

Synod offices moving to new Diocesan Centre

BY JENNIFER PRING

As the summer has changed to fall and the warmth of blue skies is changing to the coolness of winter days to come, our diocese is also “weathering” a change, and a very exciting one at that. St. Michael’s House is almost complete, and the move to our new Diocesan Centre is taking place.

Now... with our prayers and God’s grace, we travel forward on a new road on our diocesan journey, which will provide us with many exciting memories. We are so blessed that St. Aidan’s family has welcomed us on this new road with the expansion and changes to their place of worship.

While I sit and write this article, I think of Kathryn and Bonnie and their excitement — not of the physical labour they have undertaken — but of the fact they are now physically setting things in place in the new Diocesan Centre! Along with our Executive Officer, Randall Fairey, and Archbishop John, they have worked many hours with ideas, architectural plans, contractors, paint colours, etc. to make this



MOVING DAY— Diocesan Administrator and Archivist Kathryn Lockhart trying to keep calm on Synod moving day.

new home a place of faith, learning and ministry for everyone in the Diocese of Kootenay, and they have faithfully worked with our brothers and sisters at St. Aidan’s in Rutland to help make this transition as easy and as welcoming as possible.

As you take time to read this, I think of the excitement each of us shares in having a Diocesan Centre for all of us in Kootenay. I think of the tremendous amount

of prayer, work, and love that has gone into this new centre. We have all waited faithfully for this journey to take place.

Our new Diocesan Centre — a place of worship, gentleness, spirituality, and ministry — will include offices for our Archbishop, our Executive Officer, our Financial Manager and our Office Manager, with a Chapel, a Board/Meeting room, and a climate-controlled room for our

diocesan archives as well. This last will safely keep our history — the faithful “journey,” past, present and future - of our diocesan events and memories. The Centre will also be the home of the Kootenay School of Ministry and EfM Canada. It is a gathering place that will enable everyone throughout the Diocese of Kootenay to participate in various opportunities and options for clerical and lay education, and to further our ministry and outreach.

As we concluded our meeting in that old office, in that old “house,” we realized it would be the last time we would meet together as a committee in that particular place. We excitedly began to discuss and challenge each other with many ideas surrounding the theme of “how can we invite all members of the Diocese of Kootenay to take this journey with us and help provide more memories as we move to the Diocesan Centre?”

As I journeyed back home, some ideas that came to my mind included:

- Could I help furnish the Chapel?
- Could I offer a boardroom table (or share with others to offer a

boardroom table)?

■ Could I offer a chair or two for the meeting room?

■ Could I make a monetary donation to help towards “necessities?”

■ Could I offer fixtures for the renovated washroom — or a sink for the kitchen?

I quickly realized that the “could I’s” and “could we’s” are truly limitless.

I invite everyone, as individuals and as congregations, to have conversations together and prayerfully discuss a “could I/we/us” provide something to enhance our Diocesan Centre, to truly make it a diocesan home for us all? When we take the time to pray and converse with each other, we will find many opportunities to faithfully express our love of God, our diocesan family and our Christian faith and we can do this by participating in this new and exciting journey taking place in our diocese.

This is a journey that will develop new memories, a journey to express our faith and a journey to celebrate the everlasting love and grace of God.

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Camp Owaissi Vision 2012

BY DONNA ZUKOWSKI

Camp Owaissi ended its financial year with a positive balance in the bank account. The AGM was on November 20. The following vision for 2012 is outlined in the Fall Newsletter.

- a) Grow camper registrations to reach Camp capacity. In order to do so, we need to increase our advertising through a variety of media outlets and rely even more on word of mouth. Increasing awareness of Camp Owaissi must happen throughout the community via advertising, social media, attending public fairs, congregation support, and past camper contact.
- b) Increase volunteer engagement in projects such as “adopt a cabin” and the maintenance of the gardens and grounds. Recruiting and soliciting will be primarily through advertising in church bulletins and

face to face invitations. The Board is hopeful that from the churches, one or more “Owaissi Ambassadors” might self-identify to promote Camp Owaissi within their sphere of influence.

- c) Establish a strong donor base by actively seeking a qualified and experienced Fund Development Campaign Volunteer Chair.
- d) Expand programming to include formal leadership training for older youth; will need to research leadership programs in and beyond the Diocese.
- e) Increase revenues from group and family sites rentals through a variety of means, which include extending the group rental summer dates to include Friday & Saturday night and by designating additional RV rental sites.
- f) Elevate Owaissi awareness and market the true camping experience of an “unplugged and unforgettable” camp. All communications and marketing materials must reinforce this branding.



POINT OF VIEW— Visioning Owaissi in 2012

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