



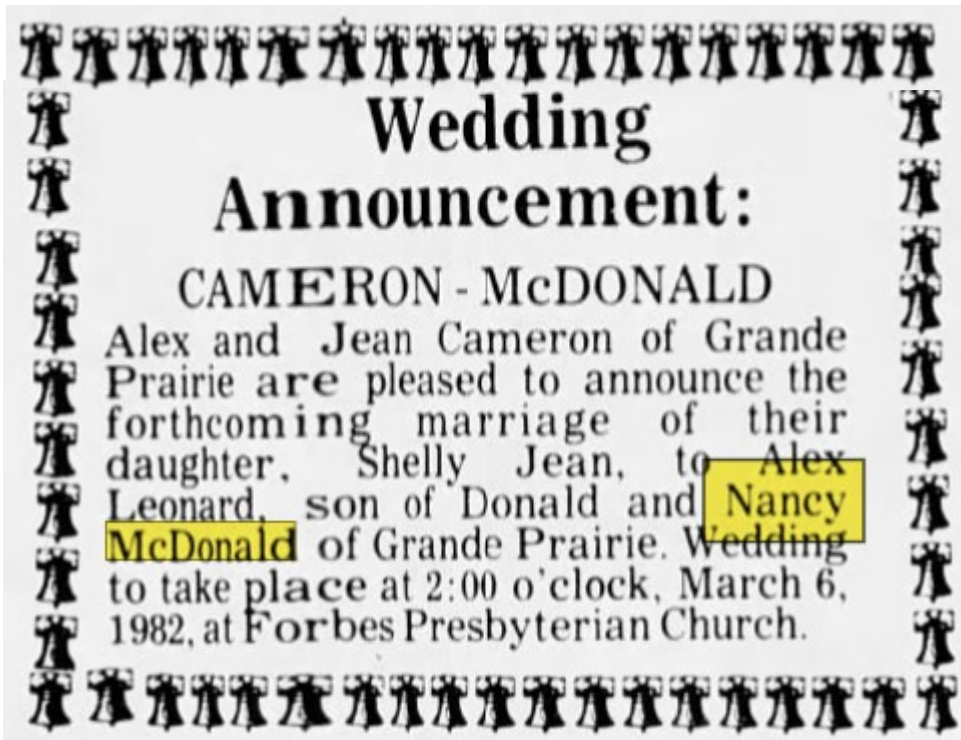
Engagements

Christie-McDonald

It is with pleasure that Hans and Audrey Nagel and Don and Nancy McDonald of Grande Prairie, announce the engagement of their children, Donna Marlene and Everett Russell. Wedding to take place on April 17, 1976, in St. Paul's United Church at 2:00 p.m.

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**Wedding
Announcement:**

CAMERON - McDONALD

Alex and Jean Cameron of Grande Prairie are pleased to announce the forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Shelly Jean, to Alex Leonard, son of Donald and Nancy McDonald of Grande Prairie. Wedding to take place at 2:00 o'clock, March 6, 1982, at Forbes Presbyterian Church.

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Shrine donations



The Grande Prairie Shrine Club recently donated a wheelchair to the Towne Centre Mall for use by their patrons while shopping. Manager Helen Rice (right) and mall merchants vice-president Kathleen Daruda accepted the wheelchair from president Gilbert Utas and past-president Donald McDonald.



The Grande Prairie Shrine Club recently donated a wheelchair to the Prairie Mall for use by their patrons while shopping. Mall tenants association president George Haunholter accepted the wheelchair from Gilbert Utas and Donald McDonald.



The Grande Prairie Shrine Club recently donated a wheelchair to the Golden Age Centre for use by members and visitors. Gilbert Utas and Donald McDonald of the Shriners presented the wheelchair to president Alan Drysdale and other members of the centre.

50th Anniversary

Donald & Nancy McDonald
request the pleasure of your company
Saturday June 19th



Open House at the McDonald yard at 2:00 pm,
if inclement weather The Crystal Creek Hall will be used.
Barbecue starts at 5:00

Your celebration with us will be the only gift accepted. RSVP is not required.

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Keith Lloyd Ladwig



Keith was born fourth child to Rinehart and Nellie Ladwig on July 3, 1939. He passed away August 3, 2008 after a brave battle with cancer.

Keith married his life long partner Margaret in 1965 and they raised two children. Together they farmed until 1993 when they quit farming and Keith went out to work. He drove grader for the county until his retirement in 2003. Together they enjoyed many trips and camping with friends and family.

Keith will be greatly missed by his wife Margaret, daughter Karen (Warren) Baehler, son Dean; Grandchildren Jody, Brock and Shae-Lynn Baehler, and great-grandson Kaiden; Brother Arnold (Anna), sister Doris, brothers-in-law Donald (Nancy) McDonald, Bruce (Helen) McDonald, step-brother Robert (Stella) Kimble, step-sister Violet Wales, step sisters-in-law Jean Kimble, Louise Kimble, and Anne Kimble, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Keith was pre-deceased by his parents Rinehart and Nellie, brother Morris, step-mother Sylvira, step-brothers Herbert Kimble, Herman Kimble, Ellsworth Kimble, step-sister Elaine Osborne, step-brothers-in-law Alfred Wales and Tom Osborne; Mother-in-law and father-in-law Jennie and Jock McDonald, sister-in-law and brother-in-law Lena and Jack Moon.

Memorial service will be held at Oliver's Grande Prairie Funeral Chapel, 10005-107 Avenue on Thursday, August 7, 2008 at 11 am. Donations may be made to the QE II Palliative Care Unit on 5 North, or a charity of one's choice.

Condolences may be sent by visiting www.oliversgrandeprairie.com

**OLIVER'S GRANDE PRAIRIE
FUNERAL CHAPEL &
CREMATORIUM**

McDonalds celebrate century on the farm

Coming over the Edson Trail: Family settled in the Crystal Creek area in 1910

KIRSTEN GORUK
Special Staff

When Donald McDonald's father came to the South Peace looking for a place to settle down, he paid \$10 for the 160 acres his family still farms today.

"They paid \$10 and had to break 10 acres before getting the title. I think it took them

about four years to do that," Donald recalls of his father and uncle's early days homesteading in the Crystal Creek region, about 16 kilometres east of Grande Prairie.

Jack McDonald and his brother William arrived in Grande Prairie by way of the Edson Trail in August 1911. The brothers were originally from Ontario, but had slowly moved west in search of work.

Donald says his father heard about the available farmland in the Peace while working on the railway in Edson.

"Land was cheap and I think they had no money. They were just coming with their hopes."

Memories of their journey are preserved through a journal his uncle kept.

"I think Bill was the secretary and Dad was the cook," Donald says.

For years to come, the family made a living on that land, and this year marks the centenary of their settlement.

In the early days, they focused on harvesting grain to feed their livestock. The entire farm was broken using plows pulled by oxen.

Donald remembers traveling around by horse and in the winter on a sleigh. They didn't use cars very often. When he wasn't in school, he had his list of chores, things such as feeding the cattle and hauling water.

Gathering wood wasn't one of his favorite chores and as his son Alex recalls the story, it couldn't have been easy. Prairie fires had wiped out most of the trees in the surrounding area. McDonald and his neighbours had to walk about

eight kilometres down to Bear Creek for firewood.

"They had to haul all that wood down from there, across the creek. That's where the wood came from, there was nothing on this side," Alex says.

Money was tight on the farm. Donald remembers as a kid, buying his .22 rifle with squirrel hides. When he wasn't hunting them, he kept a look out for partridges or rabbits, which the family used for their meat.

"You knew what five cents was worth because you didn't have it," he says.

The work was hard and the winters were long and cold, but Grande Prairie became home.

"It's all we knew," Donald says. "The opportunities were all here, and we wouldn't have had them if we'd stayed somewhere else. So we owe them quite a little, I guess."

One hundred years later, the McDonald's extended family boasts over 100 members, each of them a part of the family's history on the farm.

"It's kind of humbling," says Donald's wife, Nancy.

Their son agrees, adding that this milestone feels just right on its own.

"There's certainly a sense of accomplishment. It's hard to do. The feeling overwhelms you," Alex says.

"To remain sustainable in the last 25 years, we've all had to grow and become more efficient. And in order for that to happen, others (landowners) had to end their chances of being a century farm."

The family celebrated its accomplishments over the July long weekend. They kicked things off by driving Donald's 1949 REO Speedwagon in the city's Canada Day parade.

"All of us kids drove it. Everybody's driven

that truck. We hauled grain in it," Alex says.

On the Friday night, 87 family members got together for a potluck and many of them camped out on the farm that night. The Saturday of the long weekend started with a pancake breakfast and afterwards, hundreds of visitors stopped by for an open house.

Parts of the shop were turned into display areas, which featured family artifacts. Among the pictures were a set of cupboards built by Jack, an old lantern, and the .22 short rifle Donald says his father and uncle lived by on their ride across the Edson Trail.

"We had a wagon ride with a team of horses and we just did a loop out here in the wheat field, about a mile long. For lots of them, it was the first time they've ridden in 30, 40 or 50 years," Alex says.

Jack married Jennie Clarkson in 1922. His brother Bill had homesteaded on an adjacent quarter but returned to Ontario in 1927.

kirsten@dailyheraldtribune.com



KIRSTEN GORUK, DAILY HERALD TRIBUNE

Donald McDonald and his wife, Nancy (centre) still live on the land McDonald's father settled 100 years ago. His son Alex (left) and his daughter-in-law Shelley helped out with the family's centenary celebrations over July long weekend. The plow between them is the original one used to break the land in 1911.

■ GENERATION LUNCH



DAN ILIKA Herald-Tribune staff

Dillan Lambert, 13, (right) and Donald McDonald share a laugh at the third annual seniors generation luncheon at Clairmont Community school Tuesday. The luncheon was part of Seniors Week which runs until Saturday with a multitude of special events in the city and district.

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