

Over 200 years ago in the rural area of Fort George, a community was built, which slowly flourished into a small town. This community flourished through tribulations such as the North West Rebellion, war, and economic hardship. A settlement was born and old merged with new. Eventually, the great iron rail covered this country. Soon came a church, school, hotel, wheel wright, pharmacy, and a post office appeared. It was this post office which brought a man named John Heins who aptly named the town Heinsburg. The post office has been a hub of communication and business for this community for the past 106 years. Although it has changed a few times, it is a staple of community identity. I purpose to save the post office in Heinsburg which is why I am here to present an idea and opportunity to you. I hope to inspire you to offer your support to help retain Heinsburg's post office thereby retaining one of the last commercial services in the town of Heinsburg.

There are two buildings that belong to the township that may be suitable as a post office. The buildings are the community hall, and the CNR Rail Station. Both of these locations have their drawbacks and benefits should they be used as a post office. Although one is costly it offers a greater long term payout and viability whereas the other may be more cost effective but does not offer the opportunity for growth.

The rail station is an historic building, it can be used for cultural/artistic/and commercial use. If interested, someone could apply for grants, as this building has historical significance, and therefore, by placing the post office in this building the rail station could possibly be brought back to its former glory. Not only can this building be renovated, should grants be attainable, the building could become usable for events and become a source of income for the county. If brought into working order and properly renovated, the building would become a place for the community to mingle while remaining useful and functional coinciding with the efforts of The Iron Horse Trail. The location has its own stage, and kitchen but requires heat, sewer, and water which becomes a costly and time consuming venture. The rail station does have a lot of potential but will require a higher dedication of resources from the county to make it a useable year round space. Canada Post does not supply funds for these types of ventures and as a result, should Heinsburg wish to place the post office in this location, the community will need to fund the venture.

The second option is the community hall. Although the building is owned by the county of St. Paul, I have approached the president of the hall and have asked them about their feelings towards the use of a small portion of the hall for a post office. An agreement must still be ratified by vote before a final agreement could be reached with them, but on first consultation they seemed agreeable. There is a space that can be used, and modified to fit the needs of a post office. The building will require that a door and a small wall be used to block outside access to a stairway for privacy reasons and the county would have to fund this renovation. Should the post office be placed in this space, the space needs to be blocked off from the rest of the hall so that the security of the mail can be ensured. Furthermore, the county would also have to fund the building of a wheelchair ramp so that the building is accessible to all.

If the county of St. Paul is willing to help invest in the future of Heinsburg's post office, I ask for funding options to be discussed and a choice to be made as to which building option will be supported for funding. As I previously mentioned, Canada Post does not provide any funding for renovations or

updates to a building. Should the county choose to not support the installation of a post office space, Heinsburg residents will have to drive to Frog Lake to receive their mail or they will have to pay a yearly fee of \$150 to have a post office box in Elk Point. The only other option for the townspeople of Heinsburg will be to use mono boxes which are installed in the town currently. These boxes do not allow residents to send mail as they are for receiving mail only. The boxes also do not allow residents to receive oversized mail such as parcels which once again means they will have to drive to another location to retrieve their incoming mail.

Currently, I have been informed that Canada Post will supply me with \$2279 annually to rent a space, so I am willing to give that to the county as rent as long as the postal service continues to provide that funding. If the funding should ever be terminated, I am not able to pay this out of my wages and at that time changes would have to be discussed with the county. Thank you for considering my proposal. Once a decision has been made and a building decided upon (if the vote favours the installation of a new post office) quotes would be supplied and discussed and details can be finalized.

I have enclosed a copy of a quote for the installation of heat into the rail station building and its estimated monthly maintenance of the train station and pictures. I have also enclosed photos of the hall and its available space.











