



McDougall Stoney Mission Society Newsletter Fall 2012

Welcome to the McDougall Stoney Mission!

McDougall Memorial Church Site is now Close for the Season.

2013 Season will start May long weekend.

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John McDougall, the Calgary Stampede and the Indian Question

(Last August our summer Newsletter featured an article, containing excerpts from the research notes of Iris Morgan, in which Iris traces the story of the participation of the native population of Southern Alberta in the Calgary Stampede from its inception one hundred years ago. The Government of Canada through its Indian Affairs Department had aggressively striven to prevent this participation. The Reverend John McDougall played a very significant role in overcoming this opposition).

According to the Calgary Herald, the 1912 Stampede Parade presented a “pageant of primitive plains life” and provided the “wonder of the spectacle of two thousand western Indians” and was “awe inspiring” The Reverend John McDougall pow-wowed with the Indians, speaking to them in their native tongue and at the start of the parade accompanying them down 6th Avenue where they were joined at 8th Street by the Hudson’s Bay Company and the old timers. The North West Mounted Police and the bull trains then joined in to create a two mile long parade of three thousand participants.

The next several years after the 1912 Stampede saw continuing controversy over the Indian question. Should the government and its agents allow natives to engage in the practice of their traditions, such as the Sun Dance or the Thirst Dance or were their religious ceremonies just a “hindrance to progress”? John McDougall went on record as being “*absolutely opposed to the Department interfering with the religious festivals and ceremonial observances of the Indian people*”, and declared his “*deep reverence of the people in their own religious ceremonies*”. “*The Indian*”, he stated, “*who still holds the faith of his fathers has just as good and strong a right to the exercise of the same in ritual and assembly as I have or any other man in Canada has, ... based on the Christianity I believe in or the citizenship I partake in under the British flag!*”

John, having spent sixty years living in the West and speaking two native languages better than English, steadfastly refused to treat the native as inferior or with any feelings of bigotry or religious intolerance. Instead, he encouraged Indian participation in shows and exhibitions and opposed Ottawa’s revision of the Indian Act which had banned native attendance without the permission of the local Indian agent. The act containing the threat of a \$25 dollar fine or one month’s imprisonment had an immediate and absolute effect between 1912 and 1919.



Wild Blue Flax



Tourism

CALGARY

Member

Continue page 2

President's Report – by *Laura Jauch*

One of the mandates of the society is to promote a greater understanding of the story of the Morleyville Settlement and its place in the history of Alberta and Canada through the interpretation of the site to the public. *The Church being the heart of that settlement.* By 2012, it has been 150 years since the McDougalls arrived in the area now called Alberta. It was the topic of both our Spring and Fall Commemorative Services.

We participated in Chinook Country Historical Calgary Week with the presentation on The Reverend John McDougall's significant role in the participation of southern Alberta natives in the 1912 Calgary Stampede.

Again, I would like to thank our speakers Dr. Robert MacDonald and Iris Morgan for their interesting presentations and the rest of the volunteers that make our events successful.

McDougall Stoney Mission Society, is a recipient of the Alberta Culture and Community Spirit Donation Grants. 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. 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 future.

Please everyone remember to attend the Annual General Meeting (see box) All members are urged to attend.

The McDougall Stoney Mission Society

Annual General Meeting

November 1, 2012(Thursday) 7:00 p.m.

Brentwood Co-op

4122 Brentwood Road NW.

Lower Floor Auditorium

Access to the Auditorium is through main entrance only. There is no wheel chair accessible. Turn right after main entrance and go toward the deli. Turn right at glass doors and proceed down the stairs to lower floor auditorium.

Your Country Wedding at the Historic McDougall Church?

The McDougall Memorial Church site is a significant place to celebrate a memorable wedding ceremony.

The beautiful surroundings and historical significance of the site make it a unique location for a wedding.

For more information or to book your wedding:

Call Ann at 403 282 3044

Or Email:

Continued from page 1

But, in that year 1919 the Victory Stampede, following the end of the First World War, Guy Weadick, praising government effort on the reserves, said natives were allowed to attend freely, and news reports suggested that native participation was the feature that got most attention and without it would have been “ *pretty tame*. The struggle, however, was by no means over.” The Calgary Exhibitions of 1920 and 1921 contained only agricultural displays and attendance was dismal. In 1923 when the Exhibition and the Stampede combined native attendance was permitted and Interior Minister Charles Stewart provided bison for the BBQ. Still objections arose as the newly appointed Indian Commissioner W.M Graham described Indian dances as demoralizing and time-wasting, and denied permission for natives to attend the 1925 Stampede. Older natives were allowed but many ages in fact attended. The near boycott lasted until 1932 when M. Christianson who replaced Graham, permitted attendance and actually joined the Stampede Board. This year's centennial Stampede's Indian Village had twelve hundred participants and twenty six tepees. We continue to enjoy and be fascinated by the traditions and culture of our native peoples as the opposition to racism and bigotry demonstrated a hundred years ago by Methodist minister, John McDougall, takes a stronger hold here in the West and all across Canada.

A DOCENT'S DAY



The McDougall Memorial Church in rural Alberta is open from Mid May until early September from 10.00 am – 4.00 pm., on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays. It is situated on Highway 1A west of Cochrane. The Bow River runs past its southern boundary just a short distance from the Ghost Lake dam. To the West are the spectacular Rocky Mountains. The site is owned, maintained and operated by the McDougall Stoney Mission Society. Information plaques are placed on the grounds that reveal the local history. Inside the church there is additional memorabilia. Rev. George McDougall, his son Rev. John McDougall, and Andrew Sibbald (a trained carpenter/teacher) built the church in 1875. It is a windblown site. Wild flowers are splashes of vibrant colour in the prairie fescue grasslands surrounding the 137 year old white Church with its steeple. Its bell is rung on special occasions: at the annual services in June & September, and at wedding ceremonies. There is a log cabin on site too, which is a small museum, and the place from which refreshments are served after the two summer worship services.

A United Church minister from Calgary leads these services. A balcony over the Church entrance door provides extra seating. There are three windows each side of the church making its interior bright and welcoming. There is no electricity or fresh water on site. A generator provides power when needed and bulk water containers, brought on site, provide the necessary ingredient for tea/coffee making. The old stove in the log cabin is stoked and fired up early those mornings!

Wooden ranch fences surround the area, and there is plentiful parking as you drive in through the iron entrance gate. There is a short pathway to the river, and basic toilet facilities are available at the bottom of the grassy field. A covered deck, off the cabin, provides shelter from the elements, including the sun on a hot summer's day!

A recent weekend this summer, when my husband Brian was the Docent on duty, was a very busy one. As well as greeting other visitors, we enjoyed the excitement of an afternoon wedding ceremony on the Saturday. It was a very colourful bridal party: the bride was beautiful in a long white gown, the bridesmaids wore red dresses and red shoes, and carried yellow flowers. The groom and his men wore jeans, black jackets, white shirts, red ties, black hats and cowboy boots! As the bride, escorted by her father, made her entry the church bell rang and, with music from the 1865 piano – the first piano in the Western Prairies - the ceremony began! Later, pictures were taken outside in the glorious sunshine.

Many visitors - Canadians, Americans & Europeans - stopped at the Church site, signing the Visitors' Book, leaving welcome donations, taking photographs, and eagerly chatting about local history. They were 'introduced' to the McDougall men and their wives and families who came from Eastern Canada, as Methodist missionaries, (making long, slow, tough journeys) to settle in this wide-open land with a river to live beside, buffalo to hunt, and with magnificent mountains as a backdrop. They also heard about the local Stoney tribe – men, women and children – and the story of their introduction to Christianity while, at the same time, being helped with education and health issues. An orphanage was built. At the political level the McDougalls helped negotiate the terms of Treaties 6 & 7 by interpreting on behalf of the native people. The visitors heard about tools and other Government aid for the long-term, ongoing development of this particular and special bond between the aboriginal people and incoming settlers, and how, in time, mutual respect was established which influenced lives in a positive and friendly society. This was the new world – a new frontier – which enticed foreign immigrants and eastern Canadians to the West. McDougall Memorial Church is a historical monument honouring all these people and the efforts that were made through the generations to create a better world.

Continue page 4

Continued from page 3

As the afternoon passed and the early evening approached we noticed a pair of red high-heeled shoes left sitting on the old rustic fence! They were a dazzling dichotomy, and will forever symbolize for me the ongoing story of this old rural church and the modern generation. The red shoes were reclaimed by their owner before we made our way home!

Winter winds and blowing snow will surround the McDougall Memorial Church all too soon, and, as the land rests and waits for another spring, it is wonderful to see the Church standing sentinel to both the past and present, enduring, as its history waits to be retold another year. Soon, the flags will fly, the gate will re-open, the flowers will bloom, the bell will ring, and this special white wooden Church will continue to welcome visitors from home and abroad.

Ann Dowse,

September 2011.

***COME! SIGN THE VISITORS' BOOK IN THE CHURCH, SAY A PRAYER, LEAVE A GIFT,
AND ENJOY YOUR 'McDOUGALL' EXPERIENCE ON THE WESTERN EDGE OF THE ALBERTA
PRAIRIE.***

Alberta's History is Worth Saving and You can help!

We are constantly in need of volunteers for various duties at the Church. Listed below are the volunteer opportunities available at the church and the contact information for the person responsible. Please give some thought as to how you could help maintain this wonderful piece of Alberta history. We know you are busy, but any time you can give will be greatly appreciated.

- **Church Maintenance:** (Weed control, painting, repairs, upkeep, etc.) Len McDougall: 403-226-1353
- **Docents** (opening church during summer and providing historical context) Laura Jauch: 403-875-5978
- **Newsletters** (ideas or to write an article): Harold Jepson :- 403-289-3412 or Sarah Harvey: 403-946-4650
- **Weddings:** Ann McDougall 403-282-3044
- **Event Planning:** If you like to plan special events, we need you! Help to plan our bi-annual services or new special events! Contact — Laura Jauch 403-875-5978

Not a member? Not a 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

PO Box 15

313 Walsh Ave

Acme, AB, T0M 0A0

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Individual Membership \$20 _____

Family Membership \$25 _____

Donations are always welcome! \$ _____

Donations will be sent a tax receipt.