

McDougall Stoney Mission Society Newsletter — February 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.
our Website:
www.mcdougallstoneymission.com
Contact us by
E-mail:
Mcdougallmemorialchurch@gmail.com
Our Mailing Address
P.O. Box 38023
Country Hills
Calgary, Alberta
T3K 9Z9
Or on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Old-McDougall-Church>

The Morleyville Methodist Church was built **one hundred and forty years ago!**
Southern Alberta's growth and development began here!
Join us in celebrating 140 years of Western Canadian History!

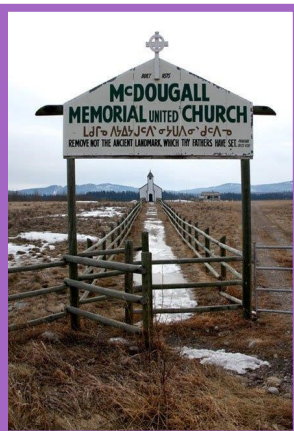


The Board is delighted to have received a *Certificate of Recognition* from the Municipality of Big Horn, declaring the Morleyville Methodist Mission Site to be the first historically significant site in the region.

The statement of significance states that the site *“is highly valued as the nexus for Morleyville, the first settlement in the Bow River Valley and serves as an important catalyst for the opening of the west and later growth of ranching and agricultural settlement in the area”*.

The municipality's action encourages the Board, and demonstrates that all the volunteer work in preserving the church and the site has not been in vain.

Municipality of Big Horn recognizes historic importance of Morleyville



Join us in celebrating our 140th anniversary!
Commemorative services of worship will be held June 14th and September 13th, 2015

Spring site clean-up
Saturday, May 16th at 10 a.m.
Volunteers needed! Come out and help!

Chief Crowfoot Visits Morley

(From "Opening the Great West" by John McDougall)

"It was at this time that Crowfoot, head chief of the Blackfoot, paid us a visit. He was full of questions regarding the future. I took time to explain to him the history of Canada's dealing with its Indian peoples thus far and assured him that I expected in due time treaties would be made and a settled condition created in this country wherein justice would be given to all concerned. The chief expressed himself as delighted with what I had told him and said that he was much pleased with the change that the coming of the Mounted Police had brought in all the West. He also told me that he would depend upon me to inform him of anything in the future that would be of interest to him and his people. He also assured me of his friendship and thanked me for our past experiences.

When Crowfoot left me that August day of 1875 I felt greatly encouraged and was thankful for my record with this chief and his people. I had now secured the friendship of some of each of the tribes frequenting the country the Athabasca and Missouri Rivers—the Blackfeet, Blood, Peigan, Sarcee, mountain, wood and plain Stoneys, mountain, wood plain and swampy Crees, Salteaux or Ojibways, Beavers and Kootanaes. In one way or another I had been among these tribes during the past fifteen years of my frontier life and now from Hudson Bay to the Rocky Mountains "John" was known as the "Indians' friend". It was like music to me to hear the Blackfoot say "Chan Wapea" (John, my friend), or to hear in the many dialects of the Cree "John netotam" (John, my friend). I often thanked God for thus giving me favour in the eyes of these nomads who were the best mind readers in the world. For fifteen years I had wandered among these wild people more than any other living man, and still my scalp was on my head, and those of many others also in consequence. No wonder that with the grip of Crowfoot's hand still warm in mind I went back to my building and teaching with a glad heart.

All through the mid-summer and autumn months of 1875 Indians and half-breeds and an occasional Mounted Policeman came to us. It was apparent that while everyone continued to exercise great watchfulness, yet all enjoyed the wonderful new era of peace which had been ushered in."

Editor's Note: The above excerpt from John McDougall's writing clearly illustrates how his friendship with our First Nations' Peoples was of such paramount importance to him. It also clearly indicates, as do many of his writings, his great admiration and respect for all the tribes. Today, the members of the McDougall Stoney Mission Society are working and hoping to rekindle this spirit of respect and friendship between our white society and our First Nations People so evident in John's writing, but so lacking and sadly so lost in some of our contemporary relationships. It is our fervent hope that the McDougall church and our Society may yet have a role in such a development.

Crowfoot Chief of the Blackfeet (by Hugh A. Dempsey)

"In one shattering decade, from 1875 to 1885, the great buffalo herds disappeared from Western North America, and the Plains Indians, who had depended on them for food, shelter and clothing, were forced to become wards of the government. This book by Hugh A. Dempsey tells the story of how one Canadian tribe was led through years of harassment, starvation and subjugation by a wise and far-sighted chief."

McDougall Stoney Mission Society Board Members 2015

President - Leonard McDougall
Vice-President— Ron Moore
Past-President & Treasurer—Laura Jauch
Secretary—Sarah Harvey

Directors:

Ann McDougall, Kathy Epp, Audrey Epp,
Wayne Holst, Phil Jones, Christine Locke,
Robert MacDonald, , Andrew Stiles,
Harold Jepson (Newsletter Editor)

Committee Members

Thomas Melvin, John McDougall

Starvation

In recent years so much attention has been given to the problems of the residential schools in terms of white relationships with the First Nations that the early needs and early responses of the missionaries are often overlooked. The fact is that with the buffalo gone, with the plague of smallpox and with the ongoing inter-tribal wars the First Nations Peoples by the spring of 1878 had reached a state of starvation. The future was bleak. Hugh Dempsey, in his biography of Crowfoot, describes a desperate situation: *“The treaty commissioners had said the buffalo would last another ten years, but now less than a year later, the end was already in sight. ... By spring, many of the Blackfeet were starving... Crowfoot’s people began to hunt new food on the prairies. Rabbits, gophers, mice, moles, porcupines, badgers—anything with meat on its bones was eaten, no matter how rank. It was not uncommon that spring to see a once proud warrior stretched out on the prairie holding a noose over the mouth of a gopher hole.”* *“ In mid-July, the newly appointed commissioner, Edgar Dewdney... reported ‘On arriving there I found about 1,300 Indians in a very desperate condition, and many on the verge of starvation. Young men who were known to be stout and hearty fellows some six months ago were quite emaciated and so weak they could hardly work; the old people and widows, who, with their children lived on the charity of the younger and more prosperous, had nothing,*

and many a pitiable tale was told of the misery they had endured.”

It was in this context that the McDougalls and the other white families at Morleyville sought to help their First Nations friends, and why the missionaries were so warmly welcomed as friends by the Stoney people. It would be interesting to know how John McDougall would have reacted to the later treatment received by the First Nations Peoples. One suspects that he would have been very angry and very disappointed. There can be no doubt that he would have fought vigorously to ensure that the promises made by Colonel McLeod and by John himself were fulfilled. One has to wonder why so little of this local history is taught in our Alberta or Canadian schools.



Volunteers are needed. Please call us:

Church Maintenance: (Grounds and buildings care),

Len McDougall: **403-226-1353**

Weddings: Ann McDougall **403-282-3044**

Newsletter: Harold Jepson **403 289 3412**

Docents — Open the site and provide historical context to visitors Spend a peaceful day in a beautiful setting while enjoying the opportunity to learn more about our region and Calgary’s history!

Call Laura Jauch: **403-875-5978**

From the Board of Directors

At the Board’s regular **meeting of Thursday, December 4th**, with eight directors in attendance, much discussion concerned the receipt of the *Certificate of Recognition* for our historical site, as detailed on page one of this newsletter. Ann reported that several weddings have already been booked for 2015 (July 4, August 22, September 5, 12, and 19). Weddings continue to be a very important source of revenue for the maintenance of the buildings and site. President Len reported that the site fence has now been repaired, that the RCMP continue to keep a watchful eye on the property and that St David’s church has graciously given permission for our future meetings to be held there. He also reported that John Chalmers has been kind enough to inform us that Bill Kent, long connected to the Mission, had passed away in October at 106 years of age. Bill’s parents married at the church and worked at the Mission, mother as teacher, father as blacksmith. Rev. Wayne Holst will seek a speaker and a theme for the two memorial services. Ann advised with great regret that Gerald McDougall, our Vice-President, can no longer serve on the Board due to ill health. Gerald was thanked for his long and valuable service to the Society. Ron Moore has assumed the duties as Vice President.

The Board met again on February 5th with seven directors in attendance. Among items discussed and actions taken, treasurer Laura provided financial summaries for the past year showing a positive balance sheet. Artifact storage continues to be problematic. Ron is leading the charge on this one. The theme for the commemorative services this year will be the mission’s 140th anniversary with focus on the role of women, then and now. Wayne is the lead and is seeking letters, photos and other artifacts.

Next meeting **April 2nd** at St David’s church.



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: _____

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

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