**Presentation to EPC at City Hall**
**May 2, 2007**

**Presenters:** Pauline Riley, past chair of Burrows Central Residents Council (BCRC)
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Good morning! Mayor and councilors my name is Pauline Riley and I'm making a presentation on behalf of Burrows Central Residents Council (BCRC) regarding the allocation of a one time grant of $24,000 to cover the costs of utilities, heat and water at the building once known as the Boyd Park Community Centre. We recently signed a letter of intent with the City and have obtained a 5 million dollar insurance policy for the building and last week we started using the space.

We appeared before EPC and Council in June 2006 to request that BCRC have use of the said building, in order to develop a **Resource Centre** for the community of Burrows. We received support for our community work and assurance that BCRC would be able to continue to use the Boyd Park space. Council removed BPCC from the city's community centres and BCRC accepted this action and continued to pursue converting the space into a **Resource Centre**. Last year we were given occupancy of the space for eight weeks for the Urban Green Team students.

BCRC has been working in the Burrows area for 5 years and we have a strong committed Board, a track record of successful community events, activities and community rejuvenation. We have the ongoing support, for the plan to develop Boyd into of a Resource Centre, from our City Councillor, the area MLA and MP and a wide variety of organizations and residents.

In March of 2007 we received $112,000 in funding from the Federal Government. The funding was secured to implement *People Helping People Project*. This project focuses on seniors and youth in our neighbourhood and the issue of safety, wellbeing, and recreational activities and services. This grant has enabled us to employ a full-time coordinator for two years. It is imperative that this project can be anchored in the community and Boyd is seen as the only space that could accommodate this type of programming. One of the coordinator's roles is to build community capacity, work on issues, such as the isolation of seniors and lack of resources for both youth and seniors, identify community needs, and identify and liaise with partners who are interested in the partnering with BCRC and the programming of the **Boyd Resource Centre**.

Since March, 2007 we have secured administrative support from the *North End Community Renewal Corporation*. We have received enthusiastic interest & support from *Graffiti Galley, Winnipeg Boys and Girls Club, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority. Ndinawe* and *Ma Ma Wi. Healthy Child Manitoba* is committed to offering after schools programs starting in September, 2007, *Age & Opportunity & Point Douglas Seniors Coalition* are going to be offering Senior Safety Workshop starting in May, 2007 and *PDSC* would like to open a satellite office in the space. We are continuing to pursue other possible partners for the Resource Centre.

BCRC coordinator has met with *SEED-CEPTAS* program; this program matches professionals with community groups. We are seeking one professional to assist us in the development of the Resource Centre programming and the daily operations and administrative structure of the Resource Centre. We are also seeking another professional who will explore options to retro-fit the building and costs out these changes and assist with the identification of funds.

On April 25' 2007we held our Annual General Meeting and over 100 people attended this event. Eighteen students from the *Youth Opportunities Program (CEDA)* assisted with the set-up of the venue, serving food, signing in guests and serving refreshments. This event offered us the opportunity to launch our *People Helping People Project* and to discuss the future use of the Boyd space. Both the project and the idea of a Resource Centre was extremely well received and we received positive feed back and lots of offers from residents to assist BCRC with any upcoming events or activities. Our first fundraiser for the building will be a Community Barbeque and Giant Yard Sale in June. We have applied to the Province for funding for 2 Urban Green Teams, one to work at the Resource Centre and the other to work in the community assisting seniors and disabled persons to do yard work, removing graffiti, and doing general clean-up of the neighbourhood.

**In Summation** - BCRC is an established organization with a track record of implementing positive changes in our neighbourhood:

- We have partnering organizations
- We have program funding for two years and will seek further funding from all levels of government, foundations and businesses
- We have a committed volunteer board
- We have resident's support
- We are prepared to work in cooperation with the entire community
- We will contact various funder's and businesses to assist with the renovation of the space.

The Board of BCRC and the Coordinator of our "*People Helping People Project*" have determined that we will need a year to develop our community partnerships and establish suitable programming and funding options for the Resource Centre. We therefore respectfully ask that EPC allow the request for a one time $24,000 grant to cover expenses for utilities, heat and water to BCRC for one year.

Respectfully submitted by Pauline Riley on behalf of Burrows Central Residents Council