



McDougall Stoney Mission Society Newsletter Spring 2013

McDougall Memorial Church Site is now Closed for the Season.

2013 Season will start May long weekend.

Contacts:

Website:

www.mcdougallstoneymissionsociety.com

Email:

mdougallmemorialchurch@gmail.com

Mailing Address:

**3707 Utah Drive NW
Calgary, Alberta T2N 4A6**



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PIONEER MISSION FAMILY HAS DEEP ROOTS IN EARLY CANADA

By Ralphine Locke

The War of 1812 may seem unconnected with western Canada, which was at that date still a little known area. With the renewed interest in this controversial war, an interesting Alberta connection has come to light. Most Albertans are aware of the part the Rev. George McDougall played in the peaceful settlement of the west, but the story of the McDougall family in Canada goes back to the War of 1812.

The first of this family of McDougalls came to Canada from Britain to fight in this war. David McDougall, a capable seaman and ship builder, played an important part in the battles which occurred in 1814 on the Great Lakes. According to the War of 1812 website, seven ships were built on the Great Lakes, and took part in defending British holdings in the area. The British presence was of great strategic importance for ships carrying supplies westbound and furs to eastern markets from western Canada. According to Pierre Berton's excellent book on the War of 1812, losing control of the Great Lakes would have enabled the American forces to interrupt this lucrative trade, which was an important factor in the subsequent retention of the shipping lanes so vital to the development of the Canadian West.

As a reward for service to King and Country, McDougall was given a grant of land near Penetanguishene on Georgian Bay, Ontario,. He moved his family from Kingston to settle in that area. George and his brother David learned the craft of ship building from their father, and according to historical records, built the first boat in the Owen Sound harbour. Other ships followed, and a successful business developed, carrying passengers and freight on the Great Lakes and as far as Toronto.

Living in the Owen Sound area, George became aware of the poor living conditions of the Ojibway who had settled nearby. He felt as many did at that time, that Christianity would improve their lot, and he yearned to become a missionary. He was ordained by the Methodist Church—(continued on page 3)

Forthcoming events at the McDougall Stoney Mission Church:

Saturday, May 18th, Site and Church clean up at 10 a.m.

Sunday, June 9th Spring Service at 3 p.m.

Sunday September 8th Fall Service at 3 p.m.

(Non-denominational services)

The hundred and thirty-eight year old McDougall Memorial Church

is situated some thirty seven kilometers west of Cochrane on Highway 1A, just a short distance from the Ghost Lake dam. The church is open from mid-May until early September between ten a.m. and four p.m., on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays. The site is owned, maintained and operated by the McDougall Stoney Mission Society whose members, in addition to caring for the church and site, also act as docents to help visitors understand and appreciate the fascinating historical significance of this pioneer site's role in the development of our province. Information plaques on the grounds, additional memorabilia found inside the church and exhibits in the small museum on the site provide interesting insights into the local history.

The Rev. George McDougall, together with his son the Rev. John McDougall, and Andrew Sibbald, a trained carpenter and teacher, built the church in 1875. There is a log cabin on site too, the small museum, and the place from which refreshments are served after the two worship services which are non-denominational so that everyone is made welcome to attend and to enjoy the spiritual peace of this historic spot.

With the beautiful Bow River running past its southern boundary and the spectacular Rocky Mountains to the West, it is a lovely, if at times windblown site. Wild flowers splash their vibrant colours in the prairie fescue grasslands surrounding the old white Church with its steeple. **On special occasions such as the annual spring and fall services in June & September, and at wedding ceremonies, the church bell is rung**, its haunting sound seeming to bring alive the echoes of its courageous pioneer past. *(based on an earlier Newsletter article "A Docent's Day" by Ann Dowse).*

COME! SIGN THE VISITORS' BOOK IN THE CHURCH,
Say a prayer, leave a donation,
ENJOY YOUR 'McDOUGALL' EXPERIENCE
On the western edge of the Alberta Prairie!

Your Country Wedding at the Historic McDougall Church?

**A highly significant place to celebrate the
most memorable event of your life!**

**Beautiful surroundings in a church of great
historical significance for Western Canada**

**For more information, or to book your date at
this unique location for your wedding:**

Call Ann at 403 282 3044

Volunteers are needed !

*Help clean up the site in readiness
for the 2013 season opening.*

*We will meet at the church on
Saturday May 18th at 10:00 a.m.*

Have fun by contributing!

Carpe diem!

2013 McDougall Stoney Mission Society

(President- Position Vacant)

Past President— Gerald McDougall

Vice-President—Leonard McDougall

Treasurer—Laura Jauch

Secretary—Sarah Harvey

Directors

Ann McDougall, Kathy Epp, Audrey Epp

Wayne Holst, Ralphine Locke,

Robert MacDonald, Thomas Melvin,

John McDougall, Ronald Moore,

Jason Villeneuve, Andrew Stiles,

Harold Jepson

Did you know that: Mondays at the Calgary Stampede used to be "McDougall Day". In 1839 sixty settlers collected mail at David McDougall's trading post, but only thirty at Fort Calgary. The Hudson Bay Company had invited four Methodist missionaries to Rupert's Land, which later became the North West Territories and this part became the Province of Alberta in 1905. Andrew Sibbald, the first school teacher to reach this part of the West was also a carpenter, which is probably why the church has stood the test of time.

PIONEER MISSION FAMILY HAS DEEP ROOTS IN EARLY CANADA *(continued from page one).*

and started his career which took him to many mission sites across Canada, travelling with his growing family, often living under canvass until better living quarters could be built. In 1860 the Reverend George was given charge of Methodist missions in the west. In 1862 he moved his wife and family of eight to Ft. Victoria on the North Saskatchewan river. His was the first non-native family to settle in what is now Alberta.

It was in Ft. Victoria that tragedy struck the family. Four members of the McDougall extended family died during a severe small pox epidemic which ravaged the country. They are buried in the Ft. Victoria graveyard. The family later moved to Ft. Edmonton, an ideal location in which to raise his family and fan out over the province with his missionary work. He was following in the footsteps of the Rev. Robert Rundle who had visited the area in 1842.

In response to a request from the Stoney Nakoda tribe Rev. George decided to begin a mission in the Bow Valley, two miles north of the present historical church. At that time the Blackfoot were considered very warlike but they did not often venture into wooded areas, preferring the open prairie for their activities. Rev. McDougall felt his new mission would be less vulnerable in the woods.

Twenty years earlier, the Rev. Robert Rundle had visited the Stoneys, and the McDougalls found they were still observing the Sabbath and singing Methodist hymns. What a great tribute to the influence of the Rev. Rundle!

In the fall of 1873, a stockade protecting a small church building and rough structures for son John, his wife Elizabeth and family were constructed, and within a short time they were joined by his brother David and his wife Annie. Elizabeth was the first non-native woman to settle in southern Alberta.

When Treaty No. 7 was signed in 1875, it was felt that it would be safe to build a permanent church on land near the river and the trail from Edmonton. This 137 year old church, sturdily built of hand-planed lumber still stands, and is now a provincially designated historic site.

The story of David McDougall and his part in the War of 1812 and the equally brave and important part played by his son George in the history of Canada offer strong testimony to the strength and purpose of the people who made our country what it is today.

(by Ralphine Locke).

President's and Treasurer's Report -

By Laura Jauch

Please do come out and visit the McDougall Memorial Church. The Mission Site will be open for the summer season from May 17th to September 20th (weather permitting, Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays) 10:00 a.m. to 4:00pm. The 138th Commemorative Spring and Fall Services will be June 9th and September 8th 3:00pm. We will participate in Chinook Country Historical Society's Calgary Historical Week by hosting an event on Sunday, August 4th. More information on the whole week can be found on Chinook Country Historical Society website;

<http://www.chinookcountry.org/>

We are constantly in need of volunteers for various duties at the Church. Listed on page 4 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.

McDougall Stoney Mission Society thankfully was a recipient of a grant of \$1500.00 from the Alberta Museum Association. The grant will be used to cover cost of insurance.

The Society has applied for a grant from the Alberta Culture and Community Spirit Program. The grant will be used to cover cost of insurance, the cost of promoting our programs and the cost of routine maintenance and repairs to buildings and fences. 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 in 2012.

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.

Society Activities

Our Annual General meeting was held on November 17th, 2012 with sufficient members in attendance to meet the quorum requirement. During the 2012 year the church and site were open for forty-four days with docents on site to assist visitors. Two memorial, non-denominational services were held. Over a thousand visitors were actually recorded, but in fact there were many more. Six weddings were held in the church. Four newsletters were printed and distributed. The annual spring clean-up went very well, but, of course, maintenance and upgrading work is still needed. Several projects are on our agenda: the lower three rows of logs in the cabin will soon need to be replaced; a wrought iron fence around the cairn is planned to avoid damage; the outhouse needs some repair; the plaque needs renewing, and gate improvement is called for. With historical sites there is always plenty of work to be done! The society has experienced some difficulty achieving a quorum at some board meetings having a large board and some members unable to attend. At the February meeting our President Laura resigned as president but will stay on as treasurer. Laura has been a hard worker for the society since 2009 when she joined as a docent. She became treasurer in October 2009 and president in October 2011. Our thanks go to Laura for her many hours of volunteer work.

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

We can always make good use of volunteers for various duties at the Church and the historical site. Listed below are the volunteer opportunities available 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!

Interested in Alberta's history? 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 of \$25 or more will be sent a tax receipt.