

TOLSTOI HOLY TRINITY CHURCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

1st Annual General Meeting
June 23, 2013



The Beginning....

- A decision was made to no longer use the Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Tolstoi, Manitoba for Mass celebrations. Tolstoi parishioners would now form part of the Blessed Margaret Church Parish in St. Malo.
- A meeting was convened by Archbishop LeGatt with current and former parishioners on September 26, 2011 to discuss the disposition of the church and property.
- During the meeting, agreement was reached to give a group of volunteers the opportunity to organize in order to take over the maintenance of the church and to set up the site as a future historical site.
- The group was given one year to move ahead on their plans after which they would report their progress to the Diocese.
- Following the September 26th meeting, a building inspector was brought in to assess the structure. Although he reported that the building was still in good repair, he recommended that steps be taken immediately to stabilize and waterproof the building.
- After discussing further with the Diocese, the Most Reverend LeGatt agreed to provide up to \$2000 in funds to the group to conduct this crucial work.

Planning and Setting Up the Organization

- Steps were taken to set up a historical group to care for the church and grounds
- An informal organization was set up with officers to move ahead on further establishing the organization
- A name and non-profit corporation were registered with the Province of Manitoba
 - Tolstoi Holy Trinity Church Historical Society Inc.
- A bank account was set up for the group
- Bylaws were drafted with the goal of establishing an organization which would be registered as a charitable organization (with the Canada Revenue Agency)
- Insurance options were researched
 - Insurance will be available from the Rural Municipality of Franklin at a reasonable cost

Organization

- In October 2012, committee members met with the Archdiocese of St. Boniface to provide a status update on the work being done to set up the organization and future plans
- The Archdiocese committed to giving the volunteers more time to set up a formal charitable organization with the goal to have everything in place before the end of 2013
- The first Tolstoi Holy Trinity Church Historical Society newsletter was published in November 2012 and distributed to former parishioners, interested parties, etc.
- An email address and a website were set up
- Email: tolstoichurch@gmail.com
- Website: tolstoichurch.ca

Organization

- During autumn 2012 and winter 2013, multiple volunteer meetings were held to create the infrastructure for the organization and plan for the 1st General meeting.
- Volunteers decided to start fundraising early, in order to be able to support the organization as soon as it came into existence.
 - A Christmas Bake Sale and Basket Raffle were well received and earned over \$850
 - Planning is underway for other fundraising activities





What has been accomplished to date?

Maintenance - Structure and Grounds

- Since September 2011, volunteers have stabilized and waterproofed the church structure.
 - Installed poly-sheeting in the crawl space
 - Added gravel to the crawl space and created a sump pump hole
 - Sealed the foundation
 - Sloped the ground away from the foundation
 - Replaced fascia and eavestroughs
- Removed the carpet from the inside of the church
- Removed all useful items from the rectory
- Rectory was removed and the ground was leveled (Materials were donated to a northern Parish)



Cleaning

- Secured the grounds to eliminate potential hazards (replaced well cover, removed branches, etc.)
- Spring cleaning
 - Raking, pruning trees and shrubs
 - Digging out the sidewalk
 - Cleaning the front ditches
 - Removing rubbish and deadwood
 - Painting the front steps and railings
 - Cleaning the front entrance
 - Removing the rubber backing left by the carpet
 - Mowing the lawn several times



Volunteers

- A committed group of volunteers have ensured that the site and structure will not deteriorate further.
- Volunteers have started fundraising.
- Volunteers are spreading the message about future plans and how it will benefit the community.

**Volunteers have contributed
over 300 hours of their time!**

Where do we go from here?

Election of Directors

- Annual General Meeting – June 2013
- Bylaws

Charitable Status

- Directors/Officers in place
- Bylaws
- As soon as possible following election of directors and submission of application

Transfer of Ownership from the Diocese

Insurance

- Through the RM of Franklin
- To coincide with transfer of ownership

Fundraising

- Develop a strategy and plan that will include recruiting donors and conducting fundraising activities (garage sale, raffles, sale of pew plaques, bake sales, etc.)
- Activities to begin after receiving approval of charitable status

Planning

- Planning workshop
- Building and Site Restoration and Maintenance Plan
- Sustainability Strategy (preparing for the future)

Communication

- Communication Strategy to include community outreach
- Historical research
- Website
- Newsletters
- Development of a member contact list

How can you help?

- Become a member
- Come to our meetings
- Read our newsletters
- Help with fundraising
- Contribute historical information and copies of old photos
- Donate once we become a charitable organization
- Support our volunteers any way you can!

