

McDougall Stoney Mission Society Newsletter



October 10, 2010

In the Life of a Historical Site

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The site at Morley, Alberta, the historic Church and property is need of constant care to maintain its outstanding presentation at its very old age. If only we could look as good as the Church does at her age.

The following items were completed during the summer season.

1. Pump house had both roof and trim repairs completed.
2. Turn style gates are were repaired and a new cattle gate was installed.
3. Front entrance main gate sign was rebuilt and repaired to solve the problems with wind.
4. Front gate where vehicles enter had major repairs completed.
5. A new gate behind 3 of the plaques to enter the walking trail were completed.
6. There was a major change to the Cabin doors. A new door and frame were added to replace the pieces that were unable to be rebuilt. A dea lock and padlock were also added to this door.
7. Completed the fall grounds clean-up. Everything is clean and clear and ready to go for the winter and subsequently the fall.
8. Major work in the area's fencing: With many staples being added to bolster the perimeter fencing. This had not been completed but Len has promised to have it completed before the snow flies. But he hopes it doesn't snow this winter.....funny Len.

As you can see from this list of repairs, Len has put some considerable time into organizing and completing many of the above tasks. It is Len's constant diligence which keeps our site immaculate year after year.

One visitor from our neighbours down south made the comment: "McDougall Memorial Church has one of the highest standards of maintenance and care that they have seen in their trip across North America".

We can definitely use your gifts and help around the site in the future and look forward to hearing from you if would like to come out and volunteer to help maintain our site for future generations.

Respectfully submitted by: Len McDougall

Special points of interest:

Annual General Meeting

7:00pm

Nov 3th, 2010

St. David's United Church

3303 Capitol Hill Crescent NW

We would like to see all of our members attend!

Presidents Message

With winter upon us, we can reflect on the very busy spring, summer and fall of 2010. The site and Church were open to the public most weekends and some weekdays because of the commitment of our volunteer and docents. We owe them our immense thanks for that commitment and for braving the sometimes rainy weather.

We held services in the church both in the spring and fall of this year. Plenty of people came out to the church for these services. The main topic, of the service, was the world travels and vision for peace of Walking Buffalo. The beautiful landscape surrounding the church site provided an excellent backdrop for fellowship over pastries and coffee after the service.

Updates

1. The Society has had no further meetings with Alberta Transportation regarding the widening of the Highway in the area. We had approached Alberta Transportation about hiring an environmental landscape architect to help design an acceptable landscape plan for the new road and entry from the Western corner of our property back to the original gate. However, this proposal was not accepted and no money was available to undertake our request.
2. This Summer Alberta Culture made an Archeological Dig across the 1A Highway from our site and also across Jacob Creek on the old David McDougall Trading post and NWMP sites. We have not heard yet on their findings.

A Chance Encounter

A very unusual occasion occurred on September 25 at the University of Alberta when Gerald and Ann McDougall were attending Gerald's University reunion. In a large Hall on campus the names of graduates from 79 years ago were called.....as Gerald and Ann listened to the names being called, they were surprised to hear the name "William L Kent for his contributions in Civil Engineering" amongst the many others.

William Kent has been a Member of the MSMS for a long time and is known by many of our members. We connected with William Kent again, now living in Langely, BC and he was very delighted to visit with us.

He mentioned how sorry he was that he missed the opportunity to visit the Church this year. His Mother (Mary) was a Teacher at the School and his Uncle was a Black- Smith at the Morleyville Settlement(1901).

William had received our April newsletter and was interested as we all are in the potential widening of the 1A Highway through the area and specifically at the Morleyville site. He was very concerned with any movement or danger to the Cairn, which he believes stands as a tribute to the Methodist Mission to Western Canada. He explained that his mother was particularly fond of the Cairn as a memorial for all pioneers and that we need it as a reminder to be grateful for the times and place we live in.

Respectfully submitted by: Gerald McDougall

Treasurers Report

McDougall Stoney Mission Society, thankfully was a recipient of the Alberta Culture and Community Spirit Donation Grant of \$3962.57 for donations received during 2009 year. The grant was used to cover the costs of insurance and of promoting our programs.

The Community Spirit program is designed to help increase individual charitable giving to support Alberta non-profit and charitable organizations. The program recognizes and encourages Albertans to make cash donations to non profit organizations such as MSMS.

This fund will provide organizations with a proportional grant based on the amount of eligible cash donations received from individuals. MSMS will issue tax receipts for donations over \$25.00 and would like to take this opportunity wish a heartfelt thank you to all those who have donated in the past and we hope for your generosity in the future.

Respectfully by Submitted: Laura Jauch

Volunteering at The McDougall Memorial Church

Beginning the May long weekend this year until the end of September, the McDougall Memorial Church and Mission Site was opened by one or two of the ten volunteers on 52 occasions (average six hours) to over 1000 visitors from near and far.

Members of the community and visitors to Alberta were enlightened on the story of Morleyville Settlement and the impact of western settlement on the native people. The Church was also the place for three weddings this season. The docents are also responsible for keeping the church clean and presentable for all visitors who visit and the occasional wedding. They have all taken their turn at sweeping, dusting and cleaning up the steps.

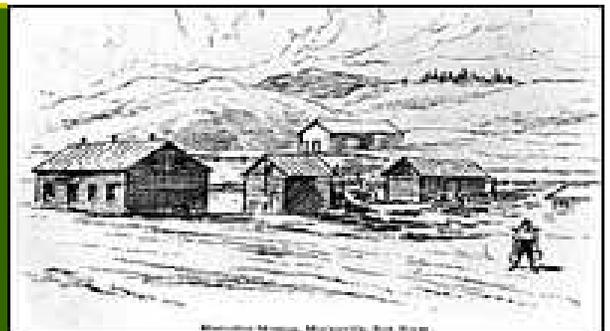
Many thanks go out to our dedicated volunteers on a FANTASTIC season.

Respectfully by Submitted: Laura Jauch

Special points of interest:

Laura Jauch is not only our Treasurer but also takes on the task of coordinating and training all of the volunteers at the McDougall Memorial Site . She also spends a good portion of her summer ensuring that the site is open for all interested visitors.

Thank you Laura from the bottom of our hearts!



Connections to our Past and Present

“Rundles Mission on Pigeon Lake is now operating a Retreat/Hostel. One of their houses has an “Abigail Room”. The following description is found on the wall.”

In memory of Abigail Steinhauer who was married to John McDougall at Whitefish Lake, near Lac La Biche in March 1865 by their two missionary fathers Rev. Gerorge McDougall and the Rev. Henry B. Steinhauer. Abigail had been born at Norway house in June 1848. The family moved to Lac La Biche following the ordination of Mr. Steinhauer in 1855. Abigail was not quite 17 married John McDougall who was 22 at the time and already an experienced assistant to his father George.

The young couple was appointed to re-open the Mission at Pigeon Lake initiated 18 years earlier by Robert Rundle. Their epic spring trip by cart from Whitefish Lake to Pigeon Lake is re-counted in “Path Finding on the Plain and Prairie” by John McDougall. Since John was involved in frequent travels, the young couple were separated often. Sometimes she remained in her Pigeon Lake home, and sometimes she stayed with her grandparents, sometimes she went with him. Three daughters were born to the couple- Flora, Ruth and Augusta.

During the winter of 1869-70, John was much in demand by the missions and the Government in advising the various encampments of Indian peoples on the encroaching settlements of the white people. When he returned home from a particular trip, he learned that his young wife had died on April 11, 1871 at an age of 23 years.

Writer unknown



Pictures taken from Rundle Mission homepage showing their site. Definitely worth a visit!!!!

Not a member? No problem!

If you have time to volunteer or merely want to be kept up to date with the McDougall Memorial Church News Please consider a membership!

McDougall Stoney Mission Society

C/O Laura Jauch

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Calgary, AB, T2R 1S6

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Interests: _____

Individual Membership \$20 _____

Family Membership \$25 _____

Donations are always welcome! _____

Donations will be sent a charitable donation receipt.