

MAY 16/93

The existing Summerland Youth Centre has been witness to a great number of events and changes throughout it's long history.

The original structure was built in 1906 as the college gymnasium, and functioned in that capacity for a great number of years. By 1949, the building had fallen into a state of neglect and was sold for \$ 3,500 to an enterprising group of Summerlander's who envisioned its potential as a "Youth Centre". This group formed the Summerland Youth Centre Association and borrowed the money to buy the structure and complete the necessary repairs to make the building functional. These repairs included new roof shingles, a new floor, downstairs washroom facilities, insulation and upgraded heating equipment to replace the original "peach pit" furnaces. A public appeal was launched and the community responded by donating \$ 8,000 to cover the repair costs.

In 1951, an industrial arts building was purchased from the school board for one dollar; cut in half, and attached to the back of the Youth Centre to provide a kitchen and storage.

In 1971 the existing heating system was installed. It replaced an antiquated oil, coal and the original "peach pit" burning equipment.

In 1978 the building was declared unsafe. The entire roof structure had to be replaced and the walls pulled together at the top elevations. The \$ 20,000 cost of these repairs was again raised through public donations. The new roof gave the building a much different look but at the same time lowered the interior height to 18 feet.

In 1980, the sub-division and sale of two lots financed a new maple floor, upstairs washrooms, paved parking lot, renovated kitchen and the retirement of outstanding debt.

The front hall, additional storage area at the rear and the access ramp were added in 1985.

In 1988, an attempt was made to raise a minimum of \$ 45,000 to upgrade some aspects of the facility, but unfortunately only limited funds were raised.

After 87 years, it's time to bid a very fond farewell to the old structure and think to the future. A new, multi-use Community Centre will be built adjacent to the Summerland Arena facing Peach Orchard Road.

Once again, we need your help, please give generously.

It may be of interest to review a little history of the Youth Centre Building.

At a public meeting held in June 1949 it was decided to buy the old 'College Gym' for \$3500 and the Summerland Youyh Centre Association was formed. The building was built in 1906 and served as a gymnasium for the Okanagan College with dormitories in the 'House on the Hill'.

The purchase price and funds for necessary repairs were borrowed from the bank. The repairs consisted of a new roof, insulation, furnace, washrooms and a new floor. A public appeal was made and \$8000 was raised to help finance these repairs and the hall opened in October 1949.

In 1951 the old industrial arts building was purchased from the School Board, for one dollar, cut in half and attached to the back of the building to provide a kitchen and storage area.

In 1971 the peach pit burning furnace was replaced with two gas fired furnaces, now very inefficient.

In the fall of 1978, in the process of some repair work, the roof support structure was declared unsafe and a whole new superstructure and roof was installed at a cost of \$20,000 (\$17,000) by public appeal.)

In 1980 the subdivision and sale of two lots west of the building provided funds for a new maple floor, upstairs washrooms, paved parking lot, renovated and re-equipped kitchen.

1985 saw the addition of a ramp, front hall and the addition of another storage room.

In 1988 an attempt was made to raise \$45,000 to upgrade the electrical and heating systems, new stage curtains etc. but unfortunate the funds were not available.

In 1991 the Fire Commissioner made a fire safety improvement inspection and issued a ten page report listing deficiencies to be corrected to comply with the Fire Services Act.