

# Restoration fund for Glen Leslie Church receives boost



By Jocelyn Turner

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The ongoing restoration project at the Glen Leslie Church, located on Highway 670, just east of Grande Prairie, received a \$30,000 grant last week from the Alberta Historical Resource Foundation. The church, as well as other buildings deemed historical resources around the province, received funding in order to continue with needed repairs and restorations to the sites.

“I’ve been working with the (Glen Leslie Preservation) group for quite some time and the building is in bad condition,” said Heritage Conservation Advisor for the Northern region, Gary Chen about the church who has been in the restoration process since May.

In his time working with the preservation group, Chen said they were able to take out the rotting logs and replace them as well as put down a new solid foundation that will prevent the new logs from touching any moisture and causing them to rot, which would mean more repairs for the church in the future.

“The funding can go a step further and allow them to even finish the windows and the doors,” he said. “And I know...they’re repairing all the original windows right now and they have somebody right now going to fix the rotten door...By the time it’s finished, we can see the maturity and original integrity of the building.”

The church is associated with Reverend Forbes who, Chen said, was very instrumental in the northern area’s history. Because of the building’s historical value, to not only the region, but to the province, it was awarded the grant to finish the repairs and restoration.

County Coun. Harold Bulford said he recently visited the site and most of the log work has been completed. Workers has set the roof back onto the building and set it back onto the new foundation.

“It’s looking really good; they did a really good job,” he said.

Restoring important landmarks such as the church, Bulford said is important to the community and county as it keeps the history alive and provides the public with the physical piece of history they can visit and learn about.

“I think it’s really important for the county to preserve history whenever they can. You know, there’s a saying: ‘You don’t know where you’re going unless you know where you come from or where you’ve been,’ so I think it’s important to keep that history alive as much as we can,” he said.

“In the county, there’s so pretty unique buildings in the area and I think most of the county council agrees that we got to work on that stuff and keep it in as good of shape as we can so we do have those pieces of history for other people.”

The restoration to the church is expected to be complete by 2015, just in time for its 100th anniversary.

The heritage grants were awarded to over 70 projects throughout the province through the foundation’s Heritage Preservation Partnership Program and Municipal Heritage Partnership Program.

For a full list of recipients, amounts, project details, visit [culture.alberta.ca/ahrf](http://culture.alberta.ca/ahrf)

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