

REPORT OF THE CANTERBURY HILLS BOARD OF DIRECTORS –

Fall 2014 Synod Report

The Canterbury Hills (CH) Board of Directors has spent most of 2014 focused on alleviating Canterbury Hills chronic deficit operations while developing a plan for the Camp-side property to enhance and grow the Summer Camping program as well as operations during the spring and fall 'shoulder' seasons.

To that end, Canterbury Hills supported a motion at a Special Synod held in the spring of 2014 to proceed with the sale of some portion of the Canterbury Hills Property to the Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA).

The Agreement of Purchase and Sale and the Property Occupancy Agreement negotiated with the HCA provides the following:

- Severance of the 72 acre parcel of land known as Canterbury Hills into three distinct parcels.
- Parcels 1 (camp side flat upper level) and 2 (Conference Centre/Bagnall Lodge), each being roughly six acres, along with the Chapel and the road/trail leading to it will remain with the Diocese.
- The balance (Parcel 3) will be sold to the HCA for \$200,000.
- The Diocese will continue to have full access to the property being purchased, including the meadow cabins. This access, known as "quiet enjoyment", permits the use of the land in every way in which both Canterbury Hills and renters are currently using the property as long as the Diocese is the owner of Canterbury Hills.
- Adventureworks! Associates Inc. will continue to have the same use of the property as they have enjoyed previously.
- HCA will provide land management for the acquired land for matters of hazardous tree removal, erosion, and watercourse management at its cost.
- The Diocese will provide land management for the parcels it retains at its cost.

Synod passed this motion, allowing the Diocese to proceed with the Agreement with HCA. Following a period of discernment about other uses for the property, Synod Council passed a motion to offer for sale the Conference Centre property and expects to list it for sale by October 1, 2014.

It is the hope and deep desire of the CH Board that the proceeds from the sale to HCA and some of the proceeds from the Conference Centre property will be used to retire the steadily increasing debt that CH has incurred while operating the Centre over multiple years.

Most recently, the Board has turned its attention to enhancing the summer camp and ensuring that the camp-side property is able to operate through the summer and the spring and fall shoulder seasons as a thriving and self-sustaining entity.

The summer camp is Canterbury Hills core program. The Board feels that building on this positive asset and striving to continuously enhance and improve this program and experience for youth in our diocese is, and should be, our #1 priority for the following reasons:

- i. Highly regarded camping program
- ii. Passionate alumni – campers, parents and staff
- iii. High retention rate for campers and staff
- iv. Strong emotional connection
- v. Diocesan commitment to youth/youth ministry

Key attributes of the summer camping program include:

- i. Developing people/developing community
- ii. Christian values/Spiritual experience
- iii. Celebrate Creation/Stewardship of Nature
- iv. Inclusivity – e.g./ partnerships with Reach for the Rainbow, Angel Tree, St. Matthew's House, Children's Aid
- v. 'Safe Space' – relax, have fun, explore nature, make friends for life

Finally, the Board is currently in negotiations with partners to establish shared programming activities and operations for the shoulder seasons.

While it has been a challenging year, the Board is encouraged by the fact that our priority of ensuring that the summer camp will continue to evolve and grow as a vital component of youth ministry in the diocese appears to be on a solid footing for the foreseeable future.

Respectfully Submitted:

Paul Haycraft
Chair – Canterbury Hills