

From Rumour to Reality! Yes folks, "The Cellar" is moving!

Now, you might ask, "What is The Cellar?" or you might know it well! The Cellar is a small thrift shop operated by members of the Women's Ministry Network of the United Church here in Cranbrook. It is a "non-profit" enterprise, which means we gift all our profits to charitable organizations in one way or another. Our workers are "totally unpaid" volunteers, because volunteers are "priceless", so we are able to assist both local and global Mission and Outreach work through our donations. We support the Cranbrook Food Bank, the Cranbrook Women's Shelter, Mission and Service Canada and Overseas, Royal Canadian Legion Cranbrook Branch, Kootenay Presbyterial, World Development, Rock Lake Youth Camp for local youth, Africa Relief, and Haiti Relief.

We are blessed to have workers from other Christian denominations assist us also. We welcome new volunteers anytime.

The Cellar started about 50 years ago, when a group of young women, many "moms" at the time, opened the doors in the basement of the United Church to provide a place where local families and individuals could purchase used clothing and small household items at 'rock-bottom' prices. This served a need in Cranbrook for many folk who otherwise could not afford to outfit their families. Today, this 'outreach' need is still being met, but the thrift store is also frequented by bargain hunters, who are just as welcome to shop here.

After several years of operating on a week-by-week basis, wherein this entrepreneurial group of women unpacked boxes of saleable merchandise, displayed it, sold some, and repacked it into boxes to be saved until the next sale day, the opportunity came for the store to be located in a small shop at #14 - 13th Avenue, where it has operated continuously until the present time.

Recently; however, when faced with an aging volunteer workforce, and expenses beyond our means at the 13th Avenue location, a decision was made after much thought and visioning to relocate the shop back to its original location, but in a whole new environment.

Yes, The Cellar sells second-hand items; however, these items are gently used and are in great condition. Sizes and household merchandise vary daily. At the present time, we have a great collection of warm outer clothing for winter for every member of the family. And with Christmas just around the corner, you will find lots of Christmas in our new shop.

We rely on donations from our congregation and the whole community of Cranbrook, which we welcome at any time, and which we sincerely appreciate. Donations can be placed in the new storage location next to the entrance on Baker Lane at #2 - 12th Avenue South, or they can be brought down to the store during open hours.

Today we are excited to announce that The Cellar is about to reopen in our whole "new" environment. On November 19, we will be located in the United Church at #2, 12th Avenue S. The United Church is the big brick building, just at the end of Baker Street as you enter the Safeway parking lot. The Cellar entrance will be on the historic Baker Lane, which is the lane between the church and Sweet Gestures. We invite you to drop in and experience our bright and cheery new digs! Hours of operation will be 12 noon to 4:30 p.m. daily, with occasional special events and special hours. The new store looks so smart, we may just have to refer to it as "The Cellar Thrift Boutique"! Come and visit us soon.

Also, you may want to mark your calendar and celebrate our Grand reOpening with us on Thursday, December 15. Doors will open at noon, and our hours will be extended on this occasion to 6:00 p.m. Beverages and snacks will be available for this celebration. We hope you'll join us.