

St Andrew's United Church, Lacombe Alberta

LITTLE SHOES



Little shoes graced the steps at St. Andrew's United Church, Lacombe for 215 hours beginning on May, 31st 2021. The shoes and stuffed toys were placed by the local Church members and the Lacombe community in remembrance and in tribute of the recent discovery of two hundred and fifteen children remains that were found at the Kamloops, Residential School. We wanted to share our empathy with all Indigenous, First Nations, Inuit, and Metis people from across the country, which have and still do suffer from mistreatments. The Residential School survivors have their wounds opened again and we from Lacombe United, in reconciliation wanted to pay tribute and show we care.

Even though placing of symbolic shoes is but a small dot of recognition, it was met with appreciation from the Indigenous people, while I was standing at the Church steps, a 1st Nation and a Metis school survivor from Manitoba

were present, they wept as they looked at the little shoes. Another community Lady that I did not know came by just to say a prayer. As the days went by more and more shoes and stuffed teddy bears appeared, candles and other item that were placed reflected the grief of those coming to the steps.

The little shoe memorial stayed on the Church steps for 215 hours, ending with the Church Bells ringing 215 times on Wednesday June 9th 7:00 pm, commemorating the loss of these children and all those who suffered from the Residential School system, each ring represented a child, this begins a process of healing.

Drum handcrafted by Don Fraser, for the memory of the lost children from the unmarked graves at the Residential Indian Schools. Don Fraser, member of the Living into Right Relations, St. Andrew's Lacombe and Chinook Winds.

With prayer, in solitude we remember these children. Tilly Meyer from the committee "Living into Right Relations", St. Andrew's United Church, Lacombe

