

Restoring the Glen Leslie

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The restoration was completed in the fall of 2014, just in time to celebrate the building's 100th anniversary in 2015.

"It was amazing," Zenner says.

"There were over 300 people here that day; we did a rededication of the little building and it was a wonderful, wonderful day, that's for sure."

Today, the building is open for gatherings.

"It is a fantastic little building," says Zenner.

"When you look at it now, it was certainly worth all the work."

Zenner notes that even residents who had lived in the Glen Leslie community at one time and have moved away have made a point to come back and have a look.

So great was the success of the restoration, Zenner says, that the County of Grande Prairie successfully nominated the Glen Leslie Church Preservation Group for the 2016 Heritage Award in the category of Heritage Conservation.

"It was absolutely so exciting," she says.

"The county had sent its councillor, who was Harold Bulford for this division, and myself down to Calgary to accept this prestigious award, and the county has it hanging proudly in their office at Clairmont there.

"But it was really something for a little group of people from a little community like Glen Leslie to actually pull together and to ensure this would happen; that definitely was our reward."

And with a proper concrete base installed in the church, Zenner says she expects it will be around for another 100 years.

"I'm very proud of this little church and I think everybody in the area should make the trip out to see it," she says.