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NEWSLETTER

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OCTOBER, 2008

The STEEPLE

It was a warm, sunny, still, quiet, early summer morning in a small Northern Alberta village that eventful day as the neighbours rustled out of bed having their morning coffee to take to task their daily chores. As the morning progressed into mid day, the hot sun beat down on them, until there was a rustle of a breeze descending upon them.

By four o'clock in the afternoon, it was a full fledged windstorm reeking havoc on this small community. When it passed it didn't get to hurricane force or produce funnel clouds that touched down, but it was severe enough to leave a path of destruction in its path. It included the small historic church on the main street, as it had forcibly pulled nails, screws, and bolts to reposition the steeple to be left leaning towards the direction the storm was traveling as it passed through.



A crane had to be brought in to lift the steeple and bell tower off the roof while the roof was repaired beneath it and then placed back down on the roof after having the base of the structure rebuilt. Although the shingles were not obsolete and had been replaced only a couple of years ago, it got a new roof cover as well because of damaged shingles caused by this windstorm.



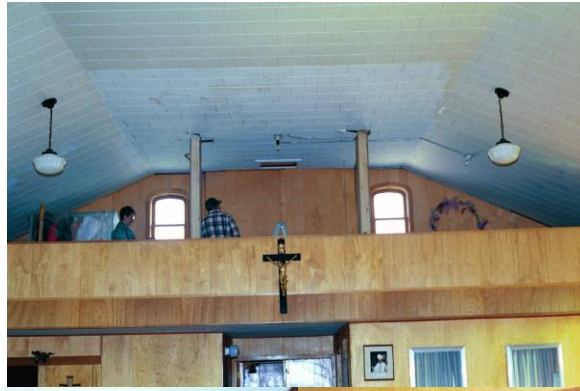
But the damage didn't stop there, the asbestos siding that was applied in the sixties, to renew the original siding, also suffered wind damage. Asbestos is very harmful to one's health and has to be handled by professionals who specialize in asbestos removal.

This specialized crew installed scaffolding to all elevations and the entry addition, then they enclosed this area with a sealed tent including all windows and doors to these elevations with plastic designed for this use. They proceeded to set up a decontamination tent at the entrance to these work areas. Once tent has been erected in place, no unauthorized personnel shall enter the work area, only the workers. All personnel who enter the work area shall be dressed appropriately. An air monitor was set up in the enclosure and air samples before, during, and after removal of asbestos siding was monitored.

All employees must be thoroughly trained and instructed on the proper use of safety equipment and must wear a Tyvek decontamination suit, gloves, and a dual cartridge respirator. Before leaving the work area, he must dispose of his suit, gloves and respirator filters. A new set of clothing must be put on before re-entering the work area.

They had to spray all siding with a penetrating agent mixed with water to prevent the release of asbestos fibers prior to removal and continue to wet it down until it is bagged, then they wiped each sealed bag before it leaves the work area to go to the dumpster. Clean, new bags must be used for each capsulation. These bags were removed to an enclosed dumpster with locked door.

Before an asbestos removal job can commence, a licensed contractor is required by law to give a 10-day notification to the proper agencies to inform them that asbestos removal will be performed. The contractor must heppa vacuum all exterior wall surfaces, interior tent surfaces, scaffolding, and ground before removing tent, clean up all remaining debris from the ground and bag it, spray enclosed area with a fog spray mist to remove any residual fiber in the area and then remove the tent.



Although it had a 20 foot ceiling height in places, the church ceiling was the easy part of the restoration process. The existing ceiling tiles that were probably installed around the same time as the asbestos siding were also obsolete, so the entire ceilings in the church had to be replaced.

The cost to retrofit and repair this 2800 square foot church was \$ 150,000 for a new tiled ceiling, new composite roof shingles, and new exterior metal siding.



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