

# Year in Review

November 2019 – November 2020

By Brenda McQueen – President, McDougall Stoney Mission Society



## November 2019

- Another extremely exciting year for MSMS is about to begin! We are anticipating a wonderful year as historic changes will happen at the McDougall Memorial United Church site.
- The Interpretive Walk Team met and shared stories about the site to start the beginning discussions and plans for the new enhanced Interpretive Walk.



- The seacan has left the site with all the burnt logs to head to Calgary for over the winter. Dave Chalmers is going to start the process to clean up the logs and piece the church together in his shop. How thrilling to see the restoration begin as the sea can leaves. WOW, this is happening!





- The Interpretive Walk Team is very motivated to get the ideas and stories shared for the future walk. Many new elders and members have expressed an interest in joining this team. A new site plan of what exists on-site, along with photos is being prepared to share with the team through the winter as meetings continue.



- Jennifer Brewer from the RCMP invited me out to assist with The Morley Community Consultative Group. They were hosting a community information fair. The fair was intended to help community members gain access to services offered in Morley. What an honour to learn more about the services offered in Morley and to help at this event.



- I was invited out to Canmore to share a slideshow presentation to the Lifelong Learning Group. There were approximately 100 people there and they thoroughly enjoyed learning about the history and the future of the site.
- Manasc Isaac asked me to attend the M.D. Bighorn No. 8 Development Permit hearing to be able to answer any questions that they may have in order to accept our Development Permit application. We were happy that at the end of our discussion the council unanimously approved our Development Permit.
- I met with Jeff who owns and operates Alpine Tours. He was wanting to know more about our site and is extremely interested in adding our site as a stopping point in the summer for his small tours that go from Banff to Cochrane.
- It is looking like we will have our first service in the restored building in September 2020, and we need to get some artwork on the walls. I feel that is important to include an artist from all three Stoney bands to help us out with this. I am meeting with them individually and coming up with renderings so that we can start to apply for grants. Some landowners around the site have donated money to help with this project as they view it is valuable to have the Stoney Nakoda Nation included.
- I was contacted for a Pump Organ donation that was from the early 1900's. The owner explained to me that it belonged to his Grandfather and that he worked for David McDougall at his ranch. What an incredible piece to add to the building that includes some history from David McDougall's family.





- In November/December there has been a great deal of planning for the Stoney Nativity and Christmas Feast. I am so appreciative of all the volunteers that have worked hard for this event. We are anticipating that approximately 400 people will attend.
- The Calgary Stampede Board asked me to attend a meeting with the Stoney tipi holders. What an honour to have the role as a liaison between the Stampede Board and the Stoney Nakoda at the Stampede of 2020. My great-great-grandfather John McDougall was instrumental in starting the Indian Village at the first Stampede in 1912 – how incredible it is that I am following in his footsteps!
- I planned and prepared for an Interview with the Calgary Foundation to apply for a grant from them to help with the restoration of the church. Thanks to John Snow, Sharon Griffin and Kent McQueen for attending this interview with me.
- I worked with Dave, Manasc Isaac and Sandy (from the Provincial Government) on the drawings for the building permit. It has been submitted to the MD Bighorn No 8.
- I have met with Dave to share ideas for the pews in the church. We noticed these pews in Ralph O'Connor church in Canmore and thought that they would be perfect. Dave is hoping to have Stoney youth make them at the site this summer. This pew was made in 1891.



- I was invited out to lunch with the President and CEO of the Whyte Museum in Banff to discuss updates and to see how we can help one another in the future.

## December 2019

- With the help of Hazel Buchanan and Sharon, I went to take used clothes to the Craft Market in Morley. The Stoney Nakoda Nation greatly appreciated the clothes. We also took the opportunity to share posters for the upcoming Stoney Nativity and Christmas Feast.
- A monitoring system was installed at the site on and we are a test site for “Eyes on Site”. It will be very interesting to be able to see how many visitors we get to visit the site each year.



- We learned that we had received grants which the society had applied for earlier in the year. These will be used to help restore the church. They were from The Calgary Foundation, MD Bighorn and The Provincial Government.



- We held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Stoney Nakoda Christmas Feast and what a huge success. All the hard work was worth it for us to be able to provide over 350 people a turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Also, over 200 children received a gift from Santa. We could not have done this event without the donations and numerous volunteers that gave their time. The Morley Firefighters, RCMP and EMS were a huge hit handing out candy canes as well.





- The Stoney Nakoda Nation files appeal against our Development Permit for the restoration of the church. This is upsetting, but we are confident that we will be successful!

#### January 2020

- Now that the restoration of the historic building is well underway, I have continued to work with an artist to make a special original piece of art that tells the story of my McDougall ancestors and the Stoney chiefs who signed Treaty 7. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the talented Andrew Holloway.
- Frits Pannekoek (Vice President) and I planned a meeting with some Stoney Elders in Morley. We had a great open discussion about where to begin and what should be included in the newly enhanced Interpretive Walk at the site. We all left the meeting feeling that there was positive discussion on the future of the site.





## February 2020

- Suzanne from the Visitor Centre in Cochrane and I have been working very closely since I became the President of the Society. She has been very supportive about sharing information and events that will be occurring at the site. She had a great idea that we could advertise the site on a wall at the Visitor Centre as this summer is going to be very exciting for all tourists visiting the site.



- We were so fortunate to receive a CPR Steam Engine Bell for the restored church. I went to pick it up from the Thorsteinsson family that donated it and it brought memories back from my childhood as it rang. Such an incredible find for the church.



- It has been a relief to be able to see the site through our new Monitoring System from home. We really appreciate Eyes on Site having us as a test site.



- What an incredible feeling to go to CHC's shop and see the burnt logs that have been cleaned. They look absolutely beautiful and you can see worm tracks on the one log close up.







- The last piece for the restored church that we needed to find was a potbelly stove. We posted on Facebook that we were looking for one and my cousin shared that one had posted the day before on Kijiji and it was the same model that was in the old church. Wow! When I contacted the owner she was absolutely thrilled that her parents' stove would go to a restored church and be near Morley. She felt that it was meant to be because of her family history. Every new piece that will complete the church has a wonderful story that adds to the restoration.



- The Stoney Nakoda Nation's appeal of our Development Permit was heard in February. We were very fortunate to have several Stoney Elders attend the hearing and speak on our behalf. We rented a van and had food for all of them in appreciation of their support to our society.



- We had a few very stressful weeks as we waited for M.D. Bighorn to decide the verdict of the appeal. The society was elated that the SDAB denied the appeal. We didn't stop working through the appeal process but now all of us can relax and move forward.
- We arranged a news broadcast with Jill Croteau of Global News as she has supported our work very professionally since the fire. Now we can move forward with positive feelings!

### March 2020

- With the Covid-19 pandemic becoming a reality, it has become a very difficult time for all of us. Throughout the pandemic I maintained contact with society members and Stoneys via email, texts, and phone calls.



- Lockbox left open at site – thanks to a concerned citizen for the heads-up. It is nice to know people are keeping an eye on the site for us. We drove out to make sure everything at the site was safe and were pleased to see that the key was still in the open lockbox.



- A beautiful day at the site. It was very encouraging to see so many people out and enjoying the site. Several people were set up on the Bow River ice fishing.



- I worked with Manasc Isaac on our Building Permit and we finally applied for it.

#### **April 2020**

- The Building Permit was approved very quickly. We are moving forward with the restoration smoothly thanks to the Provincial Government, CHC and Manasc Isaac. They have all provided us with important information and support.
- Covid has made it very difficult for our Board. We have been using emails a great deal for important updates.

- The entire board has been using Zoom a great deal. We are also using it regularly for team meetings, meetings with consultants and Indigenous Sharing Circle events.



- Volunteers have been very supportive and helped our society drive three deliveries of food donations from MSMS out to Morley. They were very appreciative of all the food and staples.



- We drove out to the site to check that everything was as it should be. Kent and I picked up the garbage that had been blown onto our site. We also noticed that the seacan locks were gone. We drove to Cochrane to purchase replacements. Thankfully, nothing was taken from inside the seacan.





- Here we go again - the Stoney Nakoda Nation seeks leave to appeal the SDAB appeal decision.
- Another generous donation to Morley for the children! Special thanks to our members and friends.



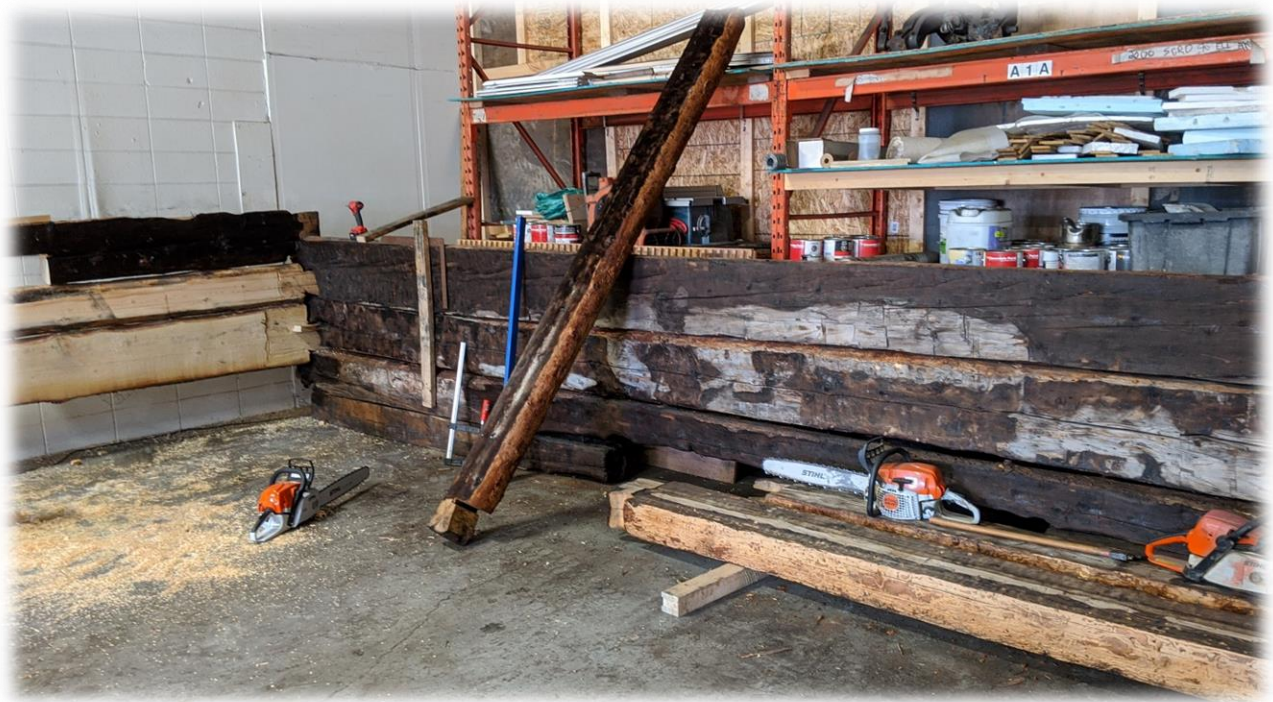
**May 2020**

- The logs come back from the mill all cleaned and ready to be installed. They look absolutely beautiful!





- Awesome news! The SNN leave to appeal request was denied by an Alberta Appeals Court Judge.
- Another visit to the CHC shop - more work on the logs. The restoration of the logs is nearing completion and they will soon be moved to the site!

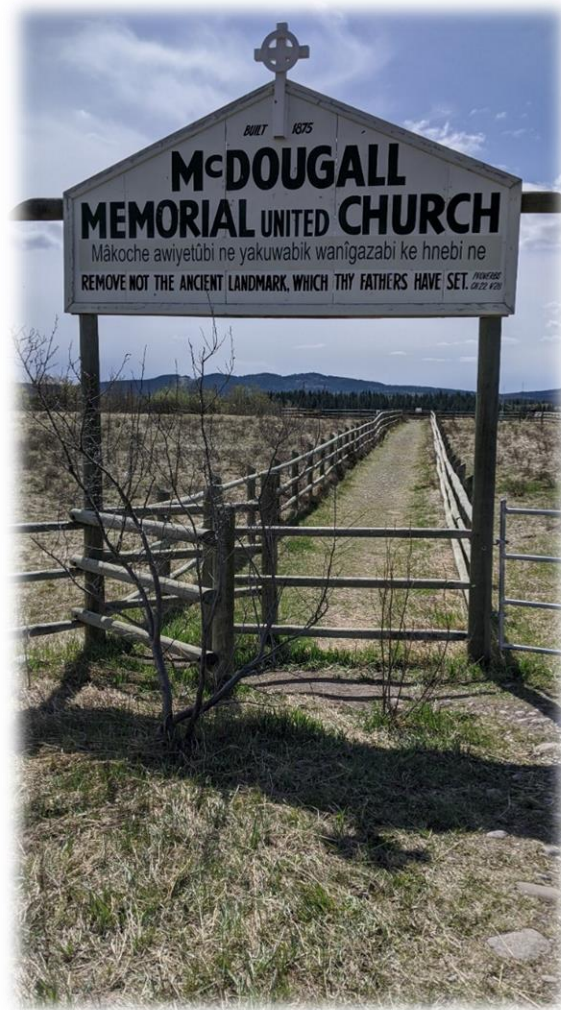


- The restoration begins at the site!!





- I participated in the Ethical Dilemmas Zoom series with Tony and his Indigenous Sharing Circle.
- The board had many team meetings held via Zoom.
- I worked with Andrew Holloway on his artwork for the restored church. This is a powerful piece and will look gorgeous in the restored building. You will have to wait to see it 😊
- I have continued to deal with insurance issues regarding the restoration at the site and our project managers at Manasc Isaac with details as we progress with the building.
- I phoned and emailed MSMS members and Stoney Nakoda friends just so we can all keep in touch. I wanted everyone to know that they could contact me if needed.
- I sent regular updates of progress at the site to members via email. I received numerous emails back from members that they appreciated the details and information.
- Stoney translation on sign: We were finally able to replace the old Cree syllabics on the entrance sign with a Stoney translation. When one Stoney elder saw the sign she started to cry and said now it is more welcoming. These little things make such a big difference.



- A ceremony for the beginning of the restoration was held with board members, Stoney elders, and CHC workers. This was a very special time to hear the positive viewpoint of all who participated and how we can continue on the road to healing and reconciliation.







## June 2020

- The piano that was donated for the McDougall United Memorial Church is moved to Cochrane for storage until June 2021. Thank you Strathie Tompkins and Sharon for making this happen. Also thank you to the family that donated the piano to our site and covered the moving and tuning costs with a generous donation to the society.



- We had several lunches at the site with Society and Stoney Nakoda members. These included incredible walks of the site and conversations amongst everyone present. Each time we had these activities I went home feeling that the energy was incredibly positive and new friendships were beginning. Just like when we had a lunch three years ago while the church was being taken down, new memories are made to add to this special site. As a board we had to think out of the box this year as we are trying to be safe with the ongoing pandemic.





- Many visitors are coming to the site to see the beautiful landscape and to get an update on the restoration. Dave's crew has been interrupted quite a bit by curious people full of questions. We had these signs made so that they can work without the interruptions.



- Dave and his crew were now ready for MSMS to reach out and find Stoney workers at the site. Many were interested and helped to complete all the chinking on the outside and the inside of the building.



- I was asked to present a slideshow of the history of our site and restoration of the church. Due to Covid we had to have it on Zoom for the sermon at Symons Valley United Church. This worked out extremely well and Tony and John Snow also were a part of the event. This was to share the importance of Indigenous Day and how we are working together for a positive future.
- Throughout May to the end of October, I visited the site numerous times to check on the restoration.



## July 2020

- Kent and I put a great deal of thought into how to complete the parking spots at the site that were required for our building permit from MD Bighorn. We went out to the site to put all the signs up and paint the fence posts to show the size of each stall.



- Throughout July and August, we had several days that we had the site open for visitors. It is amazing how many people stop at our site and are interested in its history. There have been some articles in the newspapers that have stated inaccurate and misleading information about our site and the history of the McDougalls. We as a board have learned that the best way to educate people is when they are on the site. We can meet with people, walk the site, and share with them the history accurately. It also gives us the opportunity to answer questions that anyone may have.
- The stove arrives safely at CHC – thanks for them for picking it up for us from Edmonton.



- Frits had another Interpretive Walk meeting at the site with his team. This group is growing in number as people become more interested in the incredible work that Frits has done. At every meeting, new people from the Stoney Nakoda Nation join us. Frits' energy and enthusiasm to have this new walk done with modern technology, telling the story of the site from the perspective of the Stoney people is very motivating!

## August 2020

- I was invited to a special Elders' meeting in Morley to talk about youth issues. The Elders are continually concerned about how they can help their youth with alcohol and drug issues on the reserve. I am honoured to say that I have been approached by two different groups with the same concern to help them. We are in the process of educating ourselves and forming plans for these initiatives. I hope to be able to update everyone next year!
- We had a Sharing Circle at the site with elders from the SNN and this was an incredible afternoon. We all talked openly, and a great deal was learned. We had new people that had never been on our site attend as well.
- Sharon has been hard at work trying to find new grants and submit grant proposals to many different charitable organizations. I have tried to assist her with these in any way that I could. With the Provincial Government not providing any grants next year, we have had to become creative and reach out to different organizations and individuals for grants and donations.



*August 1*



*August 31*

## September 2020

- Frits has had two more wonderful meetings with the SNN members regarding the interpretive walk plans – things are really starting to take shape with the ideas on how to move forward. It is great when new people come to the meetings to learn more as they want to learn the accurate history and contribute to the plans.
- I was honoured to be invited to John Snow's Ordination with the United Church of Canada with a few other board members. This was so special to watch and it made me proud of John for all the hard work necessary to accomplish this. I remember his dad at the site when he was Chief, and it made me realize the relationship that we did have is moving in the right direction.



- We advertised that the site would be open for Treaty 7 Day. It was a very smoky day because of all the wildfires. We had a great number of people drop by that wanted to learn about the restoration and see the building. Many people then took the time to walk the site and Strathie was helping them with information as they walked.



- I have really enjoyed that they now have a Smitty's in Morley. This has made it much easier to meet SNN Elders and friends.
- Many people have reached out to me that are "friends of friends" to come see the site and learn more about our history. These opportunities have become meetings to further discuss the future of the site and how we can help each other. It is so important that the society builds relationships like this so that the many charitable individuals and groups can pool our resources and work together. Thank you to everyone who has helped to start these new relationships.
- We had a board meeting to approve the new Bylaws for our society and to plan our AGM in November. This has been a challenge with the restrictions on gatherings in Alberta due to the Covid pandemic. We have had to plan the AGM for people that feel comfortable to meet in a building (with social distancing) as well as provide the ability for others to attend virtually.

## October 2020

- This month has involved a great deal of planning for the AGM in November. We will hopefully have our new Bylaws passed by the members and look forward to voting in the new Board of Directors.
- I am regularly asked by people to meet them at the site to talk about the history of the site. This is exciting because it shows the site is receiving lots of interest. Plus, this fall the weather is beautiful!
- We decided to try to do a re-enactment of a photo that was taken of the restoration in the 1950's. We had a great deal of fun with this and thanks to Malcom for being our photographer.

This year has been incredibly rewarding for me as my third year of being the president for the MSMS. Every time I have gone to Dave's shop or out to the site to see the restoration continuing, I come away feeling SO proud of what we have accomplished! I can not wait to see where the society goes from here with the interpretive walk, continuing the relationships we have started with the SNN, and having a more positive outlook for the future working together. I would like to thank all of the board for their work during this very challenging year. We had to become creative and learned to think outside of the box. Also, to all the members and other people who donated money and volunteered to help us make this year successful – thank you!!! We could not do this without you!



**We sent out many updates to society members to keep them apprised of the restoration progress. The following are copies of all the emailed updates.**



**Monday, May 18, 2020**

After a Stoney Nakoda smudge ceremony, work began on restoring the church.



**Friday, May 22, 2020**

Within 5 days, 4 courses are complete and work has begun on the 5th course.

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## **The Restoration Has Begun!**

I'm please to announce that the restoration of the McDougall Memorial United Church has begun! Due to the Covid-19 emergency, we were unable to hold the all-members ceremony that we had hoped to conduct at the site. We did, however, have elders from all three Stoney Nakoda bands perform a ritual smudge ceremony prior to the installation of any logs. Work is rapidly advancing, despite the weather, and I will send out regular updates to keep all society members apprised of the progress until the anticipated completion in September. I would like to express a great big "Thank you" to all the members that have contributed to the restoration!

Brenda McQueen, President MSMS

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**Monday, May 25, 2020**

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After completing the first 4 courses of logs, work began on the floor of the church.



**Wednesday, May 27, 2020**

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Two days later, the floor is well on its way to completion.



**Friday, May 29, 2020**

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Here is the latest progress from one of our security cameras. After the floor is complete, more logs will be installed for the walls.



**Friday, May 29, 2020**

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We just received this photo from the construction crew on site. The floor is now complete and they will get back to the walls next week! Thanks to the amazing crew of Chalmers Heritage Conservation for working so hard!

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*McDougall Stoney Mission Society*



**Monday, June 1, 2020**

The week started with 4 courses already complete.



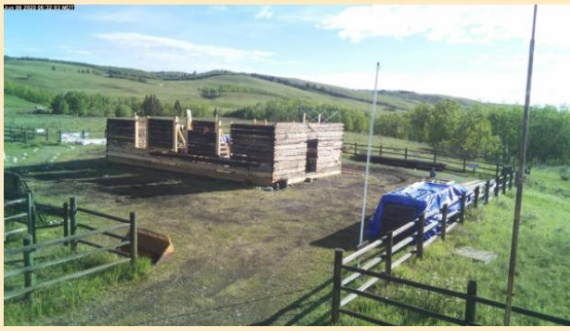
**Friday, June 5, 2020**

The walls are now close to completion. It's exciting to see how quickly it has gone up.

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## **The Walls Are Nearly Complete!**

I can't believe how quickly the two Jakubs have raised the four walls of the original church. Very soon they will be putting the roof on. If you would like to arrange a visit to the site, please let me know and I will meet you out there. I am so glad to have the guys from Chalmer's Heritage Conservation working on this for us - thank you for all of your hard work!



**Monday, June 8, 2020**

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Work begins for another week.



**Friday, June 12, 2020**

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Five days later and only one row of the walls remains to be installed.



**Wednesday, June 10, 2020**

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Here you can see the interior of the church. The cross-beam is the only part of the construction that was not in the original construction of the church. It is required to stop the structure from leaning due to the strong winds at the site!

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## **Work On The Floor Begins**

It has been a full exciting week at the site. We held two Elder Lunches at the site and it was wonderful to see people again (social distancing of course) and update them on the restoration.





**Monday, June 15, 2020**

Work begins for another week.



**Friday, June 19, 2020**

Dumping the clay that will be used for the daubing between the logs.



Additional cross-beams were installed to stabilize the building. The wind is so strong out at the site that these are required to stop the whole building from leaning due to the winds!



The wood for the roof is being prepped for installation next week.

## Prepping for the Roof

Although it may not look like a lot of progress has occurred this week, the boys have been busy prepping all of the wood that will be used for the roof beams next week. In another week, the basic frame of the building should be nearing completion.

Please make sure that you mark your calendars for Sunday, September 13, 2020 as we are planning a special event at the site that day. One that you most definitely will not want to miss!

Brenda McQueen, President MSMS



**Monday, June 22, 2020**

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Work begins for another week.



**Friday, June 26, 2020**

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The basic form of the roof is taking shape.



Jericho from the Stoney Nakoda Nation prepares the clay for chinking.



Slowly the chinking is pressed between the logs to make a good seal.

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## Work on the Roof and the Chinking Begins!

There should be rapid progress on the roof this upcoming week. Dave hired Jericho from the Stoney Nakoda Nation to help install the chinking in all of the gaps between the logs.

Please make sure that you mark your calendars for Sunday, September 13, 2020 as we are planning a special event at the site that day. One that you most definitely will not want to miss!





**Friday, July 10, 2020**

It may not look like a lot of progress, but the boys have been preparing the roof trusses on the east side of the church.



Here is one of the roof trusses.



Close-up of the truss. These beams are larger than the original as the engineer said the original rafters were too small.



A reminder of the beautiful pictures that can be taken at the site! Credit to Malcolm Clayton.

## **Roof Trusses Nearly Ready to be Installed!**

After all of the hard work this week, the roof trusses will begin to be installed this Monday (July 13). If you are interested in watching, feel free to drop by the site.



**Monday, July 13, 2020**

At the start of the week, only the two trusses at each end of the building had been installed.



**Friday, July 17, 2020**

By the end of the week, all of the trusses are now in place! You can start to see the overall shape of the building now, except for the bell tower.



CHC had to bring in the big equipment to lift the trusses into place!



Here is an interesting view of the trusses from the inside of the building.

## **Roof Trusses Installed!**

Now that the trusses have been installed, I wonder what comes next? Stay tuned for our next update to find out!





**Monday, July 20, 2020**

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Time to start putting on the roof.



**Friday, July 24, 2020**

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The building is really coming into shape now. One side of the roof has been layed down, and the other side is partially complete.



This is a great interior shot of the work being done on the roof.



Close-up view of the roof.

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## **The Roof is Close to Completion!**

Once both sides are complete, the next step is the shingles. Hopefully we'll have some pictures of that next week.



**Monday, June 27, 2020**

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Work begins for another week.



**Friday, June 31, 2020**

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The first layer for the exterior has been installed for the North side, in preparation for building the bell tower.

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## Getting Ready for the Bell Tower

Next week we should see the bell tower take shape!

Please make sure that you mark your calendars for Sunday, September 13, 2020 as we are planning a special event at the site that day. One that you most definitely will not want to miss!





**Monday, August 3, 2020**

Work begins for another week.



**Friday, August 7, 2020**

The first layer for the exterior has been installed on all sides, and work has begun on the bell tower.



Things are really moving quickly now.



## First Layer of the Exterior is Complete!

Next week we will see the bell tower take shape!

Please make sure that you mark your calendars for Sunday, September 13, 2020 as we are planning a special event at the site that day. One that you most definitely will not want to miss!



**Monday, August 10, 2020**

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Work on the bell tower has begun.



**Friday, August 14, 2020**

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The basic structure of the bell tower is complete and work is being done on the fascia.



A view from the back of the church.

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**The Church is really starting to take shape!**

We'll see what next week brings!

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**Monday, August 17, 2020**

Another week begins.



**Friday, August 21, 2020**

Lots of work has been done on the bell tower. A second layer of siding has been installed as well as the fascia.



A view from the East side of the church.



Brenda shows off the interior of the church.

## **CHC is Still Working Hard on the Exterior**

Next steps include completing the roof, and adding a fire-resistant layer of siding to the exterior followed by another layer of siding.

If you missed yesterday's email, our grand opening event on September 13th has been cancelled. Stay tuned for our new plans for the celebration in the Spring of 2021.



**Monday, August 24, 2020**

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Two weeks ago,



**Friday, September 4, 2020**

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The cedar shakes have been installed!



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Here is a view looking up inside the bell tower, You can see the ladder that is used to reach the bell.

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## **The shakes have been installed!**

It is starting to look more and more like the old church! Next steps include completing the final layers of siding (wow - that is 5 layers if you include the logs). There are also the shingles that go on the vertical exterior surfaces of the bell tower and the gables.

If you haven't heard, our grand opening event on September 13th has been cancelled. Stay tuned for our new plans for the celebration in the Spring of 2021.





## Look At All The Progress!

I can't believe the progress that has been made since our last update. Over the last three weeks, the following has been completed:

- Shingles installed
- "1910" layer of siding plus felt paper installed
- Final layer of siding installed and two coats of oil applied
- Single coat of white paint applied to the East wall
- Window frames installed
- Soffits and Fascia installed



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## Getting Closer!

- Since our update last week, the work has mostly focused on painting the exterior walls. With the white paint, it really is starting to look like the church that we all remember. Next steps include:
  - Shingles on the gables and the bell tower walls
  - Cedar shakes on the bell tower roof
  - Windows and Doors