

## A Progress Report to the Congregation – Part 1 - June 28, 2009

I am reporting to you in my role as one of the members of the Administration Core Ministry. The Administration Core Ministry has been charged with overseeing the rebuild project and we, in turn, have authorized the Project Management Committee to carry out the actual work of the project.

Let me review for you, briefly, some “history” with respect to the rebuilding of the Camp Hurlburt facility. Up front – let me say this: the rebuilding of Camp Hurlburt is not only about the physical buildings out at the camp site. With rebuilt facilities, a richer and broader outdoor ministry program will be carried out at this special site.

So – let me start with December of 2003. It was then that the Board of Governance initiated a study to determine what should happen to the aging facilities at Camp Hurlburt and what kind of outdoor ministry program we should conduct on that site. Indeed – one of the options examined was to determine if we should keep the facilities and the site. A task force was struck to study the issue and it published a report in March of 2005. Five alternatives for the camp and our outdoor ministry program were presented - one of those five alternatives was that we refurbish and redevelop the camp facility and continue with an outdoor ministry program.

Early on in the report the task force stated that, “The Outdoor Ministry programs operated at Camp Hurlburt directly reflect and support the values and ideals used as a basis for Trinity’s Christian Education program.” And then it went on to describe Camp Hurlburt and the program that is carried out there as a ‘. . . summer educational outreach ministry of Trinity United Church. . .’<sup>1</sup> That means that we see the facility and the program being not only for our congregation – not only for United Church folks – but for all children and their families in the wider Vernon community.

Eventually the congregation decided that the “refurbish and redevelop” concept was the option we wanted to pursue. It was recognized that the financial cost of this project was probably well beyond the financial means of the congregation to carry out and so, in the planning for fundraising, it was always acknowledged that, at the local level, there would be two “target groups” – the congregation and the wider Vernon community. The rationale for including the wider Vernon community was that it was recognized that the majority of the children and youth who attend the summer programs were not “Trinity youth” so much as youth from the wider Vernon area. Camp Hurlburt was indeed a community camp as well as a Trinity camp.

You will remember that the *Strengthening Sacred Relationships!* stewardship program that was conducted within our congregation last year included an appeal for funds to go towards the rebuilding of Camp Hurlburt. While that program is complete, the pledges and related revenue will run on until well into 2011.

What has been accomplished so far? A business plan for the rebuilt camp facility and program has been developed with the assistance of Victor Cumming and his firm: Westcoast CED Consulting Ltd. The

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<sup>1</sup> Outdoor Ministry Task Force. *A report on Trinity United Church’s Outdoor Camping Ministry and Camp Hurlburt with Recommendations.* Vernon, BC: Trinity United Church, 2005. p. 2.

Camp Hurlburt site has been surveyed by Russell N Shortt surveyors. An architectural firm – CEI Architecture Planning of Kelowna – has been engaged and a planning process will soon be under way.

Warren Grabinsky

Administration Core (Finance)

===== |Part 2|=====

Warren has reported on what has already taken place as part of Trinity's fundraising efforts; however my reporting role is to focus on what is happening with respect to the community phase of the fundraising campaign. I am Loretta Bell-Hardy and I serve as Liaison between Trinity United Church and the Community Campaign Cabinet.

The community campaign leaders, Ken Christensen and Bruce Blankley, took the roles as Campaign Co-Chairs with the understanding that TUC would be prepared with the essentials of a business plan, a separate society and a lease between the church and the society for the duration of the community campaign - 2009.

While the business plan is in place, lengthy delays in establishing a new society to operate the camping program and care for the physical facility and the creation of a lease between the society and the trustees has taken much longer to accomplish than expected. In fact, the very concept of a lease between the trustees and the society was introduced into the process by the Community Campaign chairs.

The development of a lease that would be acceptable to both the trustees and the Camp Hurlburt Association has been more of a struggle than was first anticipated. It is further complicated by United Church of Canada polity. When a congregation decides to enter into a lease, church polity stipulates that first it must obtain permission from presbytery. The lease must also be approved by BC Conference. At present, agreement on the terms of the lease has been reached by the Board of Trustees and the Camp Hurlburt Association. However, the lawyer for BC Conference has told us that we need to have an independent legal examination of the terms of the lease before we send it on to presbytery and conference. This is the stage we are at right now. Once that has been done – and assuming the lawyer does not suggest any changes – a copy of the lease will go to both Kamloops-Okanagan Presbytery and BC Conference for their approval.

The whole issue around the lease has created a good deal of tension both for those who have leadership positions in the congregation and for the community campaign leaders.

The Community Campaign co-chairs assure us that it is essential for the lease to be in place before they can maximize the potential of the community campaign. As I write this report, the lease is the only outstanding document. I want to commend both the community leaders for remaining faithful to seeing this campaign year to its end and to TUC leadership for prudence in working on a lease which admittedly the church and the Camp Hurlburt Association will have to live with for 29 years.

The downturn in the economy early in the year required two clubs to extend their donation timeline. Originally expecting to donate funds in 2009, they both have assured me that their intentions are still to support Rebuilding Hurlburt, but that it might not occur until later in 2010.

The change in time-line for Rebuilding Hurlburt has required a change in approach and a change in expectation for receipts in 2009. The approach originally included applications to foundations, businesses and service clubs for whom the lease is an essential element. These applications are largely on hold for now. Gifts-in-kind are expected to be significant for Hurlburt, too, however with the working drawings due in October, these gifts will only be known very late in the campaign which is set to run for the duration of 2009. Adaptation of sorts will be required.

The good news and there is good news, is that for many individuals who already have Hurlburt as part of their history, the lease is irrelevant. For many individuals, Trinity's congregation and Camp Hurlburt's longstanding reputation within this community are enough for them to donate to Rebuilding Hurlburt. Quite a number of individual community donors have already made contributions to the community portion of the campaign. However, the fact remains that for many in the larger Vernon community having the lease in place is extremely important – it is what will give them assurance that the camping program will continue over the long term.

The presentation of performances by Randy Bachman, (January 21.09) and comedian, Rick Mercer, (June 16.09) have served to raise significant funds (\$40 000 approx) as well as publicity for the campaign. As a direct result of Mercer ads, Okanagan Life Magazine checked out the Rebuilding Hurlburt website and in the May .09 issue presented Camp Hurlburt as their Charity of Choice for the Okanagan. We expect to present one more concert before the year is out.

In the community and at church, I am frequently asked how the campaign is going. My answer is that we're still working towards our first million but Camp Hurlburt will be rebuilt. The campaign will not recognize its full potential until all the essentials are in place. The campaign cabinet is primed to go full tilt through 2009.

I also wish to acknowledge yet again, with gratitude, the Board of Governance, the Board of Trustees and the Project Management Committee, all of whom are undertaking significant responsibility and great demands on their time and expertise. By now it is apparent that there are several individuals taking on major roles on several committees and Boards. I extend sincere appreciation to everyone in a leadership role and to you, the congregation, whose initial commitment to Hurlburt inspired the community to help us rebuild Hurlburt and brought us to this place.

Respectfully submitted

Loretta Bell-Hardy, (Hurlburt Liaison)