

F A L L 2 0 2 2

# POWASSAN *update*

FROM THE BUILDING COMMITTEE OF THE POWASSAN FRC



## Looking for Updates?

We are working to keep you updated through our website, Facebook, and Instagram pages, though we do expect that updates will slow down over the winter. Scan the code below to check out our website:



[bit.ly/3ExvwP0](https://bit.ly/3ExvwP0)

## ✘ Thankful for His Blessings ✘

*“For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?” - Mark 14:28*

We thank you for following along as we work towards a meeting place for our congregation! We are grateful for your prayers, offers of help, and giving of your finances. The Lord has richly blessed our progress thus far.

Much has happened in the months since our last update, and we are encouraged by the progress the Lord has granted us. We were able to have the portion of the lot we hope to build on cleared, and a construction-grade driveway was put in. We are also thankful for the completion of a drilled well. The congregation was able to finalize a design that is currently being drawn up. There are some steps still to be completed before we can apply for our building permit, and we ask for prayer that this process will go smoothly. While our opportunity to pour a foundation this fall passed, we are thankful that Lord willing, we will be able to hit the ground running in late spring once road restrictions end.

As we mentioned in our last update, a challenge in this process is rising inflation and the reality that we would not be wise to take on a mortgage. We feel it is not prudent to break ground until we have significant savings, pledges, or commitments to help in place. We have paid for the property and the work done to date, but we still have to raise about \$960,000 in support.

Please prayerfully consider if this is an area where you can assist in our building process. We are very grateful to the business owners who have already reached out and offered assistance. We would greatly appreciate your expertise and skill in this area, as local tradespeople are often booked a year in advance. Business owners who feel they may be able to assist or would like to tender a bid for a portion of the work can contact Chad Everts, chair of our building committee by email at [hopefrcbuild@gmail.com](mailto:hopefrcbuild@gmail.com)

## How You Can Help

First, please continue to pray that the design process goes smoothly and that we would have what is necessary to begin building next spring!

Second, would you please consider donating to this project?

This can be done by an e-transfer to [deacon@hopereformed.ca](mailto:deacon@hopereformed.ca), or at our website through CanadaHelps.

Cheques or pledge letters can also be mailed to our treasurer at:

1335 River Road,  
Astorville, ON P0H 1B0

Please designate donations to the “Building Fund.”

More information is available at [www.hopereformed.ca/building](http://www.hopereformed.ca/building).

S P R I N G 2 0 2 2

# POWASSAN *update*

FROM THE BUILDING COMMITTEE OF THE POWASSAN FRC



## *Zoning Update*

We thankful to report that the zoning amendment process is complete! The vacant land purchased was zoned rural, but now that has been amended to allow an institutional land use. On March 24th, a final appeal period ended, with no objections from the community. We are very thankful to the Lord that this went smoothly, and we very much appreciated the help of Upper Canada Planning throughout this process.

## ✧ *Planning for the Future* ✧

*“A man’s heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps.” - Proverbs 16:9*

The Powassan church plant started as a preaching station in the summer of 2009. Since then, we have gathered to worship in a few different places. We recently counted that we have met in at least eleven different rental facilities over the years! We have also had many more gatherings outdoors, in barns, and in our homes. These gatherings for worship have been cherished, even as they have often reminded us that we are “...strangers and pilgrims on the earth” (Hebrews 11:13) and that we should be “...content with such things as we have.” (Hebrews 13:5)

At the same time, it has been exciting to see some progress made towards planning a facility for worship. We are now applying for permits for site work and developing building plans. We are thankful to be able to own the land without any mortgage, and to have a little over \$100,000 in our building fund as of late-April.

We anticipate that we will be building a relatively simple facility of 5 to 6,000 square feet. This could accommodate our local gathering of a little over 100 people comfortably in the winter, and would have flexible space to accommodate additional visitors in the summers.

At this time, the goal is to raise approximately 1.2 million dollars more for a facility. One challenge that we face at this point is inflation. With costs for building materials and fuel rising considerably, we are not sure if humanly speaking we will ever catch up to the cost of a building. We are also reluctant to leave much “cash” in the bank for very long, and so we may be rethinking our plans and budget as time passes.

Those of us that are more optimistic hope to pour a foundation this fall. Please pray that the Lord directs our steps, and gives us patience and wisdom for the process ahead!

## *How You Can Help!*

First, please pray that the design and permitting processes go smoothly, and that the Lord provides the wisdom, strength, and means that are needed!

Second, would you please consider donating to this project? This can be done by e-transfer, at our website through CanadaHelps, or by mailing in a cheque.

### Mailing Address:

Hope Reformed Church  
1335 River Road  
Astorville, ON  
POH 1B0

Updates & Donation Information: [www.hopereformed.ca/building](http://www.hopereformed.ca/building) E-transfer: [deacon@hopereformed.ca](mailto:deacon@hopereformed.ca)

J A N U A R Y 2 0 2 2



FROM THE BUILDING COMMITTEE OF THE POWASSAN FRC



### *Our Current Situation*

Due to COVID regulations and management decisions, we are unable to rent local meeting halls. The church is currently split into three services: one early in the morning at a small church in North Bay, one near Sundridge, and one in Chisholm township. We have gathered outdoors, in barns, shops or homes, depending on temperature. Please pray that the Lord provides a place where the whole congregation can worship together!

## ✧ Property Purchase & Planning ✧

*“Except the LORD build the house, They labour in vain who build it.” - Ps. 127:1*

We are thankful that the Lord has provided an ideal property for our congregation! Given the competitive market for land and climbing prices, we were surprised to be directly offered this property for a very reasonable price. At just under 11 acres, this vacant lot is only a couple of minutes north of Powassan, just off of Highway 11 on Latour Crescent. The total cost of the property purchase was approximately \$130,000. We are thankful to be able to report that our building fund had more than enough money available to cover this. The purchase was completed on January 14, 2022.

We are currently in the process of applying for a minor variance to the Rural zoning of the property. This is being done with the help of Upper Canada Consulting. Initial public consultations and the township council presentation went very well. We are optimistic that the amendment will pass.

The Building Committee is also currently working through the design phase with the help of Brouwer Construction. We are trying to design a relatively simple but flexible facility. There is a need to accommodate approximately 100 people for worship throughout the winters, but also sometimes well over 200 in the summers.

At this time, we have about \$85,000 remaining in the building fund. This will allow us to proceed this spring with design and some site work. We anticipate that we will still have to raise over a million dollars to build even a simple facility of approximately 5,500 square feet.

We are praying that the Lord will provide the means to possibly even begin construction later this year. For the most recent updates on our situation and fundraising you can check for updates on our website.

### *How You Can Help!*

First, please pray that the zoning and permitting processes continue to go smoothly, and that the Lord provides the wisdom, strength, and means that are needed!

Second, would you please consider donating to this project? This can be done by e-transfer, at our website through CanadaHelps, or by mailing in a cheque.

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