

Joy of Many Generations

A BRIEF HISTORICAL SKETCH

COMMEMORATING

THE

50 TH ANNIVERSARY

1926 - 1976



WOODLAND BEACH COMMUNITY CHURCH

" I will make thee an eternal
excellency, a joy of many generations."

Isaiah 60:15

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

It is always difficult to decide the birth date of a Church. Since the first minutes for Woodland Beach Community Church were recorded in August 1926, that date is considered to be the beginning, although services had been held in private homes before that.

This booklet is the result of the Trustees' desire to preserve in print some of the events and personalities in the fifty-year history of the Church. It is presented to you as a memento, with the hope that its contents may remind us all of those who kept alive an opportunity for inter-denominational Christian worship and witness in this summer resort.

Proceeds from the distribution of the historical sketch will be donated to a Christian relief organization working particularly with children around the world.

The Trustees are grateful to Mrs. Gladys Train, the Church organist, who compiled the history.

Board of Trustees, 1975-1976:

E. F. Salt, Chairman
N. R. Faris, Vice-Chairman
T. C. Norwood, Sec. Treas.
H. L. Dean
W. M. Eagleson
A. H. W. McWilliams

CHAPTER ONE

The muted tolling of a bell mingled with the gentle sound of wind and surf, as footprints in the warm Georgian Bay sand led to the little church among the trees. We joined the people entering the sanctuary, exchanging greetings and conversation as we went. There was an air of expectancy about this occasion - the first worship service to be held in Woodland Beach Community Church.

The sound of the bell died away in the distance. Distance, yes, and it took one back in time to events of long ago. In 1850 Obadiah Harman, born in Upper Canada in 1826, and his wife, Matilda Stooks, settled on a farm in King Township near Newmarket. Outside their home was hung a large bell which summoned people to meals and meetings, and warned of impending danger; it was used by many as a time-piece.

In 1868 the Harmans left King Township to carve out for themselves a home at Allenwood Corners in Flos Township,

Simcoe County. Among their household effects being transported by oxen-drawn wagons, was the pioneer bell, and it was hung outside the door of their twenty-four by twenty-eight foot log house.

With the Harmans had come Marshall Charles, a boy of nine, who later owned the Flos farm. From him the land and buildings were purchased by Thomas Coe and occupied by his son, John L. Coe. Allenwood cemetery is located on this lot.

In 1929 when the Woodland Church was being built, Mr. Coe remembered the bell which had been stored away for several years, having outlived its usefulness on the farm. He took it from its resting place, housed it in a belfry, and mounted it on the roof of the church. With singleness of purpose, that bell was now calling worshippers to Woodland Beach Community Church for this first service on Sunday, July 7, 1929.

CHAPTER TWO

Following World War I, several families began building summer cottages at Woodland Beach. Before long there were stores, a post office, and a recreation centre. In 1926 at a meeting of the Woodland Beach Ratepayers' Association, a discussion arose concerning building a community church. The following Trustee Board was appointed to look into the matter: Rev. P. Bryce, Rev. C. H. Porth, R. G. Forsey, R. J. Giffen, S. Goddard, J. H. Martin, J. S. Martin, L. K. Redman, B. Whelan.

Soon the decision was made to go ahead with the church building and a site on Lot 56, registered plan 656, in Tiny Township was procured from Mr. Jonathan Tripp for \$1.00.

The Building Committee considered several tenders, accepting that of Mr. J. L. Coe of Allenwood. The specifications called for a building forty by twenty-four feet with cedar post foundation and paroid roofing, to cost one thousand and ten dollars.

In the spring of 1929, when mosquitoes were becoming a nuisance in the woods, work was begun. British Columbia fir was used for walls and floor, spruce for the two-by-fours.

Enthusiasm and support for this interdenominational church increased with evidence of progress. Paint, hymn books, and a hymn number display board were donated. An organ was purchased for \$25.00.

The addition of the bell was a useful and unique feature.

Pews and a pulpit were yet to be obtained. In 1880 a Community Church had been built in Wyevale, a lumbering centre not far from Woodland Beach. Land, as well as much of the lumber, labour and furnishings, were donated by the Belding Lumber Company. Within the next few decades, denominational churches were built in Wyevale and only the Methodists continued to use this church. Services were discontinued altogether about 1917, and the church was taken down in the 1920's. Although the church had disappeared, the pews and pulpit were left in storage, and it was these that were purchased for the Woodland Church for \$25.00. The Wyevale people contributed the original pulpit bible which had been presented to them by Charles F. Cocking, a former minister of the Wyevale circuit.

All seemed in readiness for the first service in July 1929 - a day which had been anticipated for several years. The bell rang out its message, while from the organ came strains of familiar hymns of praise and thanksgiving. People kept coming until one hundred and forty were seated.

The service was conducted by the Rev. Peter Bryce of Toronto, assisted by the Rev. H. D. Rollason of Middletown, Conn. Mr. William Cooper sang "Open the Gates of the Temple"; Baby Elizabeth May Lowe was baptized. The offering amounted to \$33.57.

CHAPTER THREE

Many precedents were of necessity established during the first few years in the life of Woodland Beach Community Church. Faith-and-works programmes consisted of worship, prayer, witness, re-dedication, donations of money, time and skills. The organ and building funds grew as a result of lantern lectures, concerts, social evenings, sports days, thanksgiving and song services.

Ministers Forth and Rollason conducted services of special significance on Sunday, July 31, 1932. In the morning, Mrs. J. H. Martin held the five-hundred dollar church mortgage as it was burned. In the evening J. H. Martin, on behalf of the trustees and congregation, made a presentation of a travelling clock to Mr. Rollason, in appreciation of his "courtesy and willingness to take charge of services while on vacation."

Many people came to think of Woodland Beach Church with affection, so it was the setting for events dear to the hearts of families within the congregation. Here are a few of those "specials" taken from church records:

Aug. 25, 1929: Miss Mae Hickling was presented with a bible on the occasion of her leaving for China as a missionary. An address was delivered by the Rev. M. Smith, returned missionary.

Aug. 2, 1931: A song service was held at seven o'clock E. S. T. with fifty-two people present. In addition to conducting the service, the Rev. C. H. Forth favoured with a solo. Moved by Mrs. S. Martin and seconded by Mr. E. C. Bayliss that a letter of condolence be

sent to the family of the Rev. M. Smith who was seriously ill in hospital.

Oct. 8, 1934 - Thanksgiving Day: The wedding ceremony uniting in marriage Miss Jean Hickling of Barrie and Mr. Charles O'Connor, Barrie, was performed by the Rev. J. Leece, Huttonville, assisted by Dr. Peter Bryce.

Sept. 3, 1944: World War II was still in progress, and notices of a Day of Prayer to be held at the church, were printed and distributed along the beach.

1954: The Rev. C. H. Forth, who was asked to conduct the 25th anniversary services at Woodland Church, expressed these sentiments in his reply: "Many things have happened in the quarter century since the little church we all loved so much was opened for divine worship. I feel honored by the invitation from your Board to take the services on the first Sunday in August. God willing, I shall be with you on that occasion. The memories of Woodland Beach and our many friends of those happy years are still very green."

Aug. 28, 1960: Brett Robert, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Ridout, Toronto, born July 20, 1960, baptized by the Rev. E. E. Kent, B.A. Th.B. Arthur United Church.

Sept. 3, 1967: A Canada Centennial Service was conducted by the members of the Board of Trustees. The sermon, based on James 1: 5-27, was given by Mr. W. Dyson of Hamilton. Miss D. Shakleton of New Toronto was guest soloist. Attendance 85: offering \$43.20.

Aug. 31, 1975: The Rev. Harry McWilliams, recently ordained, conducted the communion service. In September 1975, Mr. McWilliams began his ministry at Strathcona Park Presbyterian Church, Kingston, Ontario.

CHAPTER FOUR

Following is a summary of the
1930 services at Woodland:

Minister	Attendance	Offering
1. Rev. H. D. Rollason	58	\$10.50
2. Rev. H. D. Rollason	65	11.25
3. Rev. A. Rintoul Elmvale	85	10.02
4. Rev. Pickering	87	9.35
5. Rev. L. D. Painting Meaford Rev. G. N. Smith Buffalo	78	11.49
6. Rev. G. N. Smith Rev. L. D. Painting	70	11.60
7. Rev. R. E. Morton Alliston	90	13.12
8. Rev. H. S. Warren Markdale	57	10.10

A special thanksgiving service was held in the evening conducted by the Rev. C. H. Forth. The ladies presented Miss Inez Hickling with a clock on the occasion of her leaving for Oriental Mission work on the Pacific Coast. A fitting address was given by Mrs. Clarke, and Mrs. Whelan made the presentation.

9. Rev. C. H. Forth Bradford (severe storm)	30	3.47
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WOODLAND BEACH Community Church

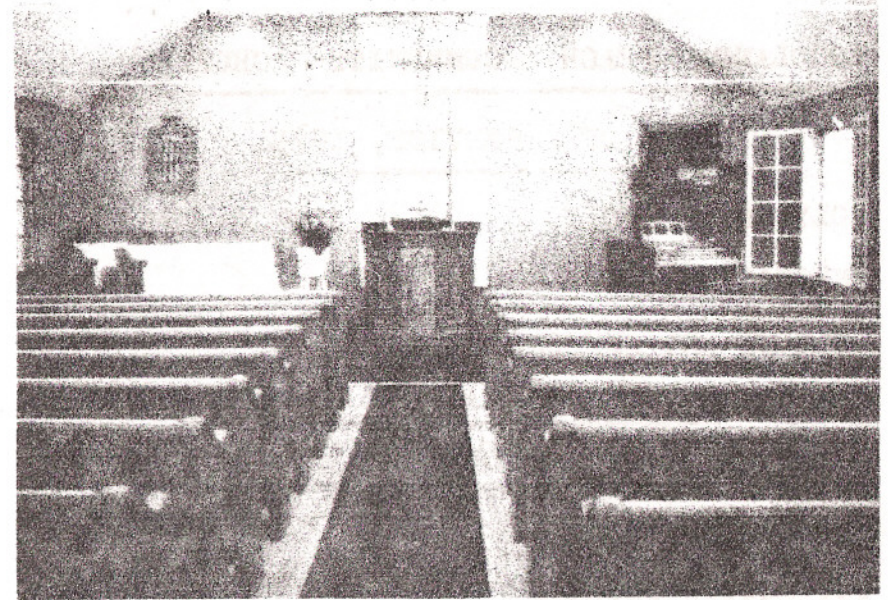
Whereas His Majesty The King and Our
Government have requested that
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3rd
Be kept as a DAY OF PRAYER.
All loyal British Subjects will wish to observe
this request.

A Special Service will be held in
this Church at 7 p.m.

Conducted by
REV. E. E. KENT

There will be no Morning Service.

God Save The King.



The church interior, 1971



Woodland Beach Community Church, 1975



Woodland Beach, 1975

WOODLAND BEACH COMMUNITY CHURCH

ORDER OF SERVICE, 1975

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

INVOCATION

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

RESPONSIVE READING

MUSICAL PRESENTATION

SCRIPTURE READING

HYMN

GENERAL PRAYER THE LORD'S PRAYER

CHILDREN'S STORY (Optional)

CHILDREN'S HYMN

OFFERING DOXOLOGY

MUSICAL PRESENTATION

SERMON

HYMN

BENEDICTION

CHAPTER FIVE

Once the first flush of interest and enthusiasm tapered off, it took steadfastness of purpose to establish an effective and lasting witness to the Church of Christ at Woodland. The task of the Board of Trustees was not an easy one. There were discouragements - economic depression followed by war; there were also encouragements, and God's grace shone through many a dark cloud. Attendance and support fluctuated, but continuity was maintained in this loosely-knit congregation which is active only about one-sixth of every year.

Affection and faithfulness, concern and gratitude, are all reflected in unfolding developments at the Woodland Church. Trustees, most of whom have summer residences at the beach, arrange for speakers as well as maintenance of the building and property. Pulpit supply has come from churches distant and nearby, from beach missions, ministers on holidays, and from lay ministers.

Many of the furnishings in the church have been donated by those attending services. In 1934 a new pulpit bible was presented by Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Hickling. The one donated by Wyevale was returned to their Women's Institute Tweedsmuir Collection.

A plaque in the porch entrance reads: "To the glory of God and in loving memory of Mrs. J. H. Martin. Erected by her husband and sons, 1937." In 1958 a concrete porch floor was laid by Mr. Harry Tripp.

On the lectern light is this inscription: "In loving memory of Mrs. C. H. 'Duff' Martin. Presented by her husband and children."

In 1967 a dorsal curtain and cross were hung at the front of the church. These

had been given to the Allenwood United Church in 1962 by the Hickling family in memory of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Hickling. When the Allenwood congregation joined with St. John's United in Elmvale in 1966, the Property Committee of that Church thought it appropriate to transfer the memorial gift to the Woodland Beach Community Church.

1970 found volunteers giving the Woodland Church building a face-lift. Walls were panelled, the ceiling tiled, light fixtures installed, considerable paint applied, a carpet laid, the pews re-upholstered, and the roof shingled.

As is usual with most community properties which are in use only during summer months, a special effort must be made to get necessary upkeep tasks done. Each year on the Saturday prior to the Dominion Day holiday, a volunteer brigade gathers at the church to perform duties much like those of "Arbor Day". For the Thanksgiving service, symbols of the harvest season are placed in the church. Cleaning the auditorium for Sunday services is the responsibility of the Trustees.

In 1939 Mr. Lewis Redman of Toronto is mentioned in records as having "faithfully played the organ over the past ten years." For more than another decade he continued to do so. During the 1950's Mrs. Marion Rutherford of Toronto took over these responsibilities until ill health forced her retirement in 1968. At that time the Trustees contacted Mrs. Harry Train, who lived a few miles from Woodland Beach, and once more the church had a regular organist. Soloists and groups of singers offer their talents in the ministry of music. In 1971, the Doherty pump organ was replaced with a small Conn electric organ. New hymn books

are being donated in 1976 by one of the many supporters of the Church.

Services are held beginning on the Dominion Day holiday weekend in July, through to and including Labour Day weekend in September. The final service of the season is on Thanksgiving weekend. Two communion services are arranged each year. The congregation is invited to attend the annual meeting held following the first service in August.

The Treasurer's records are audited yearly and a financial statement is printed in the following summer's church bulletin. Since the mortgage was paid off in 1932, donations have been made each year to charitable organizations and missions, leaving a small balance. The financial statement on page nineteen shows recent distribution of funds. Attendance during the past few years has ranged from fifty to one hundred and twenty.

It has been said that the Rev. W. G. Aldridge gave Woodland Beach its name, probably because of the lush growth in the area. An increasing number of permanent residents have planted flowers around their homes, and they often bring colourful bouquets to enhance the interior of the sanctuary.

At one time postcards were printed showing a picture of Woodland Beach Church. Of the hundreds that were sold and mailed, not one could be located for inclusion here.

This booklet, the volume of which is determined by a modest financial outlay, allows only the printing of highlights from church records. There is much more history. We trust that what is included here will stimulate your attendance at and support for Woodland Beach Community Church - a Church which is intended to bring Christian joy to present and future generations.

CHAPTER SIX

The Constitution, as drawn up for submission to the Department of National Revenue, December, 1969:

1. The name of the church shall be "Woodland Beach Community Church".
2. Purpose: To provide a place of worship for Christians of all denominations in the Woodland Beach area; teaching based on the Word of God as contained in the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.
3. (a) The affairs of the church shall be conducted by a Board of Trustees of six persons.
 - (b) The Board of Trustees shall be elected annually at the annual meeting held the first Sunday in August.
 - (c) The Board of Trustees shall elect annually from their members, chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary-treasurer.
 - (d) The chairman shall conduct all board meetings in an orderly way and give direction where required.

- (e) The vice-chairman shall act as chairman in the absence of the chairman and shall, when serving in that capacity, assume all rights and privileges of the chairman.
- (f) The Secretary-Treasurer shall: keep minutes of all board meetings; be custodian of all funds of the church; deposit all monies received with a chartered bank; prepare financial statements as required by the Board.
- (g) A majority of Trustees shall be a quorum.
- (h) The Board of Trustees shall present audited financial statements annually and shall use all monies received to maintain church property and purpose.
- (i) In the event of dissolution of the Church, all assets shall be offered to a Christian Church. If this action is not acceptable, property and assets shall be disposed of by the Board of Trustees and proceeds donated to charitable organizations in Canada.

CHAPTER SEVEN

Financial statements for 1930 and
1975 make an interesting comparison:
1930 Financial Statement, W. B. C. C.

Receipts:

Offerings	\$108.75
Concert and Party	33.00
Mr. Redman	13.00
Account transferred from Woodland Beach Ass'n	13.65
Account carried over from 1929	17.25
Total	<u>\$185.65</u>

Expenditures:

Interest on mortgage and principal	\$121.20
Organ	25.15
Exchange	.15
Total	<u>\$146.50</u>
Balance	<u>39.15</u>
	<u>\$185.65</u>

There is still \$200.00 due on mortgage.

B. Whelan, Sec.Treas.

1975 Financial Statement

Income

Jan. 1, 1975	\$158.23
Offerings	747.82
	<u>\$906.05</u>

Expenses

Pulpit Supply	\$270.00
Hydro	53.50
Supplies	14.42
Flowers	5.99
Insurance	70.00
Organist	40.00
Organ Transfer	14.00
Gideon Donation	20.00
Faith Mission	100.00
Scripture Gift Mission	100.00
Bank s/c	8.50
	<u>696.41</u>
Dec. 31, 1975	<u>209.64</u>
	<u>\$906.05</u>

Reserve Account

Jan. 1, 1975	\$206.69
Interest	4.74
Dec. 31, 1975	<u>\$211.43</u>

Sec. Treas. T. C. Norwood,
141 Bisley St.,
Beaconsfield, P.Q.
H9W 1G5

T H E M E H Y M N

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want:
He makes me down to lie
in pastures green; He leadeth me
the quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again,
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
even for His own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk thru' death's dark vale,
yet will I fear no ill;
for Thou art with me, and Thy rod
and staff me comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnished
in presence of my foes;
my head Thou dost with oil anoint,
and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me,
and in God's house for evermore
my dwelling-place shall be.