



## McDougall Stoney Mission Society Newsletter February 2014

### The more things change the more they remain the same!

On page two we have reprinted excerpts from a letter written by **John McDougall on January 7th, 1884** to the Women's Missionary Society of Toronto In it he addresses a need, still keenly evident and strongly felt here in the west, the need for workers! John clearly also had other ideas for western development, ideas which set the scene for and set in motion Alberta's development as an agricultural province. (Archival material supplied by J.E.Nix)

*Remember, this letter was written just one hundred and thirty years ago!*

### Upcoming Events:

**Spring clean-up May 17th at 10 a.m.** Volunteers are needed !

The Society's two non-denominational services will be held:

**June 8th —Spring Service at 3 p.m. Fall Service—September 14th at 3 p.m.**

We will also will participate in the **Historic Calgary Week of August 3rd.**

Here is what 'Wikipedia' has to say about our **McDougall Memorial Church**

*"The historic McDougall Memorial Church is located a few miles from Morley. Built in 1875, it is southern Alberta's oldest surviving Protestant church and the oldest remaining structure in in the Bow Valley.*

*It was once part of Morleyville, the oldest pioneer settlement in southern Alberta and home to the first herd of breeding cattle. Founded by the Methodist missionary George McDougall and his sons as a missionary outpost, Morleyville existed until 1921 when a new church was built in the present settlement of Morley, which had developed around the Morley Indian Agency building. The old church is now a provincial historic site. Other milestones in the settlement's history include the construction at Morley in 1920 of the first airport established by the Canada Air Board and the 1969 establishment of Canada's first magistrate's court to be held in a First Nations owned building on First Nations land"*

### The McDougall Memorial Church Site

will open from May long weekend and through September

Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Check our Website:**  
[www.mcdougallstoneymissionsociety.com](http://www.mcdougallstoneymissionsociety.com)

**Contact us by E-mail:**  
[Mcdougallmemorialchurch@gmail.com](mailto:Mcdougallmemorialchurch@gmail.com)

### Our New Mailing Address is:

**P.O. Box 38023  
Country Hills  
Calgary, Alberta  
T3K 9Z9**

### Or on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Old-McDougall-Church>

### Now Your Country Wedding can be at the historic McDougall Memorial Church!

For information, or to book your wedding date at this beautiful and unique location with a history, call:

**Ann at 403 282 3044**



*"Dear Friends, Morley, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 1884*

*The orphanage has been open now for nearly four months and., we think, has been doing good work. Miss Barker, the matron, has had thirteen children under her hands all the time, and at the start had fifteen.....*

*"..... Just now Miss Barker, the matron is entirely alone with the children and has her hands full, too full. We cannot get help in this country and the Orphanage is greatly in need of a good household servant. If we had one, Miss Barker could give more time to instruction and oversight, whereas now she has cooking, mending, and all household matters to attend to. If we could secure a married couple - the woman for in-door work, and the man for general out-door work, and to take oversight of the boys when out of school - it would enable us to take in more children (for there are many longing to come), and in the very beginning give our institution a favorable and permanent character.*

*"Our building is capable, as it is, of accommodating from thirty to thirty-five children, and can easily be enlarged. Already we have timber cut for this purpose, and hope to build in the spring. What we want now in the building is some furniture in the shape of tables, chairs, dishes and pails. A small-sized school-bell would be a great acquisition. Then we want bedding and clothing, the latter made or unmade, suitable for both winter and summer wear of boys and girls. The ages of the girls now in the Orphanage range from six to fourteen, and of the boys about the same. There are just now six boys and seven girls. As spring comes on, we would like, if possible, to secure some milk-cows and a team of working horses; the latter would require waggon, harness, plough and harrows. If by some means we could obtain, say, from fifty to one hundred sheep, it would be a profitable investment in connection with our Home." (Published in the Christian Guardian of Toronto, March 19, 1884).*



## Volunteerism

Calgary is famous for its outstanding spirit of volunteerism. And the McDougall Stoney Mission Society members are outstanding examples of this spirit. Preserving and communicating the history of our province is the central theme of our mission statement|:

*"To preserve, maintain and interpret the historic McDougall Church and Mission sites for the benefit of generations of Albertans and visitors worldwide."*

We need your help. Become a volunteer. Preserve our history and learn about it. It is a proud heritage, well worth saving!

## McDougall Stoney Mission Society

### Board Members 2014

**President - Leonard McDougall**

**Vice-President— Gerald McDougall**

**Past-President & Treasurer—Laura Jauch**

**Secretary—Sarah Harvey**

#### Directors:

**Ann McDougall, Kathy Epp, Audrey Epp, Wayne Holst, Ralphine Locke, Robert MacDonald, , Ronald Moore, Andrew Stiles, Harold Jepson**

#### Committee Members

**Thomas Melvin, John McDougall**

## Faith Found an Early Foothold at Fort Calgary

*The text of this article by **Ralphine Locke** first appeared in the **Fort Calgary Quarterly** in 1984*

When the North West Mounted Police arrived at the confluence of the Bow and Elbow rivers in late August of 1875, their orders were to erect a strong stockade against possible attack from hostile Indian tribes.

The attacks never materialized. Within a few short years, the gates of the fort were opened permanently, and the business of the outpost flowed out onto the surrounding prairie. Board floored tents, rough log cabins and Indian tepees sprang up as the population grew and the fort, with its strategic position at the junction of the two rivers, rapidly became the major trading centre of the area

The fact that no major battle ever threatened the sturdy outpost was a credit, in large part, to the work that had been done over the preceding years by early missionaries to the Indians of the area. Among these was the McDougall family whose Methodist mission at Morleyville lay some fifty miles upstream on the Bow River.

The Morleyville Mission had been active since the late fall of 1873 when the Methodist Mission Conference had given support to Rev. George McDougall's request to extend his missionary work to the Mountain Stoney Indians who had originally been introduced to Christianity by Rev. Robert Rundle in the 1840's.

Within a few weeks of the Mounties' arrival at the site of the Fort, George McDougall's son, John paid them a visit and laid the groundwork for the church which was to become the modern day Central United.

From November of the year 1875, Rev. George McDougall began to conduct fortnightly services at the Fort. Records show that these were the first Protestant services held at Fort Calgary. A Roman Catholic mission under Rev. Father Scollen had been active on the Elbow River, several miles west of the Fort prior to this time. According to early writings, the first Methodist services at Fort Calgary were conducted in the North West Mounted Police barracks, then later in the I.G. Baker store nearby. These were led by Rev. George McDougall and his son John, until the former's tragic death in early 1876. After that, Rev. Inkster, a Metis from Red River who joined the McDougall Mission, probably shared the services at the Fort.

By 1877, the huddle of buildings outside the walls of the Fort showed signs of becoming a permanent community. As the population increased, so did the need for a permanent place of worship. John McDougall and Andrew Sibbald, a school

teacher and carpenter who had joined the Morley Mission in 1875 chopped logs in the area west of Morleyville and floated them downstream to the Fort. There these two tireless workers built a small log structure on what became the corner of 6th Avenue and 6th Street S.E. This building served the new community as the Methodist Church until 1883. Then it was sold and a new frame and canvas building was erected east of the Elbow River.

With the advent of a larger building, a new era in Methodism in Calgary began. Within five years, the Calgary parish had become self-sustaining and was in fact contributing mission funds and missionaries to the Alberta Conference of the Methodist Church. This growth was a tribute to the church's early boards of trustees among whom were the Hon W.H. Cushing, Senator James Loughheed, Howard Douglas, Alex McBride and other early citizens. By 1883, in anticipation of the arrival of the railroad, a lively, sometimes boisterous, town had grown up east of the Fort. But when the gleaming tracks of the Canadian Pacific Railway reached the waiting village, they kept on going west, and the railway station was established at what is now Centre Street and 9th Avenue South, several blocks west of the village. The small community was obliged to follow, and the Methodist church moved west with its neighbours.

Its new location at 8th Avenue and 4th Street East proved to be only one in a series of addresses, dictated by the needs of an expanding congregation. Then in the early 1900's, the site of the present church at 7th Avenue and 1st Street S.W. was secured and a fund raising campaign begun. The new church building was dedicated in 1905 and the Rev. George Kerby was named pastor. Many will remember him as the first principal of the Mount Royal College in later years.

Central Methodist Church became Central United when the United Church of Canada was organized in 1925. Although its name was changed, its mission to the citizens of Calgary continued unabated.

For well over a hundred years, as Calgary has grown from a collection of rough cabins around the Fort to a modern metropolis, Central has been "my church" to a broad spectrum of citizens. Today it serves as well Calgary's "inner city", offering sanctuary and spiritual solace at the city's heart.

Addenda: Rev. John McDougall moved to Calgary from Morleyville in 1902, and he and his family became members of Central Church. He served as chair of the Saskatchewan District of the Methodist Mission Society for 15 years. John McDougall frequently addressed the members of the congregation and occasionally conducted sermons. He and his wife Elizabeth were active in the church throughout the remainder of their lives, and their descendants continue that tradition to the present



*Submitted in 1984 by  
**Ralphine Locke***

## McDougall Stoney Mission Society Annual Meeting October 10, 2013

Seventeen members attended our annual meeting. Achievements reported for the year included: Ann and Gerald painted the pump-house. The roof was completed by Vim, who also painted the sign and the gate. New eaves and skylights were installed on the outhouses. Len consulted with a number of contractors on the restoration of the cabin. The site's fourteen historical informational plaques, which had become badly faded, were replaced. On the negative side, we continue to experience some vandalism to the perimeter fences. A total of \$8,900 was spent on site maintenance. On the positive side, Ann reported that nine weddings were held at the site and already a number of bookings have been made for 2014. Our treasurer reported lower donations and decreasing grants, but some operational cost-cuts have been achieved. Piano and organ winter storage costs, however, have increased. Officers and directors of the Society were appointed as listed on page



John McDougall and Friends at the Calgary Stampede of 1912

Photo from the Glenbow Museum

### James Ernest Nix

On January 21, 2013 Reverend J. Ernest Nix passed away in Kitchener, Ontario. He had spent his life in the ministry of the United Church and had been a devoted student and writer of western history. His book "**Mission Among the Buffalo: the Labours of the Reverends George M. and John C. McDougall in the Canadian Northwest, 1860 to 1876**" was published in 1960. His great-great granddaughter, Linda Collier, attending a ceremony in Edmonton last August for his interment was impressed and captivated on learning about "Ernie's love of the Reverends McDougall and how the family and friends have carried on that "tradition".

*Information obtained from the October 13th edition of "History Now" the newsletter of the Historical Society of Alberta*

**Society Board meetings** set for 2014: Feb.6, Apr.10, Jun. 5, Aug. 7, Oct. 9 (our A.G.M), and December 4.

**Our M.SM.S. Newsletters** are distributed February, May and July at month's end, and on September 19th.

**Volunteers are needed** to help to maintain our wonderful Alberta historical site: Please call:

- **Church Maintenance:** (Weed control, painting, repairs, ) | Len McDougall: 403-226-1353
- **Docents** (opening church in summer ,providing historical context) Laura Jauch: 403-875-5978
- **Weddings:** Ann McDougall 403-282-3044 **Newsletter:** Harold Jepson 403 289 3412
- **Event Planning:** Help with bi-annual services or special events! Laura Jauch 403-875-5978



### Become a member of the McDougall Stoney Mission Society

C/O Laura Jauch, PO Box 15 13 Walsh Ave , Acme, AB, T0M 0A0

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone : \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Membership \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ Family Membership \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Donations of \$25 or more will be sent a tax receipt — \$ \_\_\_\_\_