

Heart FM (CIHR-FM)

Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of Rev. George Leslie MacKay Arriving in Tamsui, Northern Taiwan

Thursday, February 10th, 2022 12:51pm



Reverend George Leslie Mackay of Embro is still regarded as a hero in Taiwan and his

life is celebrated with a story wall at the Tamsui MRT Station.

OXFORD COUNTY/TAMSUI TAIWAN - This year marks the 150th anniversary of Rev. George Leslie Mackay's arrival in Tamsui, Northern Taiwan.

Many people may not realize by Reverend MacKay is a hero in Taiwan. He was sent to the country 150 years ago by the Presbyterian Church. While he was there he founded several schools, hospitals and over 60 churches. The man is still reverend in the Country.

Oxford County Warden Larry Martin says it really is a remarkable story.

"It is just amazing the reception you get from the people of Taiwan, I went in 2019, all you have to do is say you are from Oxford County and mention George Mackay, he is a local hero there and it is shame that he is not as well known in Oxford as he is in Taiwan."

Martin goes on to say the George Leslie Mackay was years ahead of his time.

"One of the reasons why he was so well received is because he identified with the people he was living with and he realized that if I want to get with the people, I have to be with them, I can teach them and they have to teach each other."

The MacKay Story Wall has been established at the Tamsui MRT Station, located in New Taipei City of Taiwan. It features several images, telling the story of Reverend Mackay's life and contribution to Taiwan. The story wall was organized by Taiwan Tamsui Presbyterian Church, the first church founded by Rev. Mackay in 1872. TECO has provided Heart FM with pictures from the mural.







Last year, Director General Chen Jinling of the Taipei Economic & Cultural Office in Toronto paid a special visit to Rev. Mackay's hometown in Oxford County. She met with the Warden and local mayors. You can read more about that visit online here.

TECO is planning a series of commemorative activities starting next month, including a documentary about the legend of Mackay, symposiums, and exhibits.

Director General Chen recently called into Heart FM to talk about Reverend Mackay and the legacy he left behind in Taiwan. You can listen to that interview below:

<http://www.heartfm.ca/news/local-news/celebrating-the-150th-anniversary-of-rev-george-leslie-mackay-arriving-in-tamsui-norther-taiwan/>