

St. Ignatius Deemerton

R. R. 5 Mildmay, Ontario N0G 2J0
phone 519-367-2077 fax 367-3527
info@stignatiusdeemerton.ca
www.stignatiusdeemerton.ca



Quarterly Bulletin / January 2011

Welcome to our first quarterly newsletter! We are pleased to provide you with a regular update on this wonderful facility that forms such a significant part of our local heritage.

Bookings, Bookings! We're pleased to report that bookings for the church and house have increased significantly over the past year. Religious retreats continue to represent the majority of our events.

1) Improvements / Developments. During the past 2 years, over \$130,000 worth of necessary improvements have been made to St. Ignatius Church and the attached facilities. Some of them are paid for, some are partially paid for, and some is still to be paid for.

- a.** A new lifetime **roof** installed on half of the church. It had been leaking on the south side. Finances allowed for only half the roof to be replaced. The north side will need replacing eventually.
- b.** Entire new **heating system** for the church including ductwork and hot water to replace the previous system that was condemned for use.
- c.** The church has new **carpet** installed throughout the nave and sanctuary and new flooring in the vestibule to replace the previous carpet installed in 1968 that was in very bad condition.
- d.** The rectory and classroom have been brought to **fire code** with including doors in the house.
- e.** The **portable classroom building** (between the church and house) is scheduled to be replaced in 2011. This is the last large expense required for improvements. Partial demolition has already begun. Many of you may know that there were a number of



issues that led to the decision, including the fact that the building has leaked over the past few years, resulting in significant damage.

In this light, an application has been made to the *Trillium Foundation* for the construction of a new structure that will serve both as a kitchen and gathering location. Stay tuned for additional details! We'll keep you posted!



- f.* **New appliances** have been added over the past year. To date, two refrigerators, a freezer and two stoves and several small appliances have been replaced, providing additional resources for those renting the facilities.
- g.* **Water purifier** – while a new water purifier was added more than a year ago, it has made a significant difference in the water at the church. While the water quality has always been excellent, visitors have an understandable reluctance to use sulphur water in their everyday necessities.
- h.* Repairs and upgrades have been made to both *septic tanks*.
- i.* The rectory has a new *heating oil tank* and upgrades.
- j.* Repairs and upgrades have been made to the *rectory porch* to replace extensive rot.
- k.* **New Furniture** – Slowly directors and volunteers have been contributing items to the church and facilities to provide added comfort. Lamps, prints and blankets are just some of the contributions. Thanks everyone!
- l.* Needed maintenance and repairs have been made to windows, stonework, and electrical in the church. The church ceiling was painted this summer.



2) Rental Details

- a.* **Sleeping Accommodation** – At the present time, the church has **26 rooms** (including the rectory), that **sleep up to 52 people** and can be rented at any time. There are full washroom and food serving facilities available. A brochure has been developed and a website is also available for those wishing to check out the facility (see below).
- b.* **Kitchen Facilities.** There is one kitchen in the church (right) and one in the house. Each kitchen is fully equipped.
- c.* **Inquiries - contact either info@stignatiusdeemerton.ca for any inquiries with regard to possible rentals.**



3) Finances

A full year of waiting for provincial and federal approval resulted in our preservation society being granted Charitable status by Canada Revenue Agency. As such tax receipts can now be issued. St. Ignatius has become a founding member of the Association of Catholic Retreat Centres. Ours is the only centre in Canada owned and operated entirely by the laity. It is also the only member of this association that has mortgage. We are operated entirely by volunteers. No person is paid for anything required in the operation of the facility. At present rental income from the facility covers the bare essentials. Lack of funds continues to be the main barrier to growth. Forecast future profit will be required to pay for the necessary upgrades made to the property.

To date St. Ignatius has received \$8,700 in donations. These funds are critical for the continuation of our ministry to the church and the community. It takes a great deal of time and effort to keep a heritage building available for benefit of the community. Volunteers make up both the Board of Directors, event planning, grounds and building maintenance, developments and improvements, etc.

Any or all donations are greatly appreciated and are tax deductible.

The following is a list of issues / matters that should be addressed with respect to St. Ignatius, Deemerton. *Together, we can make it happen!!*

Number	ITEM	Estimated Cost
1	North ½ Church Roof	\$24,000
2	Windows – storm windows and replacements where necessary.	\$60,000
3	Chapel insulation and repair	\$ 6,000
4	Foundation of new structure (replacing portable)	\$10,000
5	Furnish new building, including new kitchen	\$20,000
6	Steeple - rebuild	\$35,000
7	Beds and Tables	\$ 5,000

Any and all donations can be made to St. Ignatius Preservation Society, R.R.#5 Mildmay, ON N0G 2J0.

The society is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the ongoing use and preservation of St. Ignatius Church for use by all groups, organizations, and families.