

Passing of Ages through Council Operations.

Throughout its long history of serving the community, the Kitchener Knights of Columbus have evolved through a winding path of Council quarters. Upon receiving its 1910 Charter, Father Funcken Council No. 1504 was first located on King Street in the building where Southern Insurance was situated, a floor above the Masonic Hall. Next, was a move to the Glick Block, above Arnold Brothers tobacco store on King St.

In 1929 Council paid \$11,000 for a home on Weber St., renovating and converting it to its meeting quarters. Meetings were held upstairs with a maximum capacity of 60 people. Downstairs was a sitting and socializing area with lounge chairs, TV, and a billiard table.

By 1966, Council had outgrown the tight quarters. With the Weber St. building now sold, Council temporarily moved to the Dunker Building on King St. before, finally, purchasing land on Manitou Drive in Kitchener. Construction of, what became *Columbus Center*, commenced in 1966 and in May 1967 became Council's home with a beautiful lounge, and large banquet hall.



Columbus Center served Father Funcken Council 1504, Assembly 866, and the Community at large well, until declining membership and escalating costs prompted the final move in the Spring of 2012 to, what is now, *Columbus House* on Guelph St. in Kitchener. Much to the credit of skilled members, the house and adjacent building, on a lot size of approximately 1.5-acre, were converted to a more intimate social, and economically sustainable setting with meeting hall accommodations (between *Council House* and the *Lower Chambers*) to accommodate Council, Assembly and Corporation meetings and events throughout the year.



Says PGK Whit Husk, "We are Knights of Columbus, and are not about a building. We are about Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism."



Today, the Kitchener Knights of Columbus host member-centric and family friendly events on the property for Council and Assembly while optimizing its operations for staging a wide array of fund-raising events for the many Catholic church and community charities throughout the region.

Ref: Centennial Celebration, August 15, 2010, Whit Husk