

McDougall Stoney Mission Society Newsletter — Summer 2015



The McDougall Memorial Church

open from May long weekend through September - Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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www.facebook.com/oldmcdougallchurch

The themes for our commemorative non-denominational service
Sunday September 13th at 3pm
“Women of the Bow Valley” and the
“McDougall Church’s 140th Anniversary”

At our spring commemorative service our secretary, Sarah Harvey, spoke of the tremendously important but **often forgotten** role that pioneer women played in the opening of the west. Our spring newsletter described the important role of women in First Nation tribes. Prefacing the spring service, pastor and board member Dr. Wayne Holst highlighted the need for and the growing opportunities to close the gap between white and aboriginal societies. He also pointed out the clearly evident, even indisputable fact that without the energy, strength and courage of **women pioneers**, the men, we have often recognized, even lionized, could never have accomplished what they did. Both Sarah and Wayne stressed the importance in the past and today of the contribution that women have made. Right now Wayne and Sarah are continuing their research and their work preparing for the September 13th commemorative service. The themes our society has selected for this 140th year are intended to commemorate the courageous efforts of the men and women involved in those tumultuous times which brought such overwhelming changes to this young and rapidly developing Southern Alberta. We are now celebrating

140 years of peace and prosperity and showing our devout respect

for our predecessors who made possible the lives we enjoy so much today. Join us at the McDougall Stoney Missionary Church (Highway 1A about 37k west of Cochrane) on September 13th at 3 pm. Refreshments will be served after a brief service and the historical, commemorative talk.



Left: Headstone commemorating the life of **Elizabeth Chantler McDougall**. Elizabeth had the ability to instill courage in others and was a source of strength to many early pioneer women. She spent the rest of her life in Morleyville, tending to the sick and mothering all in need. She died in 1903. **Six Stoney chiefs** stepped forward to carry her casket; they carried it into the Mission Church crowded with natives and non-natives waiting to show their respect.

The McDougall Memorial Church site, a recognized museum, and one of Southern Alberta’s most significant historical sites is open on weekends through September. Tourists and visitors are invited to drop by to enjoy its peaceful serenity on the banks of the Bow. Only two Commemorative services of worship are held each year. As indicated above, the last one will be at 3 pm on September 13th.



Above: The Church gate from Highway 2A.

Below: The Wesley family of the Stoney First Nation attending the McDougall Church's 140th Anniversary Commemorative Service in June. We thank you and all those who came to celebrate this important event.



The Stoney "Nakoda" (meaning *friend, ally*) Nation were named "Stoney" by white explorers, as they used fire-heated rocks to boil broth in rawhide bowls.

Closely related to the Assiniboine, also known as *Stone Sioux*, Alberta's Nakoda First Nation comprises three bands:

Bearspaw, Chiniki and Wesley.

Our First Nations' Women :

First Nation Women were traditionally given highly valued roles.

Women were advisors to the men, held names and gave names to the people according to their potential; some societies were matrilineal and the family line, names, dances, songs, went through the women. Women were teachers. **Women were the givers of life.** Women chose the leaders of the community. The role of women was quite varied from community to community.

Do you have some spare time?

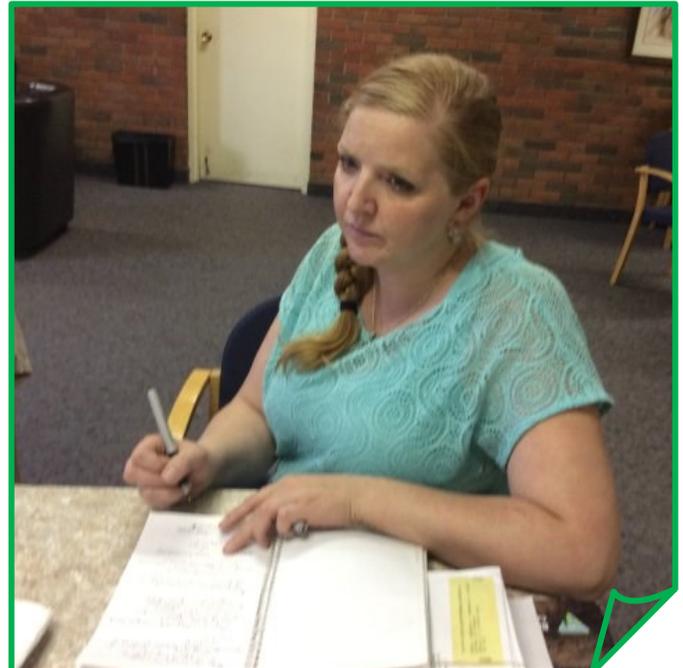
You can help to maintain this beautiful piece of Southern Alberta's history. Call:

Site Care: Len McDougall 403-226-1353

Weddings: Ann McDougall 403-282-3044

Newsletter: Harold Jepson 403 289 3412

Docents: Laura Jauch: 403-875-5978



Above: **Sarah Harvey**, our secretary and speaker at the 2015 commemorative services.

Sarah's enthusiasm for and knowledge of Southern Alberta history is a cornerstones of the McDougall Stoney Mission Society.

Thank you , Sarah!



Photo left: from the Morley cemetery. Headstone at the grave site to honor a **Chief of the Stoney: John Two Young Man?** Editor Harold took the photo on June 14th after the commemorative service and visit to the site. The inscription is difficult to decipher. If any of our readers can provide more information about this Chief and the inscription itself please email Harold at haroldjepson@shaw.ca

Was TwoYoungMan a relative, a predecessor or a successor of Bearspaw, the respected leader, warrior and peacemaker? See note below. Thank you!

.Chief of the Stoney—Ozija Thiha—Jacob Bearspaw:

“Oral tradition has it that the hereditary band chief, who was a relative of Bearspaw, passed over his own sons in choosing him (*Jacob Bearspaw*) as his successor. Perhaps he recognized the strength of character that was to make Bearspaw a respected leader and a steadfast peacemaker. **The Stoney had been in contact with Methodist missionaries since the 1840s. Bearspaw got to know the Reverend John Chantler McDougall and encouraged him, and his father George Millward McDougall, to set up a mission in Stoney territory, a step that was taken in 1873.** The missionaries’ presence reflected the westward advance of white society, a development that presented Bearspaw with the greatest challenge of his career. He had to obtain the best possible protection for his people in the face of the new political realities. When the Canadian government sent out representatives in 1877 to negotiate a treaty with the Indian nations of what is now southern Alberta, Bearspaw hastened from Chief Mountain, Mont., part of the band’s traditional hunting territory, to take part in the proceedings. With a delegation of two other Stoney chiefs, John **CHINIQUAY** and Ki-chi-pwot (Jacob Goodstoney or Big Stony), and five councillors, he attended the meetings at Blackfoot Crossing in September. (*excerpt by Ian A.L. Getty from ‘Dictionary of Canadian Biography—volume x111 – “Jacob Bearspaw, Stoney Warrior and Chief; b.c.1837, d. 1903 probably near Morley (Alta).” Oral traditions among the Stoney have been preserved at the Nakoda Institute, Stoney Tribal Administration (Morley, Alta), in transcripts of taped interviews.*

Notes from the Board of Directors’ Meeting of June 11th.

(In spite of selecting an evening time for the meeting only five members of the MSMS Board of Directors attended this meeting). President Leonard called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and reported that several groups from Cochrane are preparing bids for painting the church, as volunteers can no longer be expected to do the work needed. The general condition of the building suggests that the tower is good for another five years; much needed cabin repairs are still under investigation (the logs were probably cut circa 1890); the balcony may be unsafe and should not be used. This meeting’s priority business was to get the service for June 14th organized and underway. Several key participants will be unable to attend, but fortunately others have stepped forward ;Maida Higa for the musical presentations; Wayne Holst as service chaplain; Sarah Harvey to speak on the historical theme. Vice President Ron spoke of the work he and Laura have done arranging orderly storage for many of the Society’ archives, some of which were badly damaged in the 2013 Calgary flood. Laura reported that a couple of weddings will be held on Fridays by special arrangement. She also noted that visitors from six European countries recently visited the site. The board approved a motion by Laura, seconded by Harold that previously published booklets be reprinted :“Mission to the Stoney”, “The Future of the Indians of Canada”, and “McDougall Reflections”. The question of **our annual membership dues** was discussed and a decision made that **membership will be for the calendar year** so that people will know when their dues are due! Finally, Vice President Ron, who is also a Director of the Southern Alberta Pioneers and Descendants Association, is continuing work on revising our very outdated and inadequate by-laws. Leonard adjourned the meeting just before 9 p.m. sounding a positive note - things are getting done! The meeting’s poor attendance begs the question: Are all Board members receiving notice of meetings?



Join the McDougall Stoney Mission Society -

C/O Laura Jauch, PO Box 15—313 Walsh Ave , Acme, AB, T0M 0A0

Name(s): _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Annual Membership - Individual \$20 _____ Family - \$25 _____ Date: _____

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