

Family Fun Day Fundraising Kick-Off February 15, 2009 at Gold Bar Hall
Speech by Laurie Scott, Chair of the Gold Bar Building Committee

Hello to everyone. Thank you very much for coming out today. I have a couple of brief remarks to make on behalf of the community league and the building committee. What I am talking about today is our new hall, and what we need from you to keep it going. More than that, what we need to do to make it into something better than what it is today, both from a functional standpoint, and what it can offer to our community and its membership.

Going back to 2005, a group of people working with your community league came to the conclusion that our building was "leaving" us. Parts of this hall are over 40 years old, and as is the case in all buildings, it was getting to the end of its useful life. Our maintenance and utility costs were starting to get out of hand. Many of us recall parties, weddings, funerals or many other events that we have attended here over the years, but frankly our hall has seen better days.

So we started a journey towards what is now our building committee, and the hall you see in the renderings here on display. We have worked with a number of committees and come up with a new hall design that covers the majority of needs that we identified with the help of the city and community membership.

Our new hall design costs \$2 million in 2008 dollars. It includes a new hall, new meeting rooms, a new kitchen and rink area, and a basement that we can use for meetings or storage or both. It has a new mechanical system and it is our goal to make it more green. This means operating costs savings to us, and hopefully a greener footprint as well.

To date our community league has raised about \$500,000 dollars. To achieve our goal we need to raise the balance of \$1.5 million. We intend to do this with money from the city, money from the private sector, and money from our community membership.

With help from the city we have charitable status. That means that, for the money you and I donate, we can get a tax receipt which can be claimed against personal taxes.

We have also approached other non profit groups operating in our area. To date we have received a positive response from North Seera Hockey to work together in a partnership. This means that they would be willing to put up some capital towards our hall and we would provide them with space for meetings and storage for their equipment.

We would like to partner with other community groups, so we are looking for ideas from you for groups that would be willing to work with us for programs involving our hall, and our community league. Partnering can mean putting up money for our hall, but it also can mean using our hall for the benefit of people in our community. So more than money it may mean programs for our seniors, our youth and our general membership. It may mean that we support programs such as scouts as we have done for many years, or the summer programs or soccer or basketball and other sports. It may also be new programs that we have not supported but would work in our new hall.

So if you have ideas we need you to tell us about that. If you can help us financially we need you to do that. If you have ideas for our hall and things we should include in the new building we need you to do that. And if you can help us with the administration, fund raising or construction I would encourage you to do that. We would be glad to work with your help today, tomorrow, or when we build our hall. Our goal today is to build in 2011, we hope it is sooner rather than later. We hope you are with us and share our goal and I would encourage you to talk to our committee members and give your support anyway you can.

Finally, I would like to thank Trudy and her staff of volunteers for all their work today. I hope to see you at another of our hall events soon!