

BLACK DIAMOND

St. Michael's

SUMMARY

- in this file* { 1929 - 1931 Estimates and sundry correspondence re Church construction.
Rev. A. J. McGillivray appointed to Okotoks, with B.D. as mission.
(Also) Some construction accounts paid by diocese.
Historical notes. Boundaries.

- 1936 - 1944 Rev. E. E. Mulvill PP
Financial difficulties. Case of restitution.
"Little Chigago" Mass
Report on buildings, Okotoks and B.D.
Father Bowlen wants a church in south end.
Proposals for Sisters' Hospital at B.D.
1940, - living and parish conditions.
1941-42, Some property south of Okotoks house to be sold
1942, parish difficulties. Lot purchased at B.D.
north of church.
1943 On debt reduction
1944 do. - debt finally paid off.

- The rest in Pp of Calgary's arch's.*
1947 - 1965 Bishop Carroll gives some historical data. *in this file*
Plans to enlarge rectory (with 'baba') 1948 - 1953.
1958 - Sale of house (only) at Okotoks
1959 - Heating unit in church
1960 - 1964 Some marriage cases
1964 - plumbing in hall
1965 - Rev. Wm. C. Leonard, P.P.

August 2nd, 1929

Mr. John Kerrison

Care of Crown Lumber Co.

Black Diamond, Alberta.

Dear Sir,

We wish you to give us a price for excavating and putting in a concrete basement on Lot 4 Block B, Black Diamond, 20x60 feet. The excavation is to be 3 ft. below the present ground level and an nine inch concrete wall 4 ft above the present ground level erected on good footing. A concrete floor in basement 4 inches thick.

A door from outside about the middle of the south wall. Six windows on south and six on north side, to open from top with hinges on bottom. 6x6

Two rows of posts on good footings to support beams & joists. Beams 6x8 and joists 2x10 with rough floor well laid on top of joists. The gravel used for concrete must be free from clay.

We supply the lumber used for this work, which may be obtained from Crown Lumber Co. The material used for forms for concrete would also be included in what we supply, as that will be used on the building.

The front of this basement should be 30 ft from front line of lot. The north side should be 20 ft from north line.

You will please let me know at once, by phone if you wish, what you will do this work for and when you could do it.

The contract for the building to be placed upon this foundation will be given later on.

I am

Yours respectfully

Bishop of Calgary.

Oct 11th. 1929

Mr. John Kerrison

Black Diamond

Alberta.

Dear Sir,

We will accept your offer to build the superstructure of the Church at Black Diamond according to the Plan given you, we supply all the material. Your price I understand was \$675.00 .

It means erection according to Plan of studding, plates, rafters, bracing, roof sheathing covered with tar paper and shingles. No belfry on the roof but a small cross to take its place temporarily;

Outside sheathing on the walls, rough frames for windows on each side and all of the same size but to be covered in by boarding. The boarding of front done so as to be removed and leaving open space for porch or tower as on Plan.

Frame for double doors in front and frame for single door in back and both boarded in.

To be done before the 20th November.

Yours truly

Bishop of Calgary.

1911-1912



1911-1912

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PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA
ACC.

Church at Black Diamond.

Part of superstructure to be erected according to a plan as follows:-

Studding, plates, rafters, bracing, roof-sheeting, covered with tar paper and shingles.

No belfry on roof but a small cross to take its place temporarily.

Outside sheeting on walls or studding.

Frames for five windows on each side and all of same size, to be covered in by boarding.

Boarding of front done so as to be removed, leaving open space for porch or tower as on plan. Frame for double doors on front and frame for single door on back, both to be boarded in.

To be done before the 14th of October 1929.

We supply all material.

High River.
November 25th

Dear Monsignor Hetherington:

I understand that
Mr Kerrison is going to see you
to day to try collect balance of ac-
count. Since I last saw you I
have received some reliable infor-
mation about Kerrison and also his
work on the Church which shows
in my opinion of him a good deal.
I would advise letting him wait a
while longer for the balance
of his money.

Respectfully

W. F. Dawson

High River
October eleventh.

Myford Bishop: Mr Kerrison informed
me yesterday that the heater has not come
down from Calgary yet so I presume
that you are not sending it just now. In
that case I think it would be better to
not send it but to allow Mr Kerrison
to improvise a heater. as he
has promised to do. He says he can
attend to this without much difficulty.
He tells me that the tower should
be built now at least as high as
the roof. It can be done more
easily and a better job made
if it is built in to the body of
building in the present con-
struction. Then the tower will
serve the purpose of an entry
or porch which is important.
The money enclosed was collected
during the week of Immaculate
Conception in the St. Michael's
Valley. Yours truly
W. F. Dawson



Turner Valley.

27th March.

1930

Rev Fr M^r Cornick.

Okotoks

Al Diamond

Dear Sir.

I am enclosing you a price on finishing the interior of the church with common boards etc.-- In estimating for lath & plaster I notice that the rafters and ceiling joist are at 2 ft centres. which is not strong enough for lath and plaster, as each 4 ft lath should have four nails. especially on a church ceiling.

The cheapest way to finish the ceiling as it is now, would be with Gypro Fiber Board the same as you have in the basement ceiling.

If you decide to sheet the interior with common boards now, it, could be finished afterwards with lath & plaster or Gypro Board. However, I could talk that over with you and explain things better.

Yours Respectfully

G. F. Robinson

(Estimate)

Turner Valley

27th March

1930

Rev Fr Mc Cormick.

Okotoks

Sir

H. Diamond

I propose to supply all the necessary labour to finish the interior of the church with common boards, and paper, including cross partition for vestry. also put in all windows + frames. set all door frames + fit + hinge all doors with locks etc. To finish above mentioned work in a proper + workmanlike manner will cost the sum of One hundred + eighty-nine Dollars \$189⁰⁰/₁₀₀

To put down second floor with paper underneath will cost the sum of Fifty-four Dollars \$54.

I have not estimated front steps as I did not know whether it would be a platform with steps straight out. or steps to each side. with handrail etc.

Yours Respectfully

G J Robinson



BISHOP'S RESIDENCE
ROSEDALE
910 SEVEN-A STREET, N.W.



CALGARY

April 1st. 1930

Black Diamond Church

Interior work.

by Mr.G.J.Robinson

Cover inside walls and ceiling, including petition back of altar, with common boards but lined inside with wall paper.

Put in all windows with frames, set door frames, fit and hinge doors with locks etc .

Erect front vestibule 6 x 8 ft and steps from outside leading to it.

Erect platform for altar consisting of 3 steps each 6 in. high by 12ft., 10ft., 8ft. long and 7ft., 8ft. and 9ft. deep .

Erect communion rail 2 x 8 top piece, 14ft long on 4 posts

for \$225.00

Lay 2nd floor

for \$50.00



1911-12

1911-12

1911-12

1911-12



PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA
ACC.



1429.
1430

Black Diamond - St. Michael's

In 1918, Rev. W. Bowler began visiting ^{from High River} the Catholics who lived in the Oil fields. For upwards of 10 years, he offered Mass in private homes.

In 1929, the present church was erected by Rev. A. J. Mac Gillivray, who lived at Okotoks. In 1930, he became the first resident priest at Black Diamond, serving Okotoks as a mission.

The basement was used first as the church, and was dedicated to St. Michael by Bishop Kidd on Sept. 29, 1929. The upper church was completed and dedicated by Bishop Kidd on May 11, 1930.
(See Okotoks)

Black Diamond & Okotoks

Boundaries:-

- West - Diocesan West Boundary
- North - ^{the line} Two sections south of the line between the 22nd and 21st Twp's, beginning at the west Diocesan boundary and east to the Bow River
- East - The line between the 28th & 27th Ranges west of the 4th Meridian south to the northern boundary of section 1 Twp. 20
- South - The line one section north of the line between the 20th and 19th Twp's west to midway in Range 1 Twp. 20 west of the 5th Meridian, thence south to the line between the 19th & 18th Twp's, thence west to the west Diocesan boundary

Correction for Bishop Carroll's notes.

In the summer of 1929^m under Father Bowlen's direction erection of a church at B.D. was started. By August 1929 Rev. Neil McCormick was named pastor of Okotoks with B.D. as mission. Construction of the church continued but was directed mainly from the chancery office. Basement was blessed Sept 29, 1929 and work continued on upper structure.

In Feb. 1930 Rev. N. Anderson began serving B.D. and Okotoks from 910 7a St NW until ~~Sept.~~ ^{November} following when Rev. A.J. McGillivray was transferred from Munson to be resident PP at Okotoks. Meantime the upper structure had been completed and blessed in May, 1930.



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ACC.

Box 48, Black Diamond

April 29, 1944

Dear Monsignor Smith,

I doubt very much if I could give you in writing what I consider to be the boundaries of my parish. Not being imperialistic-minded I refuse to indulge in boundary disputes and I have always acceded to the claims of my neighbouring parishes. They were here first.

I suppose I could outline what the people concerned; consider as boundaries.

At Okotoks - all south of Young's corner and down to Aldersyde. At present I have no attendance from south of Okotoks.

At Black Diamond. The situation is more complicated. Millarville on the north to Little Chicago on the south. Some years ago Father Bowlen had Little New York incorporated into the High River parish. The people from that town and all west have always attended Black Diamond church, especially

since they were annexed to High River. I informed Fr Fitzpatrick that Little New York was supposed to belong to him. I am sure they regard themselves as parishioners of mine, although I never visit that area and I was not consulted when it was annexed to High River. Roads are one factor to be considered another factor, ^{that} must not be overlooked is that they regard themselves as belonging to the selffields and consequently they attend the selffields parish church. The change of boundaries down in that area has made no difference whatever to me. But it is most unsatisfactory for the pastor of High River. If Little New York belongs to me I must be officially notified to that effect.

I have set down a few of the facts and I hope the situation will be clarified for the benefit of all concerned, and especially for the people living in what is now "no man's Land." I may add too that I have plenty of work to give me full time

employment if I am left only with
 Turner Valley. Black Diamond and
 Okotoks. I have attempted a map which I
 don't claim is accurate. It might give you
 something to work on - in your new portfolio
 of boundaries. To help the cause of unity
 I have insisted to people living down in the
 district of No Man's Land that they belonged
 to High River. They simply retorted that they
 were coming here nevertheless. I could do no
 more. They have envelopes from the church
 attend mass and the sacraments here and
 work for us. It is all voluntary as I have
 never insisted on help from that area.
 Since it was removed from my jurisdiction
 they simply consider themselves part of the
 oilfield family and their interests lie here.
 If they can be persuaded to attend High River
 church I am all in favor.

Try to make something out of this but
 don't consult the young "fay" or the whole
 city will be speculating. Father Boulton is dying in
 Charlottetown - bed-ridden and very low. Ask
 the fathers to pray for him. Eddie



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ACC.

Black Diamond ~~West~~ boundary

22/2/20

二十一

20 Twp

1974

18 Temp

Black Diamond
Ortoto

Sketch

Millville

Tukey
valley
Black
Diamond

Sandstone

FIFTH MERIDIAN

OK Rocks

Genl.

Winter

Don River

Missile

卷之四

28A

29 R

2R

Longinus

1 R

27r

all gravel on hard surface except
from Little N.Y. to High River.

6 midnapora

Priddis

DeWinton

Millarville

YOUNG'S Ditch
CORNERS

5 miles

OKotoks

Church

sheep River

14 miles

TURNER VALLEY

2 miles

BLACK DIAMOND - (1500 pop.)

Church

HARTELL

MEERUAY
CAMP.

Aldersyde

Little Chicago

12 miles

Little New York

DIRT ROAD

High
River

Highwood River



Historical Notes re parishes

High River Registers have Baptisms and Marriages from year 1908
for all Missions on C.P.R. from Okotoks south
and for all Missions on C.P.R. from Alderside to Champion

OKOTOKS St. James Church blessed by Bishop Legal 26 July 1905 .

November 4th, 1943

Rev. E. Mulvill,
P. O. Box 48,
Black Diamond, Alberta.

Dear Father Mulvill:-

I have received your letter of November 1st. Any move to reduce your parish debt will have my best support. But I am not sure whether you are interested more in the debt to the bank or to the diocese. In my opinion, the debt to the bank is your first obligation.

The diocesan ledger page for Black Diamond tells us that there is only one debt. It was incurred in the building and original furnishing of the church. If you would like a copy of the details, I will give it to you willingly. It began on September 8th, 1929, and by June 10, 1931, the diocese had paid for land, materials, builders, plumbers, etc., \$6655.80. Of this amount the parish paid the diocese \$800 in 1929 and \$100 in 1930. On December 15th, 1930 Church Extension contributed \$500, the gift of a once famous Ontarian, named Manning Doherty. Thus the indebtedness was reduced to \$5265.80.

Bishop Kidd met this and his other similar obligations by borrowing from diverse sources, among them the Mathieu outfit (not the Archbishop) which all but wrecked the Saskatchewan dioceses. Fortunately Bishop Monahan got out of their clutches - (or most of it. I had to meet about \$2000 on my arrival here). To do this he made several parishes borrow from the bank and repay him. Thus on December 1st, 1933, Black Diamond paid \$3000 of its debt to the diocese by borrowing from the Bank of Toronto at 6%. If Bishop Monahan had not done this, our condition would have been a sorry one as the bills at Black Diamond and elsewhere had been paid on borrowed money on which the diocese, without any permanent sources of revenue except a dwindling cathedralium was paying interest, ranging from 6 to 8%. When Black Diamond paid its \$3000, the debt to the diocese was reduced to \$2265.80. Bishop Monahan left a memorandum saying that he agreed to carry this without charging the parish interest until the bank note was paid. This agreement had been kept by the diocese.

The \$3000 note at the Bank of Toronto was reduced to \$2862.81 by December 1936, or about \$140. in principal had been paid in three years. At this date, I consolidated the debts of the diocese in the Royal Bank, thereby getting a lower rate of interest, the removal of the mortgages on the churches, etc.

You did not gain much by the consolidation - about \$28.00 in interest in a year. But 5% then, and even now, without any security, is a good rate. You say that you have been paying 5%, but this must be a slip. If it is not, you have been overcharged.

At the time, and for a year or two afterwards, you must remember that I urged the clergy to use the advantages of the arrangement by reducing principal. The bank did not promise to continue the 5% for unsecured loans. Many of the clergy did. Of the 25 or so parishes in the deal at the beginning, more than half are paid off completely; several more have reduced their debts considerably. They did it by putting every cent against the debt when the money was available and not waiting for annual or semi-annual payments. Thus they reduced the amount of interest paid. They used what was a real advantage in the plan. - payment at anytime. None of the notes have been for a period, although they are renewed regularly. The Bank of Toronto notes were for four or six months.

This debt to the bank is the first to be tackled. You seem to suggest two ways: 1st to offer the bank \$700 or \$800. instead of the \$1000 (or whatever is the amount) still owing. I fear that this method will not work. To procure the loan, the diocese endorsed the parish. If the parish does not pay the full principal (or the interest) the diocese must. This method would merely revert the balance to the diocese again. Besides the diocese cannot morally repudiate the principal even though you have paid an amount of interest; and \$300 or \$400 would seem to encroach on principal. 2ndly you suggest procuring a lower rate of interest. You might succeed here. I can do no better than 5% on unsecured loans (such as yours. You have your loan merely on a signature) and 4% on loans backed by bonds, certain stocks, etc. From discussions at the bishops' meeting, two weeks ago, no other diocese is able to do better. 5% is the present legal rate for borrowing; 4% is the agreed rate between the banks on secured loans. And it would surprise me if you could borrow without security even at 5%. It is the diocesan endorsement which gets the rate. All this, of course, concerns borrowing from banks, loan companies, in bond issues, etc.

You quote Father Griffin's 3% as an example of a lower rate. Yes, I admit that he did something none of the bishops have been able to do; but perhaps you haven't the whole story. Father Griffin borrowed \$4800 but hypothecated to the bank \$5500 in bonds owned by the parish (\$700 more than he borrowed). He had to get the diocesan endorsement and was then offered the loan at 4%, the regular rate with such collateral. After some dickering, he got a rate at 3% - how, I don't know. Probably he guaranteed payment of principal within the year, as he told me he would. More probably his Catholic bank manager gave the rate on his own authority hoping that no other bank or loan company would hear of it.

However all this is not to dissuade you. If you can borrow what is owed the bank at a lower rate, I am certainly satisfied. You might do it from individuals. I will readily endorse your notes or whatever method you follow - if it is satisfactory. If you can raise \$1000 in this fashion, pay off the bank, and then begin to discharge the new creditor. You will save in interest, . . . \$1000 at 5% in a year is \$50.00; at 3%, \$30.00. Of course, debts are paid chiefly by striking at the principal. Hence the more money you can raise now, should be paid on principal. A campaign to raise funds and knock out the present bank principal seems better to me than merely shifting creditors. However if you want to change, there is no difficulty in doing so. You simply get my authorization for your new borrowings, and with them pay off the bank.

The second part of the debt due directly to the diocese (\$2265.00) is being carried by the diocese, as Bishop Monahan agreed, without changing the parish interest until the bank note is acquitted. This was Bishop Monahan's method in helping the parish. And in actual fact, it was a great help. From the outset of the debt to December 1933 (1.5 for 4 years) the diocese paid the interest. Only \$20.20 interest was paid by the parish in this period (\$6000 at 6% is \$360 a year.) Since 1933, the parish has paid interest on \$3000, first at 6% for three years, and then at 5%. During the past ten years, the diocese has carried the remaining \$2265. If this interest was counted up, it would amount to a goodly sum. If any mistakes were made in incurring the debt originally on the part of the diocese, I think the diocese has made amends.

Your suggestions for my reduction of this \$2265 are unfortunately not available. The Extension Contribution was paid as I have related above. Contrary to general rumour, Bishop Kidd did not put Extension contributions into general funds. The records are here.



PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES
OF ALBERTA

ACC.

The K. of C. drive actually netted \$17,877.34 of which \$7600.86 was paid for seminarians and the rest to about a dozen missions, such as Arrowood, Hussar, Raymond, etc., nearly all churches without priests. Neither Bishop Monahan nor myself inherited any of this money, but we did inherit the seminary and church debts it was supposed to have paid completely. The records of all the details of this drive are in the diocesan books.

But the absence of Extension of K. of C. funds does not mean that I will be hard on Black Diamond. Every parish which has met the bank obligation and then turned to wipe out the chancery debt has been handled generously. A great deal depends upon how fast you will reduce the debt. If it is going to last a long time, you can't expect much, because mean-while the diocese is carrying the debt.

But supposing you were ready to tackle the debt now, I would be willing to wipe out all past interest. Secondly, as the interest begins according to Bishop Monahan's agreement, with the discharge of the bank note, I would be willing to pay half of current interest. Finally I would match every payment you make on principal by an equivalent amount. This means we start at \$2265. The parish will be charged 2% on half the interest from the date we begin and always on the balance. Then for every \$100, or \$500, or any amount paid, I will pay \$100 or \$500. This is the offer I would give you now. When you are ready to tackle this debt, I may not be able to do so. Get your bank debt cleared first. Then make a deal with me, and it will be as generous as I can make it.

If any of the above is not clear, come again. But success to your efforts.

Yours cordially in Christ,

Bp Carroll

Bishop of Calgary.



PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA
ACC.