

- 1977 RDCO conducted a referendum to establish the Joe Rich Fire Protection District and the provision of a Fire Hall. This referendum was successful and a loan authorization bylaw for \$85,000 which was for the purpose of construction of the fire hall and purchase of equipment.
- Between 1978 - 2005, the Joe Rich Community Hall was administered as an RDCO asset associated the Joe Rich Fire Improvement District and our brief review of the Fire Improvement District historical budgets indicate that nominal amounts of funds were allocated to asset management and recreational programming of the hall over these years
- 1983 Reg Volk took out a building permit on behalf of the Joe Rich Community Hall to construct a 12'x'16' shed (on skids) adjacent to the community hall.
- 1992 RDCO took out a building permit for construction of an addition to the 1978 fire hall. Funds were secured through the Volunteer Fire Department and the RDCO administered a public tender and construction project.
- 1993 – The RDCO Board approved and supported renovations that were completed in the community hall including extension of eaves, exterior cladding, minor repairs to the inside, construction of the outdoor rink/sport box and installation of a small playground via an Unemployment Insurance of Canada (UIC) grant for labour and capital costs (some funds were dedicated from the Eastside Community Parks program for the playground equipment). Staff have found records that indicate that these works were controversial within the community - i.e. a petition against the completion of these items. These works were completed as described above.
- During a period extending between 1993 – 2002, our records indicated that the RDCO Board and administration were engaged in a number of sporadic topic discussions with the community association regarding establishment of rental rates for use of the community hall and various other administrative topics.
- In 2002, risk and liability concerns were raised by the community in regard to use of the hall and rink as rental facilities – this led to broader discussion about future management of the asset “outside” of the Joe Rich Fire Improvement District.
- As an interim step to address concerns related to future asset management, risk and liability and community recreation programming interests, in 2003 RDCO staff entered into a 3 year lease agreement with the JRRATS to operate and maintain the community hall on behalf of the RDCO. This interim step continued to rely on the funding associated with the asset to be via the Joe Rich Fire Improvement District.
- During the period of 2003 – 2005 the community and RDCO administration investigated methods to reconcile the administration of the Joe Rich Community Hall as a separate and distinct service program from the Joe Rich Fire Improvement District. These investigations led to the RDCO Board’s consideration of a new service area establishment bylaw for the Joe Rich Community Hall through a community wide “Alternative Approval Process (AAP)” (sometimes referred to as a counter petition). The AAP process resulted in a community petition that did not support the establishment of a new service program. In 2005, the RDCO held a referendum in concert with local government elections and this referendum resulted in the adoption of a new service establishment for the Joe Rich Community Hall (positive support by the community) – the maximum tax rate associated with this service is \$0.2082/\$1000 assessed value (2011 tax rate was \$0.1511/\$1000). I would summarize this interest as being at the request of the community in an effort to (1) support more direct involvement in the management of the asset and, (2) to gain more autonomy for recreational community programming via a separate and distinct budget.