

Please mark ballot with an X	
DIEDRICH, ANGELA	
GENUNG, EVAN	
Maximum number of candidates that can be voted	



Your news this week:

Andrew Council byelection results - 7

Music video made in Bruderheim - 9

Summer programs for kids - 11

OPINION: Stupidity takes the cake - 4

THE LAMONT LEADER

SERVING LAMONT COUNTY

FREE

Proud to be an
Independent
CANADIAN
Publication



www.LamontLeader.com

Vol. 17, No. 37, Wednesday, August 10, 2022

Oldest Ukrainian Catholic church in Canada celebrates 125 years

BY JANA SEMENIUK

Church members, their families, and friends, gathered at the Star-Peno Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church on Aug. 7 to celebrate 125 years as the oldest Ukrainian Catholic Parish in Canada.

The day included a visit from Bishop David Motiuk and Father Gabriel Haber, the Provincial Superior from Winnipeg; along with a banquet and dinner.

"Our people are celebrating their achievement, hard work and dedication. And I'm so proud to be with them, a part of this wonderful 125-year history," said Father Gabriel.

He added that 10 years ago, he served the Star-Peno church as their pastor for seven years.

"It is like coming home," he said smiling. "I consider this parish one of the nicest parishes. It's wonderful to work with them."

The Star-Peno Catholic Ukrainian Church's history began in 1897 like most churches in the area. However, a split in the congregation in 1900 led to a dispute over ownership which erupted in 1901 when both groups, the Orthodox and the Ukrainian Catholic, wanted to use the church at the same time for their Easter celebrations.

According to reports, police were called to keep the peace and both groups held their celebrations outdoors. Peace was not kept for long, however, as subsequently five separate court proceedings from 1904 to 1907



Church lector Bill Skubleny holds a large gold cross in front of Bishop David Motiuk as they prepare to lead the procession into the church. Photo: Jana Semeniuk

ended with the ruling of ownership awarded to the Orthodox. The ruling was decided by a previous permit to cut logs for the original church which was filled out for a 'Greek Orthodox Church'.

The Ukrainian Catholics appealed the latest ruling at a devastating cost; they not only lost the appeal but were also ordered to pay all costs of the appeal. Many people left the congregation to avoid paying their share of the court costs, leaving approximately half of the original members. It was reported that some remaining members sold their land to help pay their portion.

Current Star-Peno Church Treasurer Allan Borys reflected on what happened next.

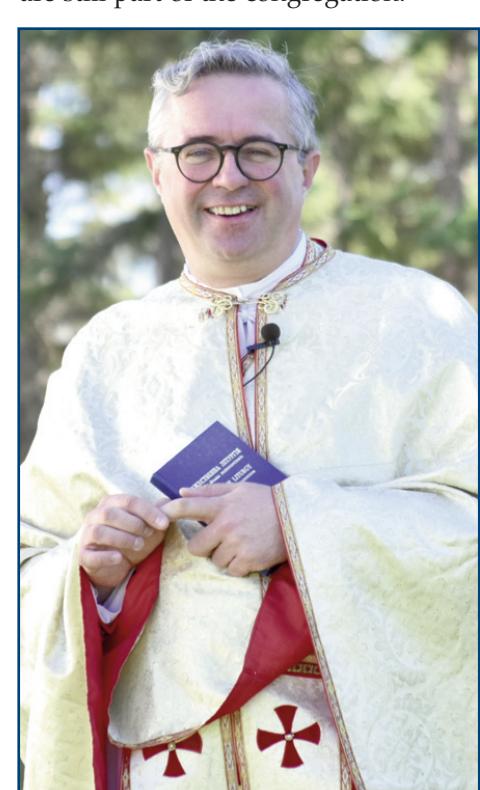
"Mikola Tychkowsky (church member) donated a total of eight acres for another church to be built just a half mile south of here," he said. "The sec-

ond church was built, and it burnt in 1922. The land that he had given for the second church, they gave back to Mr. Tychkowsky and he gave a little bit more land here where they built the third church. This is a third church built here."

According to reports, many suspected arson in the destruction of the second church but there was never any evidence to support the claim. Its construction was completed in 1911 before being destroyed by the fire in 1922. Several items survived the fire however, including a dome cross. The cross is displayed in the present church which was constructed in 1927 and blessed by Bishop Basil Ladyka.

"The church was painted by Peter Lipinski. He was one of the renowned church painters. He painted quite a few churches in this area," added Borys.

Some upgrades were added over the



Father Gabriel Haber
Photo: Jana Semeniuk