



October 2007

Northeast Campus Relocation

"This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning." (Winston Churchill, 1942)

Perhaps you have driven past the new Northeast campus to note the progress and to see the school that your children will be attending. And perhaps you have the same mixed feelings that many of us do. As I walk through it is clear that we are constructing a solid, well-designed building that will be a great place of learning for our children. We also believe that, although the costs have gone beyond our original estimates, they are reasonable for what we are receiving. I can't help but praise God for his blessings!



The mixed feelings come because I am a bit disappointed that we have not moved in yet. There have been construction delays; all of the trades have had some difficulty meeting the deadlines. I guess there are some downsides to the Alberta advantage! Having said this, I am happy to report that we are scheduling the move for the beginning of January. As you can understand, we cannot pin down a specific date yet. I know we will be looking for volunteers to help us in this move so keep us in mind when the time comes.

As far as cost overruns are concerned we are anticipating that the final bill will be approximately \$300,000 higher than the original estimates. The higher costs are due to a number of things including the higher cost of cement and winter heat, and changes that were made. We are looking at alternatives for raising money to offset some of this cost. We will likely increase our financing and we will continue our *Finishing Touches* appeal. The combination of a variety of things will have to be considered.

I'm sure that many of you are excited to visit the new building and we are anticipating arranging hardhat tours for anyone that is interested. Stay tuned for further details. If you have any questions or comments regarding construction or ideas for fundraising please don't hesitate to contact the society office at 476-6281.

Peter Buisman

How You Can Help

- ★ Donate your 5-ton truck and a few hours of your time when we move in January. Call 408-7933 to volunteer.
- ★ *Finishing Touches* appeal will resume in November along with hardhat tours of the new campus. Consider how you might help with a financial gift.
- ★ Make a significant donation now together with your Society membership renewal (*enclosed*).
- ★ We can now accept gifts of public securities, on which you receive a 50% tax credit. Call for details!



Pete's Ponderings



Let me tell you about some of the things that are happening at the Society office. First, I want to say thank you for making my first six weeks here at the office great. I truly enjoy the work that I'm doing. Perhaps it is simply the honeymoon period but even if that were the case I can always remember with fondness the first few weeks on

the job. What a pleasure it is to serve this community! So many people do so much to make the cause of Christian education successful at our school. We look forward to your continued support and invite any feedback or suggestions for how we can do our work better.

Personnel Changes

- Executive Director *Peter Buisman*
- Transportation Coordinator *Edith Houtstra*
- Accountant *Frieda Jager*
- Maintenance Coordinator *John VanEssen*
- Admin Assistant *Brenda VanOmmen*
- Development Coordinator *Fred Woudstra*

Thank you to **Sharon Bobier**, our previous Accountant, for 5 years of dedicated service to our community!

Role of the Society

The Society office exists for and because of you – our parents and supporters. We intend, over the next while, to better understand and improve how the Society should relate to, and interact with, Edmonton Christian School and our supporting community. The Society supports

Edmonton Christian School by:

- ensuring that the Christian program is consistent with the vision and mission of our community;
- providing transportation, buildings, furniture and equipment;
- monitoring the program;
- providing funds for the development of Christian curriculum and professional development for teachers;
- participating in the interviews of new families and staff;

- maintaining a website and developing promotional materials that reflect the reality that we are, first of all, a Christian school.

We are accountable to you, the members of the society. We invite your comments at any time and we invite you to participate in two membership meetings every year. The next meeting is:

**Monday, November 26: 7:00 p.m.
Senior High campus: 14304 109 avenue**

Remember, **you must be an active member** of the Society to participate in these meetings! Membership forms were mailed to you in September or you can sign up at the meeting.

Come with your questions, concerns and advice about any issue that you wish to bring up.

Transportation

Many of you recently received a survey from the transportation committee, which requested feedback on two important items:

- the level of service that is being provided in the face of major difficulties hiring and retaining drivers;
- continually rising costs and associated fees

It became clear from these surveys that:

- our community wants to maintain the level of service;
- you are willing to pay more for that service.

Therefore, the transportation committee will review the routes to provide fair service without forcing students to walk or ride long distances to meet the bus. We are also looking at alternatives including getting

involved with the Edmonton Public School transportation system. Count on more information about this at our meeting on November 26.

In summary, our Society is more than a group of Christian school supporters. We have a passion for preparing students for a life of joyful service to God and the community. Our school belongs to God! We know that God will bless our efforts because it is His school and we trust that as we continue to serve in this way our children will receive the kind of education that we all want for them.

Society Calendar

November 26	Fall Society meeting 7:00 p.m. at Senior High campus
On the agenda:	Financial statements, NE update, Transportation and your questions.
January	Northeast campus relocation. Call if you can help! We need several 5 ton trucks.
May 10	15 th Annual Goods & Services Auction