



MUSTARD SEED

"The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes like a tree so that birds come to perch on its branches"

Matthew 13: 21-32

OUR LADY OF LOURDES Parish

828 Laval Sq., Coquitlam | OLOL.ca | office@olol.ca



A small gift can grow to immense proportions when presented with humility and sincerity. When one hand joins another and another and another. . . to build. To finish.

And eventually to enjoy - as a family. As a COMMUNITY!!

Mustard Seed is a project to help in the growth of the parish.





HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE



The dwellings in the Fraser Mills community in the early 1920s.

Source: Coquitlam Public Library

In September 1909 the first group of freshly recruited French-Canadian pioneers from Eastern Ontario and Quebec arrived, recruited by Father William O'Boyle and Mr. Theodore Theroux, to work at the Fraser River Sawmills on the North Shore of the Fraser River. By June 1910 up to 400 French-speaking families had come west to make a new community and answer the call to meet a labour shortage which threatened to close the mill.

Besides paying generous wages, the Canadian Western Lumber Company Mills (name changed in 1910 from Fraser Mills) promised "access to land for their families to settle, wood for building a house and the freedom to preserve their language". Recognizing the importance of religion in the hearts and lives of the pioneers, Fraser Mills also offered a site and lumber on which to build a Catholic church.



MUSTARD SEED

The small village grew to include a general store that housed a post office, a shoemaker, some offices and even a pool hall and a barber shop! An elementary school, run by the Sisters of the Child Jesus, was established as well as a credit union, Caisse Populaire (now VanCity).

This vibrant French-Canadian community was the largest Francophone centre west of Manitoba and the seed for the future city of Coquitlam.



A popular general store in 1923.

Source: Coquitlam Public Library



Storefront in Maillardville, photograph taken in 1913
Photograph of a store built by Stan Lamoureux.

Source: Coquitlam Public Library Archives

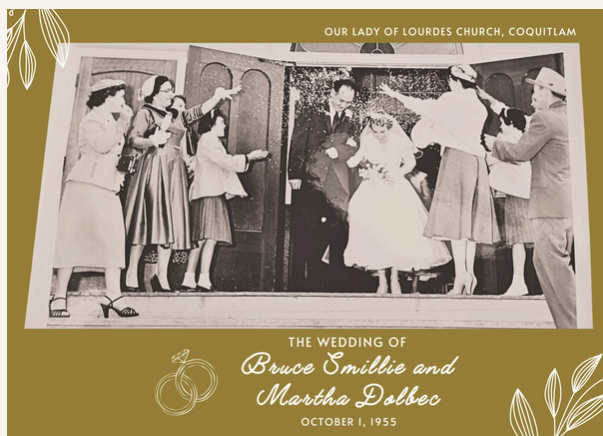
Originally, the people of Maillardville attended Sunday Mass in the school classroom on the top floor of the Fraser Mills General Store. The church, named “Notre Dame de Lourdes”, was later erected on Laval Square where the first Holy Mass was celebrated by Fr. Edmond Maillard, OMI, on December 24, 1909.



Fraser Mills, General Store

Source: City of Coquitlam Archives

Notre Dame de Lourdes became a hub of family activity. There were celebrations of Baptisms, First Holy Communions, weddings, anniversaries, liturgical processions and feast days. Music was always an integral part of the festivities.



The influence of Our Lady of Lourdes remains visible in street names such as Delestre, Teck and Vanier, all of which commemorate parish priests.



First Communion with Father Teck, in 1935.

Source: Coquitlam Public Library Archives

THROUGH THE YEARS

Time brings on the inevitable: the original pioneers passed on; many of their children moved away. Yet the little church on the square continues. The celebration of Mass and the sacraments continued unabated and the congregation continued to grow.



1912

Source: Coquitlam Public Library Archives



1938

Source: Coquitlam Public Library Archives



2025



The tradition of coffee and cookies after Mass began many years ago. The church basement and hall hosted parties to celebrate New Year's, birthdays, weddings and anniversaries; fundraisers; ballroom dance lessons; a Thursday evening prayer group; rosary making.

Over the years, the youth have been very much involved in the parish and have represented Our Lady of Lourdes at World Youth Day and other national and international conferences. They initiated a "Donate Socks" project to assist the homeless in Vancouver.



During Lent and Christmas, the Knights of Columbus collected canned goods to donate for families in need. The Catholic Women's League (CWL) and Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) held bake sales and fundraisers helping many people along the way. Many activities still take place at Our Lady of Lourdes and we look forward to more, once our basement renovation is complete. For many years, Madame Gilberte Knapp and her helpers baked countless tourtières to sell at the Festival du Bois, which was founded by Our Lady of Lourdes parishioners.



Food Drive



Bake Sales



Tourtière

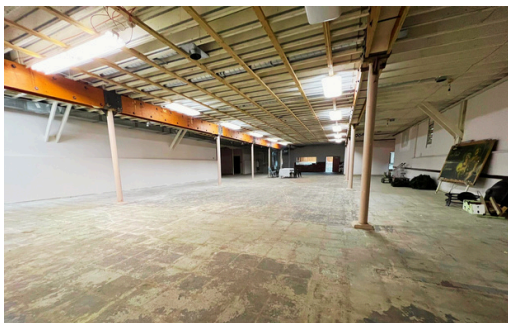
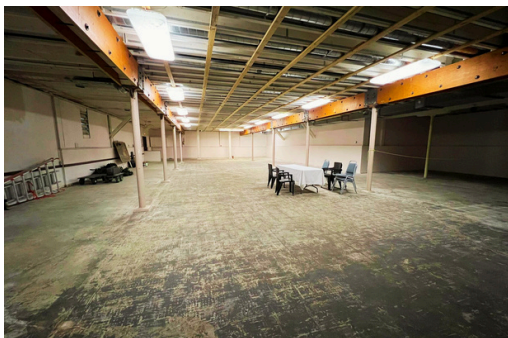
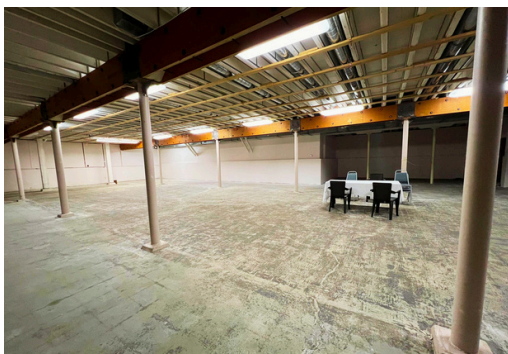
TODAY

In recent years, there have been massive changes in society. Our Lady of Lourdes Parish is responding to the community's changing needs.

The need for faith, a strong Christian base and knowledge of God's love for us, is stronger than ever. Also necessary is the response to the human desire to belong, to feel part of a larger whole, a community.

Although the neighbourhood has changed and the physical structures have aged, the spirit at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish remains strong. Many activities take place in the church and hall and we look forward to doing more, once the basement renovation is complete.

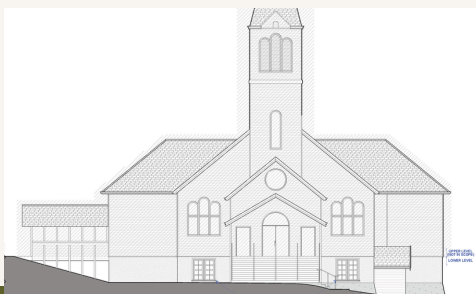
Church Basement at present



THE VISION

The vision of the pioneers is still the vision we strive for today. The church basement we have envisioned will serve the parish and the larger community - with a stage for concerts and shows; a sitting room for coffee or a bowl of soup; a history corner and a large hall for conferences, programs, parties, dances, garage/bake sales and the like.

It will be a place to connect to community, to reach out for a hand and find it, to feel warmth from a friend's smile, a joke shared over coffee, to feel alive listening to music, or playing it.



There will be light pouring in through the new basement windows, which will be reopened after being shuttered for decades.

RENOVATIONS ARE COSTLY

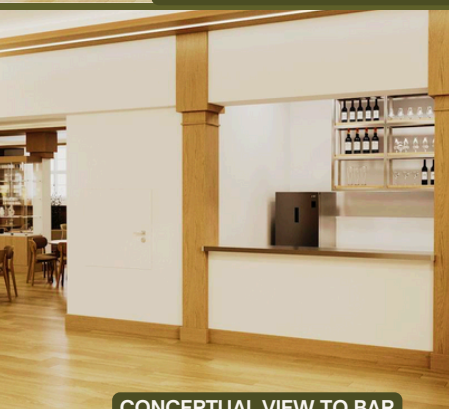
We need to raise funds for the walls, ceiling, floor, tables and chairs, state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment, lighting for concerts for dinners and parties, a new security system, historical interpretive centre, coffee machine and coffee shop furniture, kitchen appliances, interior décor.



CONCEPTUAL VIEW TO STAGE



CONCEPTUAL VIEW TO KITCHEN



CONCEPTUAL VIEW TO BAR



CONCEPTUAL VIEW TO COFFEE/LIBRARY/LOUNGE AREA

We are reaching out to parishioners, friends and family of parishioners, neighbours and the community to assist us in restoring and enhancing this historical building so we may continue to build the community of Maillardville, centred around the little church in the middle of the square.

THE MUSTARD SEED PROJECT

It would be easy to focus on the physical renovation only but we are a vibrant faith community. Without our faith, our foundation, we would cease to exist. The intangibles need to grow as well: an increase in prayer; an increase in personal knowledge of our Lord; an increase in service and outreach to the community around us; an increase in connection through volunteering and attendance at parish events.

We are a valued faith community and we are looking to grow. Let us work together and watch the growth of the mustard seed at Our Lady of Lourdes parish. Let's welcome the birds of the air to come and nest in our welcoming branches!



Jesus said to His disciples -

"I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed,
you can say to this mountain,
'Move from here to there' and it will move.
Nothing will be impossible for you."

Matthew 17: 14-20



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