

January 30, 2017

St. Peter's Heritage Society Inc.
Box 154, Kronau, SK S0G 2T0
(Website: www.stpeterskronau.ca & email: stpeterskronau@gmail.com)

Dear Former Parishioners of St. Peter's Colony Parish, please listen:

Did you know that in 1896, a hundred and twenty years ago this year, twelve of our grandparents, from the province of Cherson, in southern Russia, settled the land that you or your relatives are sitting on today..! Our ancestors purchased the NE quarter of section 7 from the CPR (Canadian Pacific Railroad) for \$1.56 per acre or about \$250 for the entire 160 acre quarter, and called it 'Rastadt Colony'..!

In that same year another colony was established about 2½ west of 'Rastadt Colony' by 21 families from the provinces of Muchen & Mulhausen, in southern Russia, for \$.94 per acre or about \$150 for the SE quarter of section 14... Remember this, from 1886 to 1903, this new colony was called 'St.Peter's Colony'...

Within a couple of years two other colonies were established, 'Speir Colony', just north of Lajord, and 'St.Joseph's Colony', only a few miles east of Balgonie. St.Joseph's church was built in 'St.Joseph's Colony' in 1897 and later re-established in Balgonie.

Now getting back to St.Peters, can you imagine the calm negotiating and discussions that went on in those 7 years from 1896 to 1903 as to where the present church would be constructed..! Now with the guidance of our persuasive clergy, and because Rastadt was located between 'Speir Colony' & what was then known as 'St.Peters Colony', it was decided in 1903, that the St.Peter's Church would be built in Rastadt Colony and then renamed 'St.Peter's Colony', although the school remained Rastadt School.

Thanks to Wilhelm Reilander, then postmaster, formerly of Kathrinthal in south Russia, he sweet talked the 21 residents of now '14 Colony' to rename their colony, 'Kathrinthal Colony'...

Though we immigrated from southern Russia, near Odessa, we're not Russian... Our grandparents were of German descent... They previously immigrated to Russia from Germany to the fertile fields in southern Russia, but due to persecution from the Russian military in the late 1800's, left and immigrated to Canada in 1896... Remember your roots, you're an important branch of the greater family tree..!

You're invited HOME, so please put this date in your calendars, on Saturday, August 12th & Sunday, August 13th, 2017. We will be celebrating our devotion to the Blessed Mother Mary, practice our faith, and honour our ancestor's faith, on the 100th anniversary of this Grotto's construction, our replica of the 'Shrine of our Lady of Lourdes' in France, Fr. Metzger's home country... Our devotion to the feast of the Assumption of our Blessed Mary, Mother of God the Son, at our Grotto, in pilgrimage with the spirits of our passed family members here on these holy grounds..! Please attend, look around, what do you see..? Faith in motion..!

We need your help to preserve 'Mother Nature's finest'... These beautiful grounds require hours of volunteer time, cutting grass, pruning, repairing, painting benches/buildings, planting evergreen trees &

flowers, erecting an iron CROSS at the Grotto, completing the sign at the entrance of the colony, installing a plaque at the top of the 'Grotto', restoring 'Rastadt School' displaying museum pictures, relics and hand paintings of our past and most importantly, celebrating Masses in our church and for our four cemeteries.

Please contact a committee member below, they will happily send or hand an information letter to you... When you come to our Pilgrimage, enjoy, refresh your spiritual batteries, indulge in a great meal, great conversation, reminiscing with friends and relatives!

Join in celebrating the Sunday Mass with Archbishop Don Bolen, Archbishop James Weisgerber and our many local priests representing our neighbouring parishes, music lead by 'Journey & Praise Polka Group'.

Volunteer your time, if not your time, we are a charitable organization officially incorporated and registered since 2008... We have the permission of the Archdiocese of Regina and the R.M. of Lajord who designated this property, in St. Peter's Colony, a heritage property under the Heritage Property Act of Saskatchewan. The board's mandate is to preserve and maintain the grounds, buildings, and four cemeteries in and around St. Peter's Colony. In addition, the board organizes annual religious Mass celebrations, mainly the pilgrimage in honour of the 'Assumption of our Lady of Lourdes and the Memorial Mass in the fall. These facilities are available for special events such as weddings, funerals, and baptisms.

The St. Peter's Heritage Society board thanks you in advance for your generosity and looks forward to celebrating our 100th Anniversary, with you and your family, on Sat., August 12th & Sun., August 13th, 2017.

St. Peter's Heritage Society Inc., Box 154 Kronau, Sask. S0G 2T0, donations will be issued a tax deductible receipt.

Sincerely, Father Ed Hengen (spiritual advisor)
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