

Major Renewal for Historic Regina Church

by Canon Michael Jackson

Tucked in behind Regina's City Hall, St. Paul's Cathedral is the oldest continuing place of worship and one of the oldest buildings in the city. The nave was built in 1894-95; the chancel and transepts were added in 1905-06. St. Paul's was officially designated the cathedral of the Anglican Diocese of Qu'Appelle in 1973. In 1979, it became the regimental church of the Royal Regina Rifles and in 1982 was named a municipal heritage structure. A columbarium – a resting-place for the ashes of the deceased – was built beneath the church in 1993, winning a municipal heritage award.

By the early 2000s, the 1950s-era parish hall adjacent to the church had badly deteriorated. It was demolished in 2012 and replaced in 2014 by a state-of-the-art Community Centre with offices, a hall and kitchen, and the Edna Forbes cloister. The "Building in Faith" campaign which raised funds for the project also provided for renovations and structural work to the area below the original church, including an expansion for the columbarium.

This ambitious \$4 million project was greatly assisted by funds administered by the South Saskatchewan Community Foundation. The Murray and Edna Forbes Foundation contributed \$400,000 for the elegant cloister named in memory of former parishioner and churchwarden Edna Forbes, while the Lorne and Evelyn Johnson Foundation donated \$25,000 for kitchen furnishings. Dean Mike Sinclair, the dynamic young rector of the Cathedral, points out that, in addition to its long-standing tradition of excellence in music and liturgy, St. Paul's has an active profile in social ministry to Regina's downtown. On two Saturdays each month, the "Feed My Sheep" program provides hot meals and other assistance to the needy, often as many as 200 people, including children. Donations from the community are put to good use for the community!

