

## Project Beginnings

The vision of a community hall in Steelhead has been nurtured in the minds of its residents for more than a decade. Pioneers in our community fondly remember the days of getting to know their neighbours in the old schoolhouse and prior to that, two previous community halls. In May 2004, the Steelhead Community Association was resurrected and the work began on making that vision a reality.

## Why a Community Hall

Steelhead is Mission's Mountain Gem community whose residents quickly learn the importance of being self-sufficient. Power outages and risky road conditions are a daily consideration in the fall and winter months; while threat of fire and loss of water exist through the summer. The majority of the residents enjoy the challenges that living in an isolated community bring; however, we are acutely aware of the need for emergency preparedness.

Recently, with the seismic upgrading of the Stave Falls Blind Slough Dam and of the Ruskin Dam, and with recent weather events as well as the catastrophic events happening around the world, it has underscored the reality that residents of Steelhead should be prepared for any situation that could see them cut off from Mission or Maple Ridge. Bearing this in mind, we see the community hall as a cornerstone in the plan for continued development of a healthy community.

The primary purpose of the community hall will be to serve as a central marshalling station in the event of an emergency. However, it will also be used as a meeting location for our monthly and annual meetings, a common site for various fundraising and neighbourhood events that bring residents together, subsequently contributing to the health and safety of our rural community. Consideration has also been given to ideas such as the development of community activities, a community garden and attractive rental space to outside interests.

## What and Where

The District of Mission has leased to the Steelhead Community Association a one-acre lot at 32972 Cardinal Street, and is at the location of the old Steelhead School/community hall torn down in the 1980s. The District of Mission is in support of our efforts and recognizes the need for a facility of this kind in our community.

The proposed hall will be an 1800 square-foot log post and beam structure constructed from Steelhead timber and fitting in nicely with the surrounding evergreens, natural landscape and existing character. Additional landscaping will be an assortment of native plants and seasonal colour.

## Who Will Build the Hall?

Steelhead contains a very talented group of people with proven ability in every aspect of the building trade. In our community we have access to two wood mills, a nursery, a gravel supplier, heavy-duty machinery and many eager volunteers with a great deal of ingenuity. Contributions will be sought from local businesses for materials that we will be unable to provide ourselves.

Timber from trees that blew down in Steelhead in recent extreme weather events was kindly donated by a long-time Steelhead resident, and was hauled out of the forest by community volunteers and milled to specification. Community work bees will continue to be scheduled and advertised by the Project Coordinator and Building Team as construction commences and progresses. Timber has also been donated by the District of Mission Municipal Tree Farm in Steelhead for structural purlins for the construction of the hall.

- ◆ Community Fundraising
- ◆ Community Skills
- ◆ Community Materials
- ◆ Community Resources

## Progress Made to Date

- ◆ In June 2005 a formal motion was made to pursue a community hall concept;
- ◆ The Steelhead Community Association was reincorporated in August 2005;
- ◆ Community Hall concept formally presented to District of Mission Council in November 2005 and was provided a letter of support from the District;
- ◆ Surveys, environmental engineering, septic engineering, site surveys, drawings, and plans - January to April 2006;
- ◆ Septic field approval in October 2006;
- ◆ Land Use Agreement executed with District of Mission in November 2006, granting lease of \$1 per year for municipally-owned property at 32972 Cardinal Street;
- ◆ \$25,000 BC Hydro Grant awarded in August 2006;
- ◆ \$100,000 BC Gaming Commission Major Capital Grant awarded in March 2007;
- ◆ \$8,000 District of Mission Community Grant awarded in May 2007;
- ◆ \$9,000 Donation of shake roofing material made by Genstar Developments in May 2007;
- ◆ Site preparation and excavation started in July 2007;
- ◆ Community fundraisers;
- ◆ Community volunteers and donations;
- ◆ Corporate sponsorship;
- ◆ Local media support;
- ◆ Federal, provincial and corporate grants are being pursued.

## Corporate Sponsors

- ◆ BC Hydro Community Grant
- ◆ BC Gaming Major Capital Grant
- ◆ District of Mission Community Grant
- ◆ Genstar - Roof Shakes
- ◆ Davies Sand and Gravel - Gravel
- ◆ Arnold's Rentals/NuTek Signs
- ◆ Burden Propane - Tank and propane