

SPIRIT Place ...Embracing Change Making a Difference



"Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody."

Jane Jacobs





“Dull, inert cities...contain the seeds of their own destruction and little else. But lively, diverse, intense cities contain the seeds of their own regeneration, with energy enough to carry over for problems and needs outside themselves.”

Jane Jacobs



From the HRM Planning Report (page 5):

“...there is a strong rationale for the proposed development that is outlined the applicant’s submission. ...it is observed (that) the presence of institutions such as churches contributes to what makes complete neighbourhoods.”



The city is like “...an intricate ballet in which the individual dancers and ensembles all have distinctive parts which miraculously reinforce each other and compose an orderly whole. The ballet of a good city sidewalk never repeats itself from place to place, and in any one place it is always replete with new improvisations.”

Jane Jacobs



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Church has always had a prominent role in the
neighbourhood - 1931



A History of Embracing Change – Responding to the Needs of Our Community Since 1917

- Early days – Tennis Courts!
- Clubs and associations for all ages
- 1935 - League of Good Neighbours
- 1940's - welcomed service men and women from across Canada. Services with over 1,000 in attendance were common.
- 50's, 60's and 70's – community widens more - assistance to post war countries "Boat People," Immigrant Families and others



Evolution → Current Community Service on the Peninsula

- Manna for Health for AIDS patients
- Rotation support for suppers for homeless persons
- Rotation support for breakfasts at Brunswick Street Mission
- Supply clothing, backpacks and winter apparel to the homeless as well as children through Parent and Tot programs
- Visits to nursing homes; musical entertainment and sing-a-longs by choirs
- Palliative Care Team
- Funding and food on a weekly basis to Parker Street Food Bank



Exploring our Mission – Embracing Difference/Making a Difference: Our Habit is to take time to Study & Reflect on Change

- Needs Assessment
- “Holy Conversations” – small groups
- Congregational Mapping
- Appreciative Inquiry: Discover, Dream, Design, Deliver
- Wall of Wonder – historical timeline
- Church Committee Surveys
- Community Surveys
- Hard Data Collection - Demographics
- Community Leaders
- Theological Worlds survey
- Learning Styles
- World Café



SPIRIT PLACE
Growing Community Spirit

Our Community Conversations



100's of people
participated



SPIRIT PLACE
Growing Community Spirit

Sad to leave our sick building

Notice the Elm Tree
growing above the front
door



And the mold...



Ready to Embrace the Next Phase – Unanimously!

- Aging Population in the province
- Need for more/different services
- Partner with St Vincent's, support from Capital Health teams → Enhanced Independent Seniors Not For Profit
- Alternative to the commercialization of aging in the middle of the City – a model
- Community meeting space
- Rental space for Church

Community Consultation

- Listened to our neighbours – over a dozen changes... No daycare... No commercial space
- Church at the back – LOWER than houses beside/behind it, LOWER than as-of-right allowance – steps down from beside apartments
- Higher on busy Windsor thoroughfare with buses/bike lanes etc.
- Green spaces



Moving forward

Everyone seems to be in agreement that the concept is great – strong SPIRIT all around.

We embrace change.

We want to continue to make a positive difference in our neighbourhood and HRM.

Let's do that together



