The Elmwood Station No. 8 History

In 1905 the community of Elmwood had a booming population of 2000 people and a bright future as it continued to grow just across the Red River from the City of Winnipeg.

In 1906 the City built a new Louise Bridge in an effort to entice Elmwood to join Winnipeg. A referendum was held and in March 1906 the motion to join the City was passed.

But just a few months later, the new suburb was in an uproar! A scandal was brewing at the premier's office as a new LaSalle Hotel owner had been granted a Liquor License in a community that had been a ‘No Alcohol’ zone up until the referendum. However, the license stood and the 52 room hotel opened boasting a billiards room, a barber shop and something quite modern and amazing: electric lights!

1906 was a boom year for Elmwood and the growth demanded more services. So, soon after the referendum, the City made good on its promise to build a fire hall in the heart of the residential district. Fire Hall #8 was constructed to house 11 horses, 5 fire wagons and 16 men. It was the most modern building in Elmwood, boasting steam heat as well as full plumbing and electricity!

The Fire Hall was completed in 1906 at a cost of $17,000.

In 1957, East Kildonan was incorporated as a separate city and it wasn't until 1974 that the ‘Unicity’ was formed, joining Elmwood, East Kildonan and the rest of Winnipeg. Shortly after the amalgamation, the City's fire assets were re-distributed and Fire Hall #8 was no longer needed as a fire station.

It became an Ambulance Depot for a few years and was later turned into a boxing club until Youth For Christ purchased it from the City for $1 and turned it into a youth centre in the mid 1980’s.
In 2012, Riverwood purchased the YFC Fire Hall and immediately began renovating it in two phases: Phase 1 was to gut and develop the 2nd and 3rd floors as much needed office and meeting space. This was completed in 2013. Phase 2 was to gut and develop the main floor and basement, turning it into 5500 square feet of ministry space with a 200 seat auditorium / multi-purpose community space and a KidZone space in the basement.

Riverwood volunteers have put literally 1000’s of hours into bringing back the textures, style and feel of the 100-year-old history of this building. The whole story can be found at www.buildingriverwood.com

The Vision

The Fire Hall renovations have been extensive with upgraded mechanical systems, the installation of a sprinkler system and every surface given new life. As we near completion we’re getting excited about what this revitalized space will mean to our community.

Our first goal is to launch two additional worship gatherings on Sunday at 9:15 and 11:15 am. These services will feature live worship and pastoral hosting and ‘live-by-satellite’ teaching from Riverton building a block away.

Since the Fire Hall auditorium seats a maximum of just under 200 people, this service will be unique for Riverwood in its smallness and intimate setting.
Aside from weekend services, it is our hope that the space will be used daily to serve and gather the people of our community in life-giving groups and activities.

**The Fire Hall Tire-Kickers**

Currently we’re in a season of gathering people who are interested in being part of the ‘launch teams’ for the new worship gatherings.

Recently we’ve hosted a few Open Houses and a Fire Hall Service After Party with over 80 people in attendance and 47 saying they are ‘interested’. These people have been put on an email list and will receive updates on construction, volunteer needs, prayer requests and launch information.

If you would like to be put on this list to receive updates, please email church@riverwood.cc and let us know.

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**Volunteer Inventory**

Launching two new worship services will require a small army of volunteers!

Here is a list of what will be needed for each service:

>> **9:15 CONNEXIONS**  
x2 - Ushers  
x2 - Greeters  
x1 - Parking Attendant  
x1 – Security Person  
x1 - Welcome Centre Person  
x2- Coffee Set up / Servers  
x2 - Grounded Café Servers
It will take at least 44 volunteers every week to make these services possible! If you would like to explore the Volunteer opportunity or sign up to serve in any of the following, please contact sue@riverwood.cc
Note: Some of the roles require an application, audition or come with some prerequisites.
A Few More of Our Favourite Fire Hall Reno Shots Celebrating the Amazing Volunteers!
A huge “Thank You!” to every one of our amazing volunteers who have poured their hard work and sweat into making this a very special place! Over 100 crews have been posted to www.buildingriverwood.com!