

# Thrift Shop is getting bigger and better



A Gwaii Trust grant will allow Queen Charlotte's Thrift Shop to transform its 107-year-old heritage home

and making the islands a better place to live through infrastructure improvements. The Thrift Shop was also able to demonstrate that it has lots of community support: it has held successful fundraisers, and submitted several letters of support from groups like Northern Health's Mental Health and Addictions Services, the Haida Gwaii Society for Community Peace and the Village of Queen Charlotte. In fact, the Society is contributing more than \$60,000 of its own savings to help pay for the project, as well as volunteer hours. The Gwaii Trust grant of \$166,426 will pay for about 70 percent of the total project cost.

The Thrift Shop Society is a non-profit group run entirely by volunteers, and the shop and its services have been an important part of our community for decades. The shop promotes the recycling of second-hand items and provides a source of affordable clothing, housewares, toys, books, furniture and small appliances. It turns discarded cotton into rags for resale, and has donated bedding and pet items to the local SPCA. The society covers all its operational expenses through sales of

Exciting times are ahead for the Queen Charlotte Thrift Shop Society. After years of planning, the society is about to start work on a major expansion that will make the shop much more accessible, secure, and energy-efficient.

Located in one of the oldest buildings in Queen Charlotte, a 1909 schoolhouse that has been moved to its current location on 2nd Avenue, the popular Thrift Shop has been making donated second-hand items available at low prices since the 1970s. But as anyone who uses the shop can see, the building has been gradually deteriorating and has become too small to properly display the volume of donations it receives.

The expansion project will see a 24' x 26' addition built onto the existing building, almost doubling the shop's space. The addition will include a secure drop-off bin, a covered deck, and an enclosed storage space. But that's not all. The existing heritage building will also be renovated, with a cement foundation, new roof, and new racks and

shelves for display. The old and inefficient oil furnace will be taken out and replaced with a heat pump, which should reduce the

## The expansion will allow the Thrift Shop to offer even more items for sale, increasing its revenues and creating an attractive and accessible space for volunteers and shoppers.

society's annual heating bills significantly and can also provide air conditioning on hot summer days. All work will be done by local contractors.

The society turned to the Gwaii Trust, applying for a Major Contributions grant to help pay for the renovations. Gwaii Trust directors were very impressed with the Society's application, which they approved last month. The project meets several of their goals and objectives, including promoting the cultural and economic health of the community, fostering a spirit of cooperation,

second-hand items, and also manages to donate to other community groups like the Mental Health program, the Teen Centre, food banks and Hospital Day. The expansion will allow it to offer even more items for sale, increasing its revenues and creating an attractive and accessible space for volunteers and shoppers. Congratulations to the Thrift Shop as it embarks on this exciting new project!

Check out our website at [gwaiitrust.com](http://gwaiitrust.com) for complete information about our grants and how to apply.