

McDougall Stoney Mission Society Newsletter



April 1, 2010

1A Highway Road Widening

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Special points of interest:

- Have you purchased your 2010 membership?
- Do not forget to mark you calendars for the Summer Service June 13th, 2010
- Have you checked out the website lately?
<http://sites.google.com/site/morleyvillesettlement/>

The fall and winter of 2009- 2010 has proven to be an exciting time for the McDougall Stoney Mission Society. The Society was approached in November by the province of Alberta to sell land adjacent to the Historic site with the purpose of widening the 1A highway through to Canmore. Obviously, this has caused much debate within the society about the intrinsic and monetary value of the land. In addition, the society went through the struggle to obtain the land in question for historical preservation purposes and to relinquish even a small part of it - should be met with careful consideration to the potential impacts on the society's goals.

In February, a meeting was set up between the board, Melissa Schmidt from Department of Community Spirit and Culture, and two representatives of the Ministry of Transportation: Theo Van Evelingen and Nino De Laurentiss.

The board requested the meeting in order to provide the respective departments with insight into the impact that the re-alignment would have the McDougall Memorial Church site. There were two main issues dominating the discussions with the board and representatives from the government.

Firstly, at the outset of negotiation the Ministry of Transportation had proposed that the original access to

the road by the cairn would be closed for safety reasons and a new access road would be created further west from the site. The initial plan did not include a turning lane on the highway for vehicles to slow and turn into the new access road.

Secondly, the province requested to purchase 0.4ac from the Society in order to widen the road to the new government specifications for width and safety.

After much discussion the ministry proposed that they would create a turning lane for the new access road which is typically only designed for four lane highways. In addition to the creation of a turning lane into the access road, the government would also be willing to pay for the gravelling of the new access road, creation of a new parking area, historic site signage on both sides, and pay for the purchase of the 0.4ac.

Despite that the government has chosen to address several of the society's concerns the board still had significant questions:

- Is the monetary compensation being offered for the 0.4 acre sufficient?
- How much additional land will be needed to create a much longer access road?
- Would the road detract from the historical character of the site?



The province of Alberta has approached the MSMS to purchase land adjacent to the site in order to widen the 1A highway

-What impact would the new access road have in terms of the natural grasses in the area?

With these questions in mind and the preservation of the historical character paramount, the Society has requested that the government provide funds to hire a landscape architect to create an environmental design plan. This is to ensure the best use of the space, particularly for planning the new access road. The architect would consult with and be chosen by the Society, ultimately resulting in a final assessment for the board and members to consider.

Jason Villeneuve (secretary)

Tatanga Mani (Walking Buffalo)



“Civilized people depend too much on man-made printed pages. I turn to the Great Spirit's book which is the whole of creation. You can read a big part of that book if you study nature. You know, if you take all your books, lay them out under the sun, and let the snow, rain and insects work on them for a while, there will be nothing left. But the Great Spirit provided you and me with an opportunity for study in nature's university, the forests, rivers, mountains and animals which include us.”

~Tatanga Mani~

The one room school house beside the church in Morley was where Walking Buffalo, also known as Tatanga Mani, first stood out as a leader. A visiting missionary named John Mclean came to Morley to learn about John McDougall's work with the Stoney Nation when he picked Walking Buffalo out of the crowd of students.

Mclean eventually adopted Walking Buffalo, gave him the new name George Mclean, sent him new clothes, and oversaw his education. However, Walking Buffalo stayed in Morley while Mclean continued his missionary work in other locations.

As an adult Walking Buffalo held leadership roles within the Stoney Nation and championed cultural harmony between First Nations and with non First Nations. He travelled around the world and sought to teach others about the Stoney traditions in the spirit of sharing and the development of peaceful relationships.

Accompanied by several First Nations leaders Walking Buffalo counted places like England and North Africa among their stops. The leaders travels amounted to tens of thousands of miles. When he sat down to sign the guest book at Buckingham Pal-

ace he is said to have remarked “this is a pretty good tipi.” After all of his travels to large cities like London, Walking Buffalo still preferred the natural beauty of Morely where pavement wasn't separating the children from discovering the springtime crocuses in the foothills or the robins building nests. Through his international travels and leadership roles Walking Buffalo became not only an ambassador for the Stoney people but also contributed to the building of cultural connections to the rest of the world.

Kim Assailly

Lots of people hardly even feel real soil under their feet, see plants grow except in flower pots, or get far enough beyond the street lights to catch the enchantment of a night sky studded with stars. When people live far from scenes of the Great Spirit's making, it's easy for them to forget his laws.

~Tatanga Mani~

Special points of interest:

- Born March 20, 1871
- 1920 he was elected chief of Nakoda First Nation
- His life mission was a message of peace and preservation of First Nations life and values
- Died December 26, 1967

Volunteer at McDougall

McDougall Stoney Mission Society continues to maintain and develop the McDougall Memorial Church Site. We wish to thank all the volunteers and docents who have helped the board members over this past year.

We would welcome new members to our Society that are interested in Southern Alberta history and the McDougall Memorial Site to come forward and volunteer.

Our Goal is to make the site one of interest to all passing by and a great place to visit. The following items, among many others are required to

continue our ongoing maintenance:

1. Native plants, flora and grasses documentation for creation of a nature walk.
2. Restore and maintain Pump house.
3. Maintain cabin for Museum artifacts and other social events.
4. Routine maintenance of the site.

If you have an interest in the Site and Programs for the summer months please contact the McDougall Stoney Mission Society. The society can be contacted by mail @
3707 Utah Drive NW

Calgary, Alberta T2N 4A6 or phone 403-282-3044.

Len McDougall
Vice Chair/Site Manager



Treasurer's Report

McDougall Stoney Mission Society was a recipient of the Alberta Culture and Community Spirit Donation Grant of \$6989.19 for donations received during 2008. The grant was used to cover costs of insurance and the cost of replacing the outhouses. The Community Spirit program is to help increase individual charitable giving to support Alberta non-profit and charitable organizations. The program recognizes and encourages Albertans to make cash donations. The fund will provide organizations with a proportional grant based on the amount of eligible cash donations received. An application for 2009 Alberta Culture and Community Spirit Donation Grant has been applied for and we should hear from them shortly. McDougall Stoney Mission Society will issue tax receipts for donations over \$25.00. McDougall Stoney Mission Society wishes to thank all that have donated in the past and look forward to your generosity in the future.

Laura Jauch

A Country Wedding At Historic McDougall Memorial Church

The McDougall Memorial Church is a significant place to celebrate a bride and grooms memorable wedding ceremony. The beautiful surroundings and historical significance of the site make it a unique location for a wedding ceremony.

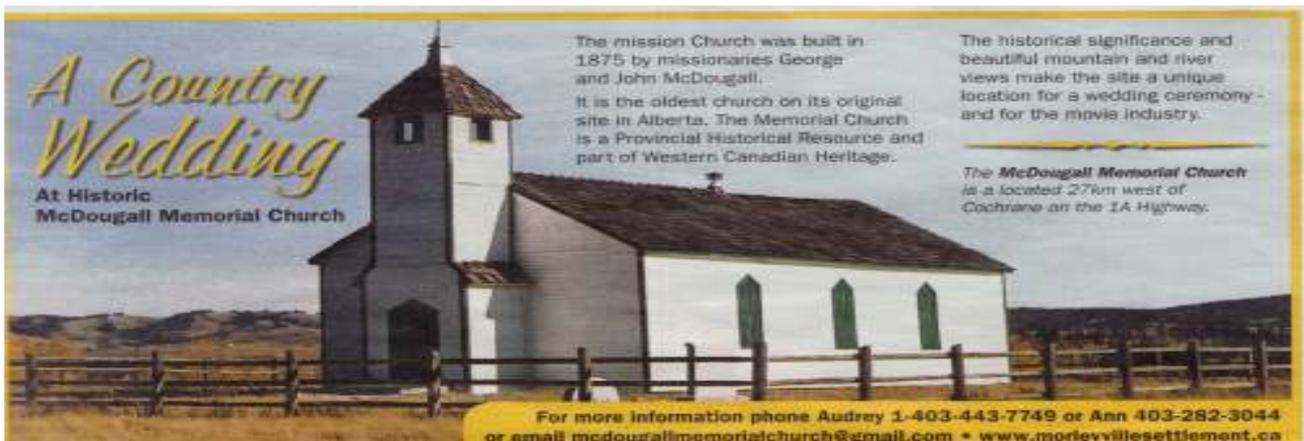
We have taken steps to update and make it easier for people to book weddings at our historic site. This can now be done by calling:

Ann 403-282-3044 or Audrey 403-443-7749 or email at

mcdougallmemorialchurch@gmail.com

Advertising the site using a beautiful picture and information on booking weddings has begun. A new brochure has been updated and arranged to be printed. As a result we have already had several new bookings for the summer ahead. Thank you to all the docents and volunteers as without your continued support this could not happen.

Audrey (McDougall) Epp



Article as seen in the February Swerve, Neighbours and Cochrane Herald.

Presidents Message

2009 was a very exciting and busy time for the Society. We were very pleased to complete the installation of the fourteen historical plaques after 3 years of creation. We also had two very successful Sunday programs which were attended by very large congregations.

Sadly, the worst part of 2009 was the passing of our dear companion Laura Oakander. Laura loved the little church and spent a great deal of time enjoying being out there. She also took care of all the secretarial/treasurer duties, the memberships, weddings and communication with both governments regarding our charitable status and tax position. We miss her greatly, and her cheery love of life.

Laura's many jobs have fallen to the Board and President which were difficult tasks as

we had no idea where to start. We now, however, are lucky to have a new treasurer, Laura Jauch, and secretary Jason Villeneuve. It has taken time for all the directors to understand their new duties and to get them started.

Kate Reeves has been assisting us for some time, applying for grants, creating newsletters, and the organizing our docents and volunteers. However Kate is no longer with us but has left a very good base on which to build the programs. We hope our docents will continue visiting the little church, maintain and help enlarge the programs, spread the word about the constant need for volunteers, and enjoy meeting people from all over the world.

Much of my time since the 2009 Annual General Meeting has been spent communicating with Alberta Government Agencies: Infrastructure and Transportation and Alberta Culture and Community

Spirit, MLA's and the Premier. Our Society was not originally included in their plans for widening the 1A Highway beside our Cairn and land which they will take from our property. Our meetings have not been constructive and most recently our lawyer has sent the conditions which are acceptable to the Society. We expect these negotiations to be on-going during 2010.

Let us all hope that 2010 is a successful year for the McDougall Stoney Mission Society so that we can continue 'to preserve, maintain and interpret the historic McDougall Church and Mission Site'.

We have a great program for the June 13th weekend, and we look forward to meeting you all again this summer.

Sincerely G.M. McDougall

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

610 1053 10th St SW

Calgary, AB, T2R 1S6

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Individual Membership \$20 _____

Family Membership \$25 _____

Donations are always welcome! _____

Donations will be sent a charitable donation receipt.