



Queen Charlotte Volunteer Fire Prevention Society
New Fire Hall
July 20, 2016 PUBLIC MEETING
Summary

QUEEN CHARLOTTE



A public meeting about the new Fire Hall was held on July 20, 2016. This document records the general comments (grouped by theme) and a preliminary plan for honoring the old building. The questions raised at the public meeting have been added to the Frequently Asked Questions.

The Village of Queen Charlotte (the Village) and the Q.C.C. Volunteer Fire Prevention Society (VFPS) are committed to an open, transparent and information-rich discussion regarding this project. All information about the Fire Hall project will be posted on the Village website at:

www.QueenCharlotte.ca

Location:

- The United Church/Legion building is the best location for the future fire hall.
- The United Church/Legion building is not currently serving the needs of the community in the current state.
- The fire department is wonderful we appreciate them.
- There should be a second story balcony and/or tower to new building.
- What if part of the new fire hall was set aside for public use and incorporated the same A-Frame structure.
- Village has a responsibility to the public as it is putting up the money for the new building.
- Scale the fire hall back so it could fit on the lot across the street.
- We can fix the current fire hall.
- The church as a space for funerals will be missed by the community.
- Suggestion of a heritage bylaw to protect future heritage buildings.
- There is nothing wrong with the current United Church/Legion building as it stands. Asbestos can be fixed and heating has been fixed.
- Cost to insure building was covered by the United Church under a blanket policy.
- We can honour the building by keeping it as is and not tearing it down.
- Cut the grass and make the exterior look better because it looks awful right now.

Consultation:

- The United Church/Legion was the hugest coffee house that ever graced the land.
- Shame that the community was not consulted.
- Nobody was consulted when the church turned into a legion either.
- When the Teen Centre was going in the annex, the orchestrators went door knocking in area extensively.
- Effects most people emotionally.
- Biggest concern is people not knowing. Lots of history of christenings, funerals.
- Need to make better use of the newspaper for letting people know, letting people know in person.

Salvage:

- Salvage good lumber/wood and donate to the high school shop class to build benches for around town, or allow community members to salvage.
- Options for A-Frame, remove the roof and windows for use elsewhere (Sale? They are valuable).
- Use materials from building to create art projects with historical bent.
- The light fixtures are beautiful, what if they were used in a public space where folks could enjoy them?

Ways to honour the building:

- An outside public sign board describing the site's history with photos similar to Prince Rupert.
- Who's going to even go in the building? The honoring needs to be done outside the building. Gwen has old snapshots of the church and they could be put into a history picture board with text.

Preliminary Plan to Honor the old United Church/Legion Building

Based on input from the Public Meeting on July 20, 2016, and a review of what has been done in other jurisdictions, the following recommendations will be considered by Council:

- Provide an opportunity for local artists to salvage wood or materials from the old United Church/Legion building to create a public art piece that would be displayed either in front of the new Fire Hall or inside the building.
- Contract with a local artist to paint a picture or take a photograph of the Legion Building which would be framed and displayed in the new Fire Hall.
- Seek funding for an information board that highlights the history of the site and the building that would be mounted on the exterior of the Fire Hall.
- Create a historic Queen Charlotte page on the Village website and ask locals to send in their memories, stories and pictures of the old building.
- Host a community event in the old building prior to demolition as a send-off.