensive to organize, sharing Gods Love.	Continuing program after funds are used up Volunteer requirement to start them off.
Seniors and Special Housing Assistance	
New building with hall, 3-5 floors of apartments for long term growth, involve Crescent Society in future plan.	Would require financial and management input from many organizations.
Alternate Energy	
Reduces energy costs for years to come. Already have grant and donation for \$6500	Initial up-front cost. Current hall roof not well suited for solar

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Your Feedback

(admin@stpeterduncan.ca)

Project Ideas	Rate the projects Least Important 1, Most Important 6	Would you become involved? Y/N
One-Stop-Shop	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6	
Do you have any comments?		
Sanctuary	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6	
Do you have any comments?		
Communication and Education	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6	
Do you have any comments?		
Green and Growing	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6	
Do you have any comments?		
Seniors and Special Housing Assistance	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6	
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