

## Cathedral in the Bog Kicks Off 150th Anniversary Celebrations

**Charlottetown, January 8, 2019-** St. Peter's Anglican Church on Rochford Square just wasn't supposed to exist. In 1867, when a counter-culture within the local Anglican community founded a church to follow the Anglo-Catholic Oxford Movement, they selected a location in the West Bog, a then disreputable part of the city, riddled by poverty and crime, and home of the local black community. Completed in 1869, St. Peter's not only thrived, but became the Anglican Cathedral in Prince Edward Island and to this day continues its Christian mission.

This year, St. Peter's is 150 years old and the Cathedral Parish will hold a series of events throughout the year to acknowledge its roots and celebrate its mission. On Sunday, January 20, the kick-off event will welcome Most Reverend Fred Hiltz, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada to officiate at its regular services and a special 4pm Evensong. Excellent choral music and sung liturgy have always been a hallmark of worship at St. Peter's. An Open House from 1pm to 3:45pm will include historical features of the Cathedral, displays from the Cathedral Archives, and tours of All Souls Chapel, a National Historic Site known for the architecture and paintings by William and Robert Harris, respectively. **[PLEASE NOTE: All of the special services and events mentioned in this paragraph have now been rescheduled to Sunday February 3, due to the winter storm that occurred on January 20].**

Other events planned throughout the year include historical services, special musical and recitals, another open house, Archives displays, and a High Tea. Fund-raisers for their mission parish of Kings County and St. Monica's Orphanage in Jamaica are also planned.

Father David Garrett, Rector of the Cathedral, said that St. Peter's has never shied away from being a bit rebellious in holding to its orthodox roots. "St. Peter's has always been a home to the immigrant community, including Charlottetown's earliest Lebanese citizens, and more recently, Balkan refugees, Syrian and Indian Christians looking for a familiar liturgical tradition and a family environment," said Garrett.

In 1867, land for the new church was made available by Mr. William Cundall, and construction began that year. By the spring of 1869, the building was completed and opening services were held on June 13 of that year. Choir members have worn surplices (a type of over-shirt) since the opening of the church. In that year, the first white cope (shawl) to be used in the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada was worn here. The envelope system was adopted in 1876, and the pews have always been free- not always the case in those days.

On Ash Wednesday, 1890, the daily celebration of the Holy Eucharist was established, and this ideal has been maintained to the present day. During the Open House, visitors can view the magnificent vestments, altar frontals, jewelled chalice, baptismal shell, an illustrated altar missal and other ornaments not common in Canadian Anglicanism. Lovers of music, art, architecture, and good liturgy feel at home at St. Peter's.

Father David Garrett, Rector of St. Peter's, said that these celebrations are an opportunity to remind ourselves of the vital role the Church plays in the community. "In a society where busy families seem always pressed for time, St. Peter's continues to provide the space for nurturing and contemplation that we all need."

Details about upcoming events can be found on the Cathedral website at [www.stpeter.org/cathedral](http://www.stpeter.org/cathedral)