

Year in Review
November 2018 – September 2019
Written by Brenda McQueen (President, MSMS)



What an absolute honour to be following this path that my ancestors started in 1875! Everyday I am excited about what the new day will offer for me - with learning from the consultants, friendships with the Stoney Nakoda people, and working with others on the path towards reconciliation that we have started and are excited to continue.

Consultants:

- Throughout the year there has been constant communication with the McDougall Stoney Mission Society.
- Dave Chalmers, of Chalmers Heritage Conservation Limited, is extremely supportive of MSMS and offers to help wherever he can. For example, participating in news stories, and coming out to our site for events.
- December 8, 2018 – Went to see trees with Dave Chalmers that had been chopped down this summer to see if the logs would be suitable to rebuild the cabin in the future.
- Early Spring 2019 – The board has worked closely with Manasc Isaac Architects to do all of the groundwork for the approvals of the Development Permits and the Building Permits so that the restoration can begin.



Grants Received:

- 2018 December Heritage Preservation Partnership Program Grant
- 2019 Community Services Grant from MD Bighorn
- 2019 The United Church of Canada – Justice and Reconciliation Fund for the McDougall Memorial United Church Cross-Cultural Events 2019
- 2019 St. David's Church, Calgary – received funding for honoraria for Stoney elders to come to events at the McDougall Memorial United Church site
- 2019 – Luxton Foundation – received funding for a Bison-related event at the site

Grants Applied for 2020:

- **Alberta Historical Resources Foundation**
 - \$24,667 for professional services (architects, engineers, etc)
- **Alberta Historical Resources Foundation**
 - \$100,000 for capital costs relating to the construction of the exterior of the church
- **MD Bighorn**
 - \$1,200 for events at the site
- **United Church of Canada Justice and Reconciliation Fund**
 - \$10,000 for events at the site

Members' Meetings:

- Members' meeting September 29 – Provincial Government options explained and voted on
- AGM – November 3
- Members' meeting May 2019 – update on proposal from Provincial Government and Manasc Isaac's proposal on Project Understanding and Restoration Planning
- Regular emails sent out to the members to update them on the progress at the site

Provincial Government:

- February 20, 2019 - Provincial Government accepted proposal to restore the church and enhance the interpretive walk
- Support and guidance on direction moving forward
- Supported Manasc Isaac and Chalmers Heritage Conservation Limited proposals for the restoration

Events (MSMS and others):

- I am invited out at least once a month to attend the Chiniki Elders meeting in Morley - sometimes twice a month. This is where the elders have the opportunity to discuss concerns with me as well as areas where our Society could assist them in the future.
- September 30, 2018 – The MSMS board was invited to help serve at a Chiniki Nations Feast. Strathie Tompkins, one of our Directors, came out to help me with this incredible celebration. This celebration changes dates every year as it occurs when the fall leaves change colour for the deceased. The Stoney Nakoda have a day to remember the deceased and go visit them at the cemetery. I was told, “the dead have small dust storms in the cemetery to say they are there.” Then they all come back to have a feast to commemorate their loved ones that are gone.
- October 10, 2018 - Invited to Charles Powderface’s home for lunch – great food and stories were shared. A great deal of importance is placed on the idea that our combined stories are an important way to pass on the understanding, knowledge and guidance for future generations. What a true honour to hear these special stories.



- November 8, 2018 - Library art unveiling - Roland Rollinmud invited me to the Indigenous artists’ event at the Calgary Central Public Library. They had the honour of having art displayed in the new library and shared their stories of their hardships and what they are currently working on.
- December 1, 2018 - McDougall United Church, Calgary – Tony Snow invited the MSMS board to a Pipe Ceremony for new beginnings with the United Churches to work together. There was a small group of invited honoured guests, what an honour that I was part of this group that attended. This has developed into a Sharing Circle that I have been invited to attend once a month. This is a real opportunity to meet and build relationships with several Stoney Nakoda people and United Church people from Calgary.
- December 9, 2018 – Invited to attend Morley Church Service by Paul Chiniquay.
- December 13, 2018 – Invited an Elder for lunch at the Stoney Nakoda Resort and Casino then went to Morley to the Craft Market with Jackie Powderface.

- December 19, 2018 - MD Bighorn offered to provide a Christmas lunch for the Elders, I was there dropping off items for Trudy Snow and Deb Grady, MD Bighorn, asked if I would like to help serve.



- December 23, 2018 – MSMS was asked to prepare and execute a Turkey Feast Christmas Party for children in Morley. We helped to bring items to make stockings for the children, wrapped and provided gifts for the children to receive from Santa, provided food for lunch, and handed out candy bags to the children.



- December 29, 2018 - I was invited to attend the Tsuu'Tina Chief and Council Christmas Feast and Pow-wow.
- February 8, 2019 – MSMS was invited to honour Charles Powderface at his 70th Birthday Party with food and service for 200 guests. It was incredible to see the Chiniki Lake Drumming group perform together again along with Chiniki Chief Aaron Young.



- February 11, 2019 – I was invited by the minister of Cochrane United Church to attend a Blanket Exercise with some members of his congregation.

- February 12 and 13, 2019 - Invited to meet with Brain Evans (CEO of Chiniki First Nation) to share my work and update him about the site. He then asked if I would like to be part of a committee that he was working with for employment opportunities for Stoney youth. I was honoured and returned to Morley the next day to have a meeting with the Chiniki Labour Market and Jobs Steering Committee.

- February 17, 2019 – I shared a slideshow presentation with St. David's congregation, of the history and updates about the McDougall Memorial United Church site as people are very interested in the story and developments.

- February 24, 2019 – I was invited to talk to Central United's congregation and shared the slideshow.



- March 10, 2019 – Another invitation to talk to Cochrane United Church and shared the slideshow that I had prepared.
- March 15, 2019 – I was invited to attend a Chiniki Lecture Series by Bill Snow that was on "Reflecting on 130 years of Banff Indian Days". A film was shared showing John McDougall at this event 104 years ago. What an honour that I was invited last summer to Banff Indian Days and now I see my great-great-grandfather walking with the Stoney at the same event over 100 years earlier.
- March 20, 2019 – I talked to the Cochrane Historical Society and presented the slideshow.
- May 16, 2019 – The Historical Committee of the Stampede Board of Directors invited me to talk and share the slideshow that they had heard I had made.
- March 11, 2019 - Shared the slideshow with the Southern Alberta Pioneer Directors and members at a special evening they had planned to see it.



- March 20, 2019 - Asked by Tony Snow and John Snow to collect clothes from United Churches in Calgary to take them out to give to people of the Stoney Nakoda Nation at the Craft Market. I was lucky to have Strathie Tompkins from the board help me with this event as the churches that I had contacted were very generous in their donations.

- March 23, 2019 - Asked to help to write resumes with Stoney youth for the committee that I was on with Brian Evans at Charles Powderface's house.
- April 1, 2019 - Invited to share the slideshow for "CALL" - a group of people that meet monthly in Calgary to discuss historical topics.
- April 10, 2019 - Open House Job Fair for the Chiniki Labour Market and Jobs Steering Committee. After that Open House, I received an email from Jordan Cleland the project Manager for the committee saying, "Thank you Brenda. You are by far the most engaged member of our project steering committee and it is very much appreciated."
- April 24, 2019 - Roland Rollinmud asked me to join the Chiniki Elders trying to have the elders from all three bands meet regularly and work together to make the efforts for the Nation cohesive. He asked me to help write a Grant Proposal for the elders to submit.
- April 28, 2019 - Invited by Elder Glenda Crawler to attend a Morley United Church meeting to discuss a few concerns with the United Church representatives after the church service.
- May 13, 2019: Invited to a Pipe Ceremony at Lake Minnewanka by Roland Rollinmud that the Brewster Bus Line was putting on for the Elders from Morley to bless the land.



- June 1, 2019 – Had our first event at the site for the Summer. This event was very special as we had the Stoney Nakoda Nation sew and make a tipi for the MSMS donated by Janet (Kay) and Bob Atkinson. This event was the inaugural tipi raising at our site. Thanks to Mike Geier (Vice President) for organizing the tipi with Trudy Wesley to cut and sew, David Bearspaw for going to cut and prepare our tipi poles and Strathie Tompkins for organizing this event. This shows that the relationship is strong between the Stoney and the Society to have them make a tipi for our site.

- June 9, 2019 – An incredible second event at the site for the Summer of 2019. We started with our tipi being raised again.

All that attended the special smudging ceremony which was held in our tipi by the highly respected Councillor Charles Powderface agreed that it was very powerful. This ceremony was to show that the flame has been rekindled between us and that we are moving forward together in a positive manner.



After the Smudging ceremony we had a very emotional and exciting service where I told the public that our proposal to restore the church was accepted by the Provincial Government. The words that were used by a great deal of people present were that they could see reconciliation was happening at this site, and that it is a role model that could be used as an example for many others. It was a true honour to see all our hard work for the last year and a half come together.



- June 18, 2019 - Wildrose United Church invited me to talk at a Stoney /United Church Indigenous Reconciliation Talk they had been planning for Indigenous Week with Tony Snow.



- This was a thank you I received the next morning: "Good morning Brenda! Thanks again for last night! You spoke so eloquently and with such pride and passion. I felt your deep commitment to your family's legacy and how much the rebuild means to you. When I say rebuild, I do include the restoration of a beloved landmark and all its history. Also, I respect you so much for opening the door to opportunities for renewing relationships with the Stoney People. This little church is a symbol of hope which I believe has always been the legacy of the McDougall ministry in this province. You have modeled an example of what reconciliation looks like with all the love you have already shown. I know that Wild Rose United is excited about new possibilities."

- June 20, 2019 – Invited by Gloria Snow to attend the Craft Fair in Morley to help RCMP office Jennifer Brewer with talking to Stoney people about the approach to keep the community involved in “safety on the streets” in Morley.
- June 20, 2019 – The MSMS board was invited by Tony Snow to attend the Hillhurst United event on Indigenous Women’s Voices Gathering for Indigenous Week. What a powerful and emotional evening that touched the hearts of everyone present.
- June 21, 2019 – Was invited by Tony Snow to attend Hillhurst United for an event in support of Indigenous Land Acknowledgements. It was very informative and helped people that were present understand the meaning behind the land acknowledgement to the Stoney Nakoda Nation.
- June 22, 2019 – Attended the Indigenous Day Live at Fort Calgary.
- June 23, 2019 – I worked with Joan Hunter, an Elder from the Chiniki Nation, to help her with a barbeque at her church in Morley. Thank you to Strathie Tompkins who helped buy and cook the food. Also, for helping me serve the approximately 75 people the dinner who were most appreciative of our help.
- June 24, 2019 – Sharon Griffins, treasurer for the board, and I were invited by June Martin to have a picnic with some Girl Guide Leaders from Calgary and Canmore. It was a beautiful day to have the opportunity to share the history and the future of the site with them.
- June 25, 2019 – Global news invited Tony Snow, Dave Chalmers and myself out to the site so that they could televise the exciting news from the Provincial Government.
- June 27, 2019 – I was invited to attend another open house for the Chiniki Labour Market and Jobs Steering Committee that I was on.



- June 28, 2019 – Invited by Linda Gorman and Cate Nelson to join in a Sweat Ceremony in Morley. This was perhaps the most powerful ceremony I have ever participated in!

- July 5, 2019 – Invited to the Opening Ceremonies at the Elbow River Camp in the Stampede grounds. Tremendous dancing and wonderful words from many dignitaries.



- July 6, 2019 – I was invited to MLA Marlene Ganley's Stampede Breakfast by Lucas Costello along with Tony Snow.
- July 7, 2019 – I was invited by many Stoney Elders to be a part of the Stoney Tribe Day at the Stampede.
- July 8, 2019 – Invited by David Bearspaw to help set up their tipi and prepare it for the judging event. Then, once all the tipis were open to the public, I was in the tipi with his family to share the information of the site to the public. Also, I helped other Stoney's with errands and at the pow-wow sign up trailer.

- July 25, 2019 - Ecumenical Conference Closing Ceremonies were held at our site.



- July 27, 2019 – Family Fun Games with Historic Week Calgary at the site. Ready Set Go! What a fun day. Thanks, Sarah Harvey for all your help with this great event at the site!



- July 28, 2019 – Bison Celebrations Event – Thank you to the Luxton Foundation for donating so that we could hold this wonderful event at the site that was informative. We had delicious Bison Chili as well. Thank you to Bill Snow, Harvie Locke and Marie-eve Marchand for your informative presentation. Thank you to Strathie Tompkins, Chris Weiland and Marie- Eve Marchand for organizing and executing all the delicious food.
- July 31, 2019 – Invited to Spring Creek in Canmore to present the history and future of the site.
- August 3, 2019 – Painted the green trim on the cabin and pumphouse to make the site look kept up and also fixed the gate hardware on the swinging gate. It was great that Sharon and Tony Griffins helped us out with this painting.



- August 9, 2019 – My husband and I were invited to Nakoda Banff Indian Days to attend a Pipe Ceremony for foster children.
- Throughout the summer I met with numerous people to share the future of the site, individually or in groups.
- August 18, 2019 – What a powerful and exciting meeting to attend at the Morley United Church in Morley. Several churches rights relations groups met to talk about the future of working together as a team to improve the cohesion of the United Churches and the branch of Rights Relations.



- September 1, 2019 – A great crowd attended the 2019 Mini Thni Labour Day Classic Pow-wow in Morley. It was very special to attend this event as I attended it with my family in 1988.



- September 22, 2019 - Our final event of the season was called “Seven Generations Later” it combined the Fall church service and Treaty 7 Day commemoration. Over 150 people attended and heard many stories about what Treaty Seven means to the Stoney Nakoda people. Elder Henry Holloway even brought a flag from the original Treaty Seven signing in 1877! It was a wonderful way to end the summer.



- **Final Notes:**
 - The Sea can at the site will be removed in October so that Chalmers Heritage Conservation can begin the work cleaning up the burned logs.
 - Over the winter, the work continues to reconstruct the church at Chalmers' shop in Calgary.
 - In May 2020, a special Pipe Ceremony will be held and the exterior of the restored church will be transported to the site and be re-assembled.
 - In September 2020, the first service in the newly restored church will be held!