

# St. Mary's Parish

Maldstone, Ontario

1846 — 1996



**St. Mary's Parish  
Maidstone, Ontario  
1846 - 1996**

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The first edition of the parish history was published in honour of the centennial of the building of the present church, 1874-1974. This second edition was commissioned to commemorate the transition of the former mission of Assumption to full parish status: one hundred fifty years ago, records of births and baptisms, marriages, deaths and funerals, began at St. Mary's. The present effort hopes to further develop the history of the parish presented in the 1974 publication. Thus, we have incorporated further information on the development of the settlement of Maidstone Cross and of the earlier churches. From the first crude beginnings in the log building, and the construction of the first brick church, and finally, in today's inspiring edifice, the spirit of the parish of St. Mary's has proved to be one of generosity and helpfulness, true Christianity.

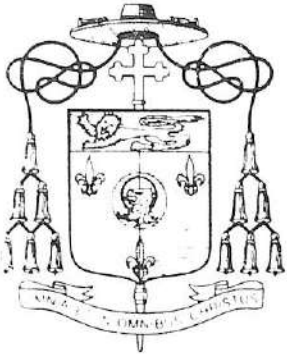
Without the parishioners, a church would be unnecessary, for, as we know, the church is not merely a structure of brick, glass and wood, but rather the people, all those who aspire to a Christian ideal and also meet for special celebrations and communal prayer.

Many anecdotes recorded here will depict how important the church was to the earlier settlers, whose hearts were surely larger than their pocketbooks. This importance has not diminished with the advent of greater prosperity in the parish as recent renovations to the Church and the building of the new parish hall testify.

Buildings do not maintain themselves and many organizations, such as the Altar Society, and Parish Council have contributed unstintingly to help maintain both the buildings and the quality of parish life. Other parish groups - from altar servers, Knights of Columbus, greeters, and the Resurrection Choir, to name but a few - continue to guarantee not only the vitality but also the beauty of liturgical celebrations.

In this overview of 150 years of community, many events and contributions are noted; many others, given the restraints of the present work, are not. The generosity of parish members in providing photographs, information and memories is gratefully acknowledged for, without these contributions, this celebratory compilation would not have been possible.

From its early stages as "The Irish Settlement" to the present community with members from all over the world, our parish has grown in numbers and diversity; the one constant has been our faith. As we celebrate 150 years of life as a parish, we look forward with confidence to that same faith sustaining us and future generations.



Office of the Bishop, 1070 Waterloo Street, London, Canada N6A 3U2

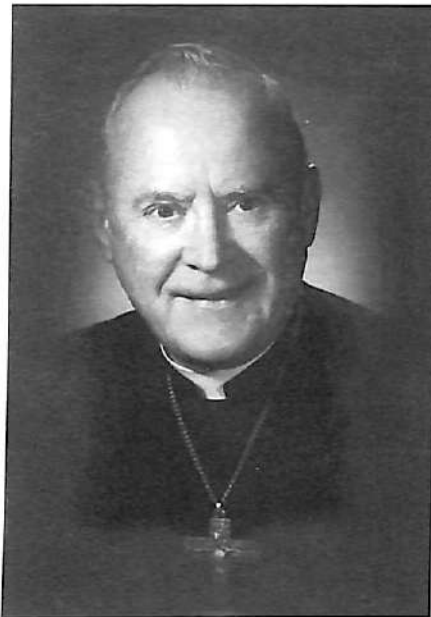
February 17, 1995

*To Father Mousseau and the Parishioners of St. Mary's Parish in Maidstone:*

*It is with pleasure that I send my congratulations as you prepare to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of your parish. You are one of the oldest parishes in the Diocese of London. Indeed, the parish is almost ten years older than the diocese itself. What that signifies is that there has been a vibrant community of faith in the Maidstone area for a century and a half. What it challenges us with is to renew and deepen our own faith in Jesus Christ and our complete reliance on Him to build us up as a community of faith, love and grace.*

*The dedication of your parish to Mary the Mother of God is a providential grace which ensures that the intercession of our Blessed Mother is constantly present to renew in each of you your devotion to Jesus and to His Church. My prayer is that your history of the parish will reflect the likenesses of people who are being formed daily more and more after the image of Christ our Lord.*

*In Him,*



*Most Rev. John M. Sherlock, D.D.  
Bishop of London*

## Message from Our Pastor

*During this year of 1996 we celebrate the 150th birthday of our parish. No human person has lived to celebrate such an event, but a parish community can do so because the treasures of our Catholic faith have been preserved and handed on for almost two thousand years. These treasures are passed from generation to generation much like in a relay race. All newborns at Baptism are presented with a lighted candle and are challenged to keep their flame of faith alive until they meet God in the halls of heaven with all the saints. On the day of our First Communion, and weekly thereafter, we are invited and privileged to share the Body and Blood of Jesus to nourish us on our journey. We are strengthened in our gift of faith with the Sacrament of Confirmation. If we fail to live up to our commitment, we experience God's mercy in the Sacrament of Forgiveness. Many couples pledge their love and faithfulness to one another as husband and wife in the Sacrament of Marriage. As we prepare to leave this earthly life, we have the Sacrament of the Sick to help us meet our Creator in life eternal.*

*This is the faith of the Church of which we are privileged to be members. We are one small part of a universal Church rooted in Jesus, our Head. We owe a great debt of gratitude to our ancestors who had the courage 150 years ago to establish a place of worship and a parish. We have inherited a beautiful church, built 122 years ago, where thousands have come over the years to pray and give glory to God. St. Mary's, the fourth oldest Catholic parish in the County of Essex began ten years before our Diocese of London was formed.*

*It is with pride and a spirit of gratitude that we publish this rich history of our ancestors. We hope that future generations will look back to present members of St. Mary's parish family for the treasures of faith we have shared with them. As pastor, I thank God for the privilege of being enriched and inspired by the parishioners of St. Mary's.*



In Woodslee, on the occasion of his First Mass in June 1955, Fr. Larry is shown here with his parents Edward and Agnes (Fuerth) Mousseau and Father Ignatius O'Neil. The cake was decorated by Marie Kane of this parish.

## Father Larry Mousseau



Father Larry Mousseau was born on December 27, 1929, one of eight children of Edward and Agnes (Fuerth) in Woodslee. He later attended St. John's Elementary and High School, Essex High School and Assumption College. After six years at St. Peter's Seminary, he was ordained on June 4, 1955. He served parishes in Windsor and London and came to Maidstone in 1990.

His preaching strongly emphasizes family values, always trying to instill in people the importance of love of God and of each other. As human families join for family dinner each evening so also the parish family joins for the Eucharist each week. His unpretentious manner, patience with children and personal commitment to his parishioners exemplify his Christian witness.

Father Larry describes the 150th anniversary celebrations as the highlight of his priestly career. He is shown here in his centennial garb.



## The Origins and Growth of Our Parish Community

Essex County was settled from the outside in: the periphery of the county bordered the water, which was the most efficient mode of transportation available in the late 1700's. The interior areas were opened for settlement following road and railway development. Talbot Road or Number 3 Highway was originally an Indian path, useful because it followed the contours of high land from Sandwich to the Pelee area. The government of Upper Canada ordered a survey of Talbot Road which was carried out in 1818 by Mahlon and Burwell of Elgin County. Thus, this area was opened for settlement.

The British government considered immigration and thereby settlement of the Colonies important for security reasons. The Crown granted land to individuals, such as Col. Talbot, to hold for settlement purposes and also to corporations, for example, the Canada Company which sold land to many families in this area.

Col. Talbot was granted extensive holdings as a reward for past military service. His personal land holdings were in the Talbotville and St. Thomas area; in Essex County he acted as a Crown agent, holding land in trust for settlers. It is said that he was somewhat of a dictator in deciding who would settle where and his prejudices were definitely anti-American.

The main means of promoting a viable settlement here was by advertising in all the major papers of London England and probably some in Ireland also. The ads were unfailingly optimistic and usually neglected to mention any negative aspects of the territory. For example, the virtues of unlimited acreage, the fertility of the soil and the ease of cultivation were all extolled while the necessity of clearing the land first was omitted.

It was in 1824 that the area surrounding Maidstone Cross was opened for settlement under the auspices of Colonel

Thomas Talbot and the Canada Land Company. Documents of interest are Sandwich Assessment lists dating from 1825 and 1829, with some Irish names at the end of mostly French taxpayers; census records of settlement, especially the agricultural censuses of 1851 and 1861; the parish register of Assumption; and annual reports and letters of the Jesuit missionaries to their superiors. All of these combine to give us an idea of what the early community was like.

Between 1834 and 1838, the Canada Corporation was granted at least fifteen hundred acres to the south of lots on the south side of Talbot Road. These lots, where South Talbot Rd. now is, were considered less favourable than those lots having direct access to the highway. Therefore, they were often settled at a later date than the Talbot and Walker Road areas. We have an example of inflation even in those days. In 1851, The Canada Company sold one hundred acres on Lot 4, Con. 9 to Jeremiah Driscoll for the sum of seventy-five pounds; by 1870 the price to Patrick Connell for one hundred acres, the south half of lot 298 on the south side of Talbot Rd., was two hundred pounds.

Immigrants to the New World came by sailing vessel; "the journey required eleven weeks on the water" according to the Michael McCarthy family biography. Oral history relates that Tom Shanahan's grandfather spent forty-seven days sailing from Southampton to New York. The voyage was generally by way of the United States; the travelers arrived tired, sometimes sick and penniless. Lack of money often forced settlers to work for several years in the port cities of New York and Boston before they could continue their travels. Mr. Shanahan eventually settled on the Seventh Concession of Maidstone.

At first, the community was not large, perhaps twenty some families. There certainly were subgroups - McCarthy brothers, Sexton parents and adult sons - but these peoples'

lives were clearly intertwined. They were witnesses at each other's marriages and godparents for each other's children. The same names come up over and over again: Cornelius Sexton must have been well-respected just by the number of babies that were named after him. Jeremiah McCarthy was also godfather for babies from a number of families.

In spite of the many hardships, the small group of mostly Irish families grew from 1824 onwards. By 1839 the Assessment Record of Sandwich shows interesting data about the Maidstone community. These excerpts are taken from research done by John Battersby:

#### ASSESSMENTS OF SANDWICH, 1839

Name	Location Lot	Concession	Cultivated Acres	Residents
JEREMIAH DRISCOLL	W4	9th	0	3
CHARLES COLE Wife - Ellen Driscoll (from Boston) Some descendants of this family include the Austin, Turton and Lepain families.	12	7th	6	8
MICHAEL HIGGINS Wife - Johanna Dunn Descendants of this settler include the Milford Dawson family.	4	5th	10	5
MICHAEL McCARTHY, SR. Wife - Catherine Finn Richard McCarthy, brother of Michael, came to the parish during the 1840's. His descendants include the Emmett and Gerard McCarthy families, as well as the Hebert and Lafferty families.	N. 301	Talbot Rd.	10	9
JOHN DRISCOLL Wife - Mary McCarthy Mrs. Alfred Morrill of Windsor was among the descendants of this family.	S300	Talbot Rd.	4	4
CORNELIUS SEXTON Wife - Mary O'Connell The Ralph Sexton family and descendants of Mrs. Grace McCarthy belong to this family.	N300	Talbot Rd.	18	10
JOHN HALFORD, SR. Wives - 1st Mary O'Brien 2nd Catherine Houlihan The late Robert Halford was the grandson of John Halford; Robert Halford's descendants include Mrs. Rosemary Sexton and the late Peter L. Halford and families.	N297	Talbot Rd.	12	11

ABRAHAM HALFORD 21 year old bachelor son of John Halford. He later married Ellen Flynn. Abraham Halford was the grandfather of Mrs. Mary Halford McGavin and the late Nell, James, Kate and Maurice Halford of this parish.	S297 Talbot Rd.	6	1
DANIEL DRISCOLL Wife - Mary Sexton	S304 Talbot Rd.	10	7
ALEX O'NEIL, SR. Wife - Margaret Houlihan The Lavin families are descendants of this family.	N305 Talbot Rd	10	9
TIMOTHY CONNELL Wife - Bridget O'Connor Late Peter Connell was a descendant of this family.	N299 Talbot Rd	12	7
DENNIS O'BRIEN Wife - Catherine Cavanaugh	N304 Talbot Rd	8	3
DENNIS COLLINS Father of Jeremiah Collins Descendants include the Bernard, Russell, Michael Collins families of the parish.	S292 Talbot Rd.	0	6
DENNIS DOWNING, SR. Wife - Honora Houlihan Descendants of this settler are Mrs. Harold Wellwood and family.	N302 Talbot Rd	7	7
JEREMIAH R. McCARTHY Wife - Elizabeth Flynn Some descendants of this family include the late John Sullivan and Elmer McCann of this parish.	S301 Talbot Rd.	9	5

In several cases the north half of the lot, again one hundred acres, was granted approximately ten years later, indicating fulfillment of the grant conditions for another parcel of land:

Aug. 31, 1854 Crown granted to Richard McCarthy, 100 acres north half lot 299

June 9, 1857 Crown granted to Dennis Downing, 100 acres north half lot 302.

The Middle Road, now County Road 46, was surveyed by Colonel Burwell in 1828; however, it was only a trail of blazed trees until well after the 1837-38 Rebellion. Most of the settlers along the Middle Road from

Maidstone Cross to Woodslee were also Irish Catholics. The earliest of these was James O'Connor who came in 1828; a short time later the Kavanagh family arrived. By 1838 The Scully, O'Callaghan, Costigan and Moran families had settled there. The grandfather of Tom Shanahan came over very early as well; Tom asserted that only the Conroys and the bears were there before them. Then in the early forties came the Monaghan, Gallagher, Conway, Farrel, Deehan, Hardigan, Geehan, Rushton, Slattery, Murray and many other families.

These people practised their faith with some difficulty. On one occasion Tom Shanahan's grandmother was seriously ill and

requested a priest. The family contacted the priest at Assumption who came out on horseback; however, because of difficulty in locating the house, it was two weeks later. Grandma joked that you would either get better or die.

Death records also give an idea of the difficulties facing the early community. We often think of women dying in childbirth at an early age, but Assumption parish records give one example of the deaths of a young man and his two small sons. On June 15, 1834, twenty-seven year old John Sexton was buried. On August 14 of the same year his two year old son Michael Sexton was buried; only two weeks later another son, Cornelius Sexton also died at only two months of age. Perhaps it is not surprising that we are unable to find references to the widow and bereaved mother, Ann Roach, in the community after these tragedies.

On September 6, 1834, another infant, Cornelius Sexton, son of Cornelius Sexton and Mary O'Connell was buried. According to Father Ernest Lajeunesse, local historian and former pastor of Assumption Parish, these four deaths in such a short period of time indicate that malaria may have been the cause.

Assumption Parish Records also indicate the difficulty that the French priests at Assumption seem to have had with the Irish names of the early community. John and Mary, common names among the Irish, were often gallicized to Jean and Marie. Mary O'Brien, the first wife of John Halford, is variously listed as Marie Bryan, Obryne and O'Brienne. It is only at the time of her death, probably in childbirth, that her name is finally spelled correctly.

This area was heavily forested and some parts were very swampy. The wet areas were not only difficult to travel past, they were also breeding grounds for mosquitoes and the danger from malaria was very real. In order to go to church at Assumption the people had to go past Grand Marais - the Big Swamp. One

book describes the Irish Settlement as being "hard by the Willow Swamp." Roads were nonexistent or poor even though Colonel Thomas Talbot had made road building a condition of settlement - you were responsible for the road in front of your 100 acres. Nevertheless, there were complaints about the poor condition of the local roads well into this century.

Neil Morrison's book *Garden Gateway to Canada* gives us some idea of the number and usefulness of animals in the pioneer community. "Oxen long continued in use almost entirely for draught purposes. The gradual introduction of horses served chiefly for riding, which was the only alternative to walking, if one wished to travel on land, because the side roads continued to be little more than rough tracks. According to the Assessment Poll for 1850, there were then in Maidstone Township, 140 horses, 175 oxen, 369 cows, 584 sheep and 995 hogs. The population was only 761, although the Middle Road had been settled for a quarter of a century." (p. 21)

In the letters that Jesuits wrote to their superior describing their activities in the mission field, the Irish settlement is singled out for the stability of their faith. They were always very grateful to whichever Jesuit missionary could attend to the spiritual needs of the community. Father Jaffré wrote that he enjoyed serving Irish Catholics because of the great respect they show the priest, because of the great spirit of faith they possess, and because of their generosity. "While no one gives much, because no one there is rich, every single person gives something, and all the small portions put together form a considerable total."

In 1831, Fr. Angus MacDonell was appointed pastor of Sandwich by his uncle, Alexander MacDonell, the bishop of York. His duties included visiting the missions of Maidstone and Belle Riviere.



The Catholic settlers had sought what spiritual ministrations they needed at Sandwich. They followed the blazed trail, carrying shoes in one hand and lunch in the other, and often times were compelled to jump from log to log to keep from being mired in the swamp. When they neared the church, they put on their shoes and assisted at Mass. Afterwards, they sat down in the shade of a tree and broke their fast; then set off on foot as they had come.

The missionaries were warmly welcomed when visits were made to offer Mass in some of the log homes of the settlers. Mass was said at the homes of John Halford, Lennons, Michael Cavanaugh and Dennis Collins.

According to the writings of Bishop Nelligan, former history and French professor at Assumption College, Fr. MacDonell built the first log church at Maidstone. One source of information, the Austin family record (signed and dated by Fr. Peter McCabe, October 25, 1922) states that "Patrick Tumbleton donated two acres of land at the corner just west of the present church and there Father Virgilius S.J. erected the first log church and lived in another log house on the Middle Road and just past the Six Corners." Other missionaries who assisted Fr. MacDonell were Fathers J. Foley, J. Lostrie, Pierre Schneider, and Jean S. Morin.

The boyhood memories of Mr. Lennon, as told to Fr. Charles Collins, describe this structure as having been about 40 feet long, 20 feet wide, 10 feet high on the corners, with a pitch roof surmounted by a cross, four or five windows on each side and two windows and a door at the end.

Once the parishioners had collected the necessary number of logs, a bee was held to raise the building, as was the custom in those days. The walls were chinked and daubed with clay to keep out the elements. In the winter heating was provided by stoves and illumination by lamps.

Fr. Lajeunesse noted that in the records of the laying of the cornerstone of Assumption Church, it was recorded that a priest from "the Irish Settlement" attended this ceremony in 1842. Bishop Nelligan recalls that Fr. Michael McDonnell, an Irish priest, began residing at Maidstone in the early 1840's. He found pioneer life unsuitable. In 1844 when he was recalled by the bishop, the Jesuits continued to attend Maidstone.

Fr. Pierre Chazelle S.J. came here regularly every two weeks, from June 1844 until Aug. 1845. At the death of Fr. Chazelle, Fr. Jean Jaffré, S.J. was assigned to the missions of Maidstone and Chatham.

Bishop Nelligan, in his description of Fr. Jaffré's life, tells us that he was born in Auray, Brittany, France on Sept. 25, 1800. He was ordained on Aug. 15, 1835. He arrived in Canada on Oct. 22, 1844, after studying English in Lancashire, England for two years. His assignment was to have been pastor of Sandwich, but, according to Fr. Chazelle, Fr. Jaffré was not suitable to minister to the needs of the French Canadians of Sandwich. From then on he was employed in the English-speaking portions of the population. He was assigned to the missions of Maidstone and Chatham.

Fr. Jaffré was a hearty man, impervious to the fevers plaguing the people in this swampy and undrained land. The forests had yet to be cleared from most of the area at this time.

Just before Christmas, in 1845, Fr. Jaffré gave an eight day mission at Maidstone. On this occasion it was shown to the priest and people that a larger church was needed. The pioneer Irish settlers were poor and it took three years to collect enough money to begin building. In 1848 a beginning was made. The following is a letter, translated from the French, written during Fr. Jaffré mission.

Father Nicholas Fremiot S.J. to Father Provincial from Sault Ste-Marie - 24 June 1848

*"On Pentecost, I went to say Mass at Maidstone, an Irish colony at 15 miles from Sandwich and served by our Fathers. I read the day's Gospel in English as well as a lesson on the feast. It was my first effort in English; they told me that they had understood everything. May God will it! But I well understood that I had not received the gift of tongues, which would, however, be very useful. This excursion gave rise to an accident which almost became serious. I had been told that, with the exception of wine, I would find there all I needed. However, on arriving, we searched in vain: no hosts. Father Jaffré, on his last visit on Ascension Thursday, had taken everything to Chatham, a place 60 miles from Sandwich, where he normally resides and where he is building a church. Happily, my misfortune was not without remedy; a host was improvised more or less - between two irons and our good Irishmen, having come in from all over to that little chapel lost in the middle of the woods, were once again able to break out in sighs at the elevation and the Domine non sum Dignus and to go back home, happy, with a good supply of holy water."*

A description of the first brick church comes to us from the writings of Fr. Charles Collins, a Maidstone native. The brick church was about seventy feet long, thirty-five feet wide and about twenty four feet on the corners. There were five large windows of Roman style on each side a large rose window in the end, two doors swinging on hinges that permitted easy egress to the large congregation; a cross about six feet high on top of the church as well as a mission cross about fifteen feet high in the yard. The church was located about seventy five feet back from the Talbot Rd. and about twenty feet from the Middle Road. An addition for a vestry was

made by Peter McLaughlin, of the Rear Road. Behind the church, was erected a belfry, thirty feet high with a roof over the bell. In connection with the opening of the new church, a cemetery was located about ten rods back of the rectory, along the Middle Road.

The Austin records describe the interior of the church; it was "small and had no pews but instead benches ten or twelve feet long, cut with a whip saw and made of some of the finest timber to be found in Canada. At this time fine walnuts and oaks were very plentiful and were only cut down to be burned."

In 1871 Fr. Gauthier had a "record of a Confirmation class of one hundred and fifty-six, consisting of seventy-five boys and eighty-one girls confirmed by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Walsh. In the class list the first name is Nicholas Dixon, later Father Dixon."

For about twenty-five years the church was well used and the congregation was dismayed to find it was in dangerous condition and needed to be replaced.

According to the 1874 assessment, many more Catholic families had come to reside in the Maidstone Township area of the parish. We find these names: Ouellette, Goulet, Gerrard, McIntyre, Farrell, McPharlin, Tiernan, Donovan, Kane, Miller, Plante, McHugh, Reiley, Mahon, Shanahan, Scully, Hayes, Allen, Bellaire, Maitre, Campeau, Perry, Lesperance, Papineau, Henry, Slattey, Conroy, Connolly, McCloskey, Burke, Deehan, Menard, Blanchard, Donnely, Lepain, Rourke, Martin, Markham, Quinlan, Cada, Villaire, Maguire, Mooney, Keane, McCann, Devlin, Flannery, Moynahan, Barry, Cavanaugh, Chittle, Hebert, McLean, Durocher and Marentette. A listing of present families in the parish would include many of these same names.

## Development of the Present Church

In 1872, a movement had begun to construct a new larger Catholic Church at Maidstone Cross. The parish priest at the time, Father O'Shea, along with Thomas Moran, the village storekeeper, took up subscriptions for the building of the new edifice. Their efforts successful, the contract for the new building was given out, at a price just over fourteen thousand dollars.

Before long, Father O'Shea was replaced by Father Delahunty who bought the site of the present church from Geary farm. In August, 1874, he proudly laid the cornerstone of our existing church.

Along with initiating the building of the new church, Father Delahunty had the new cemetery laid out, and the bodies moved from the old cemetery (which was on our present Malden Road, formerly 114 highway). He also beautified the church grounds, planting maples and evergreens in profusion.

Father Ouellette superintended the building of the church. The brick was made on Hugh Lennon's farm (later Ed Sexton's and today owned by Robert Hergott). Ignatius and John Halford, assisted by other parishioners, hauled the gravel needed from Frith's pit. After much effort, the church was opened and dedicated to St. Mary. According to some sources the log church and the first brick church were both called St. Patrick's; however, diocesan archival records do not confirm this information.

The old brick church and property were sold to Charles Kavanagh who used the church as a carriage shop as well as making it his home. His children Arthur, Mary, and Albert were all born in what had previously been the church vestry. Descendants of the Charles Kavanagh family include: Father Tim Kavanagh, Mrs. Albert Kavanagh, Mrs. Nicholas Kavanagh, the Ray Kavanaghs, Clarence Kavanagh, the Ed Milligans, the Ted Hossacks, Ed Byrne and Mrs. Ellen Dunn.

Years later an upstairs was put in the old church and it was used as a roller skating rink where one could rent skates for 15 cents an evening. When Mr. Kavanagh closed his business he sold the property, and the former church later burned down.

When Father Ouellette took over the parish, he worked to have the present stained glass windows installed. He canvassed the parish for families wishing to donate one hundred dollars toward a window. The original windows bore many names still familiar in this parish: Cole, Collins, Halford, McCarthy, Shanahan; and others, not so familiar: Cronyn, Higgins, Kilroy, Mooney, and Moran.

Father Ouellette also gave considerable attention to the development of the choir and, it is recorded, he was "rewarded with excellence."

Father Molphy succeeded Father Ouellette. During his pastorate (1882-1883) he built the new priests' home at a cost of about four thousand dollars. The old one, (built about 1867) had never been properly finished. It was the "Two story brick house" given in the "Grand Bazaar and Drawing of Prizes" Father Molphy organized to help ease the debt on the church. Tom Shanahan's older brother Ed won a set of fine china in this drawing!

After Father O'Connor became pastor in 1884, he worked hard to pay off the large debt that remained on the church. Frank McCloskey gave up his carriage shop for two weeks so that the church could hold a bazaar in the shop, later owned by Mrs. Mike John. Shortly before he died Father O'Connor proudly announced that there was not a cent of debt left on the church.

# Grand Bazaar and Drawing of Prizes.

TO BE HELD AT MAIDSTONE, ONTARIO,

On the 26th, 27th and 28th of December, 1862-

FOR THE PURPOSE OF LIQUIDATING THE CHURCH DEBT.

## LIST OF PRIZES:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1—Large two-story brick house with park lot in the growing Village of Maidstone.</p> <p>2—Lot in Maidstone, near Railroad Station, donated by Thos. Moran</p> <p>3—Lot in Maidstone,</p> <p>4—Prize donated by the Very Revd. D. O'Connor, President of Assumption College.</p> <p>5—Prize donated by Rev. Dean Wagner, P.P. of Windsor.</p> <p>6—Prize donated by Rev. John Brennan P.P. of Picton.</p> <p>7—Prize donated by Rev. B. J. Waters, P.P. of Goderich.</p> <p>8—By Rev. P. J. Shea, P.P. Seaforth.</p> <p>9—By Rev. Fannery, P.P. St. Thomas.</p> <p>10—By Rev. P. Brennan, P.P. St. Marys.</p> <p>11—By Rev. M. J. Tieron, L. N. W.</p> <p>12—By Rev. J. Carling, P.P. Woodstock.</p> | <p>13—By Rev. M. Kelly, P.P. Mt. Carmel. (Persons drawing any of the prizes donated by the above Revs. Gentlemen can have either the prize or \$15.)</p> <p>14—Hugh Lennan, J.P., fat sheep.</p> <p>15—P. McCann, fat sheep.</p> <p>16—Abraham Cole, \$10 in gold.</p> <p>17—William Lyons, \$10 in gold.</p> <p>18—Jeremiah McCarthy, \$5.</p> <p>19—Charles McGuigan, value \$10.</p> <p>20—N. SteMarie, prize value \$10.</p> <p>21—Lawrence Kane, prize value \$10.</p> <p>22—Jeremiah Collins, prize value \$10.</p> <p>23—P. McNally, \$20 in gold.</p> <p>24—Shot gun, value \$25, donated by Peter Tieron.</p> <p>25—Handsome Bible, value \$16.</p> <p>26—H. Follett, prize, value \$10.</p> <p>27—Chas. Chittle, steer, value \$15.</p> <p>Also a number of other valuable prizes donated by friends.</p> |
|--|---|

The drawing will take place on the days above mentioned under the superintendence of a committee of prominent gentlemen, Catholic and Protestant, and will be done in as conscientious a manner as can be desired. All remittances, communications, &c., to be addressed to

**TICKETS, 25 Cents.**

**Rev. Jos. P. Molphy,  
Maidstone, Ont.**



Bishop Walsh

Father McGee, in 1892, had the church decorated and a new heating system installed. The church was first heated by wood stoves which were not satisfactory because the space was too large for the inadequate supply of heat. Father McGee tried gas, but that too was inadequate. The problem of heat wasn't solved until Father McCabe installed a steam heating system about 1908.

Father McGee started the three separate schools in the parish and also bought the corner lot from Father Collins to build the parish hall. The hall was built by members of the C.M.B.A. (Catholic Mutual Benefit Association) including Eugene Sullivan, Edward Chittle and Frank Mero. Before the hall was built, parish organizations used the meeting room built above the vestry of the church which is now used for storage.

Father McCabe, the next pastor, began immediate improvements. Besides the heating system, he purchased a new lighting system. The church was newly plastered, roofed, and decorated. Outside a new front was put on the

church to serve as a belfry and a new bell was purchased. The church had been built with a tall steeple but it was lowered in the early 1900's after it was damaged in a storm and the parishioners feared it might fall and damage the main part of the building. The priests' house was also decorated, a grove of maples planted behind it, and the lawns beautified.

One of Father McCabe's assistants, Father McMahan, worked with Father LaBelle of Woodslee to start the North Essex Baseball League. Teams in the league, besides the already well established Maidstone Shamrocks, included Woodslee, Essex, Harrow, Amherstburg, McGregor and Lukerville. Local stars included Frank McCloskey, Charles O'Brien, Leo Greenway. It is said that whenever Maidstone needed a relief pitcher, Father McMahan would take off his Roman Collar and become an excellent ball player! The ball diamond was located where it is today, but it wasn't until years later that the quality ball park we have today was developed.



In 1928, Father Stroeder took charge of the parish and built the spacious convent for the Sisters of St. Joseph whom he invited to come to Maidstone and take charge of the schools. The main floor, which has since been renovated, included a large well-furnished chapel (the white altar was the gift of Miss Nora McCarthy) the Community room, refectory, kitchen, and pantry. There were nine bedrooms on the second floor. The attic or third floor, could easily be finished if more bedrooms were required. The full basement was used for laundry as well as fruit and vegetable storage.

In 1933, when Father Gleeson became pastor, he stimulated interest in developing the ball diamond and encouraged the ball team. Twice while he was pastor the church caught fire. First the roof caught fire when one of the corn cobs, used to start the coal fires, was carried up onto the roof. The fire was put out by men carrying buckets of water up through the tower, then, by straddling the roof, carrying the water to the fire. The Croft family has always been proud of Bill Croft for his bravery on this occasion. The second time the altar rail caught fire from the votive candles. This was extinguished by some men who were working on the ball diamond.

Father Gleeson had the interior of the church decorated in approximately 1947. The crucifixion scene was painted over the sanctuary around the large crucifix hung there. This crucifix was donated by Mrs. Jake Simons in memory of her husband who had been killed in a farm accident at their home which was later owned by Bob Schwertner. The Crucifixion and ornate gold trim was done by Mr. Roland Jobin, a church painter who moved from Montreal to this area in 1935. He painted many of the churches in this area. Parishioners remember seeing him holding a small picture in his hand, his guide, as he did this gigantic reproduction.

Money spent on repairing the church was raised by picnics, bazaars, and plays. At the start of World War Two, when some food

supplies became rationed and others very expensive, the annual church picnics ended. Instead a subscription of at least ten dollars was asked from each family in the parish, and put into the "Picnic Fund" to be used for maintenance of the church. This was taken up annually until the bishop proposed the system of tithing instead of taking many collections.

In 1949, Father Chisholm had the Rectory remodeled and redecorated. After his death, in 1953, Mrs. John Chittle donated a consonnato organ to the church, in his memory. This organ was used until the late 1960's, when it had to be replaced.

Also, in 1953 the outside of the church was repaired and cleaned by sandblasting. Sidewalks were laid up to the front of the church and a new light was put over the front door.

In February of 1956, Father Jordan began the interior decoration of the church, and it was finished by Father O'Neil. Churchgoers moved under a maze of scaffolding as the church was redecorated from floor to ceiling. New lights shone from high in the beams. New light birch pews were installed. The huge framed stations were trimmed to half their size and mounted in light birch frames to match the pews. (Harold Felix was the craftsman). The parishioners viewed their "new" church with mixed emotions.

June of 1960 saw Jim Markham, chairman of the schoolboard, turn the sod for the new two room brick school being built between the convent and the cemetery. Only three years later, with the closing of the three old schools, eight rooms were needed.

In 1961, Father Mackesey had the parish hall moved back from No. 3 Highway. It was painted and a new wing, including a kitchen and washrooms, was added on (much of which was accomplished by the donations of the Catholic Women's League.)

Father McNabb, besides building the monument in the cemetery, had sidewalks put

in from the church, by the rectory, to the convent. This project was most appreciated by the Sisters, who often stepped through mud and snow on the sidewalk along the highway.

The Second Vatican Council, and the Diocese of London Synod had pronounced effects on all the churches in the diocese. Ours was no exception. The ornate altar with its many alcoves for flowers, candles, or statues, was removed. Carpet covered the terrazzo floor of the Sanctuary. The crucifixion scene and ornate gold trim above the sanctuary disappeared behind a coat of paint. The side altars, one dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, the other to the Sacred Heart, the communion rail, the sanctuary lamp and various statues were all removed.

In 1973, after Father Marentette had the church bells repaired, he reinstated the tradition of ringing the bells at the Angelus and also tolling the bells when he received the news of the death of a parishioner. He also began the custom of the father of a newly christened child ringing the bells to announce the baptism.



Norm Jobin announces Philip's christening.

As 1974 was the one hundredth anniversary of the building of the present church, Father Marentette commissioned the writing of a parish history. One evening when the committee was working on the book, Father Marentette told the group that on that very day an auxiliary bishop had been appointed for London Diocese. He, however, could not remember the new bishop's name. "What is the name of the famous English detective," he asked. On being told "Sherlock Holmes" he replied, "That's it! It's either Bishop Sherlock or Bishop Holmes!"

As Bernie McLean recorded in the "Maidstone Cross" of *The Essex Free Press*, "It was a grand summer's day for the start of the centennial celebration of St. Mary's Church." Frs. A. P. Marentette, Chris Quinlan and Tim Kavanagh concelebrated the outdoor Mass in front of the school. Former altar boys Frank McCloskey and Mike Collins served the Mass; music was by Tim Hebert and Irene Mullin, soloist. After the Mass the ladies of the Altar Society served refreshments in hall.

In the fall of 1974 a dinner dance celebration was held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in McGregor which Bishop J. M. Sherlock attended.

In 1975 Fr. Marentette had the church parking lot surfaced with asphalt and in 1976 the water line from Essex replaced existing sulphur water wells in the church, hall and rectory.

Fr. Linus Bastien replaced Fr. Marentette who retired in 1978. The convent, now empty, was occupied by the Christian Life Society, headed by Fr. Mark Barron, which continues to offer contemplative retreats.

In 1979 Fr. Bastien decided to have the stained glass windows repaired. One hundred and four years after their original installation in 1875, it was determined that the windows were suffering from "metal fatigue," that is the lead coming had deteriorated and the windows were in danger of collapsing. They were

renovated by a company from Owen Sound, the Morrrows.

Before the renovations the inscriptions on the bottom of the windows read as follows:

In the vestry: Cavanagh

In the sanctuary: Reverend Walsh (Bishop at the time)

Heidi H. Ouellette (Mother of the pastor in 1875, Fr James F. Ouellette)

Left side: 1875

Blank

Michael Mooney

Mary Tiernan

Thomas Moran

Tiernan

Cornelius

Ellen Halford

John Halford

Blank

Michael Higgins

Right side: Mike McCarthy

McCarthy

Patrick Cronyn

John Shanahan

Lawrence Kilroy

Rose Shanahan

Charles Cole

Ellen Cole

Thomas Higgins

Mary Higgins

Jeremiah Collins

Anne Collins

Facing the highway: Pat McCann

Blank

Pat Scully

John F. O'Brien

Blank

Matthew Higgins

These names were replaced by titles of the Lord.

In 1980 Bishop Sherlock encouraged parishes to sponsor refugee families from Vietnam which meant that the parish was financially responsible for the family for a year. A committee, led by Jackie and Paul Zinyk and including Rose and John Hebert, Carolyn and Bob McCarthy and Renee Damphouse,

welcomed the three-generation Tran family of ten. Bob and Carolyn McCarthy generously donated the use of their home in Windsor for the year. Even tasks such as grocery shopping were difficult at first for the Trans. After the initial year the Trans were established in work and school; some members of the family still reside in the Windsor area.

Fr. Bastien continued to improve the church building itself. First a new roof was installed in 1980. Then in 1983 a major remodeling of the church took place. Pews were refinished, the interior was painted and stations of the cross were reframed. Many summer mornings neighbours awoke to the clink-clink sounds of workers repointing the brick mortar. Renovations to the sacristy continued in 1984 with George Keltika renewing the stations and the mosaic designs high above the pews. There were improvements to the rectory and a new bathroom was installed at the entrance of the church.

With the appointment of Fr. Kornacker in 1985 serious discussion of the fate of the parish hall began. It was inadequate and inefficient and so the decision was made to tear it down. A hall committee was struck to tender the demolition and supervise the construction of a new hall. In October 1989, the doors of the new hall opened.

In 1990 Fr. Larry Mousseau replaced Fr. Kornacker; Fr. Bob Charbonneau, assigned to the Brentwood Recovery Home for Alcoholics also took up residence in Maidstone at the same time. Father Larry oversaw the completion of the Pentecost 2000 project, a long-term funding plan instituted by Bishop Sherlock to ensure the financial stability of the London Diocese. Tom Halford chaired the committee composed of Louis Benoit, Linda Halford, Pat Duronio and a number of other parishioners.

In 1991 the faith study programme, Renew, was undertaken by the parish in conjunction with many of the parishes of

London Diocese. Trained lay leaders led small group discussions with parishioners on matters of faith and belief for a three year period. Jim and Joanne Kirwin led the committee: Lucille Allen, Pauline Bedard, Maureen Chope, Aileen Czerwieniec, Renee Damphouse, Pat Duronio, Harry Fraser, Rosemary Halford, John Hebert and Diane Lawhead.

The asphalt parking lot in front of the hall was extended and in 1991 a new boiler for the church heating system was installed in the church.

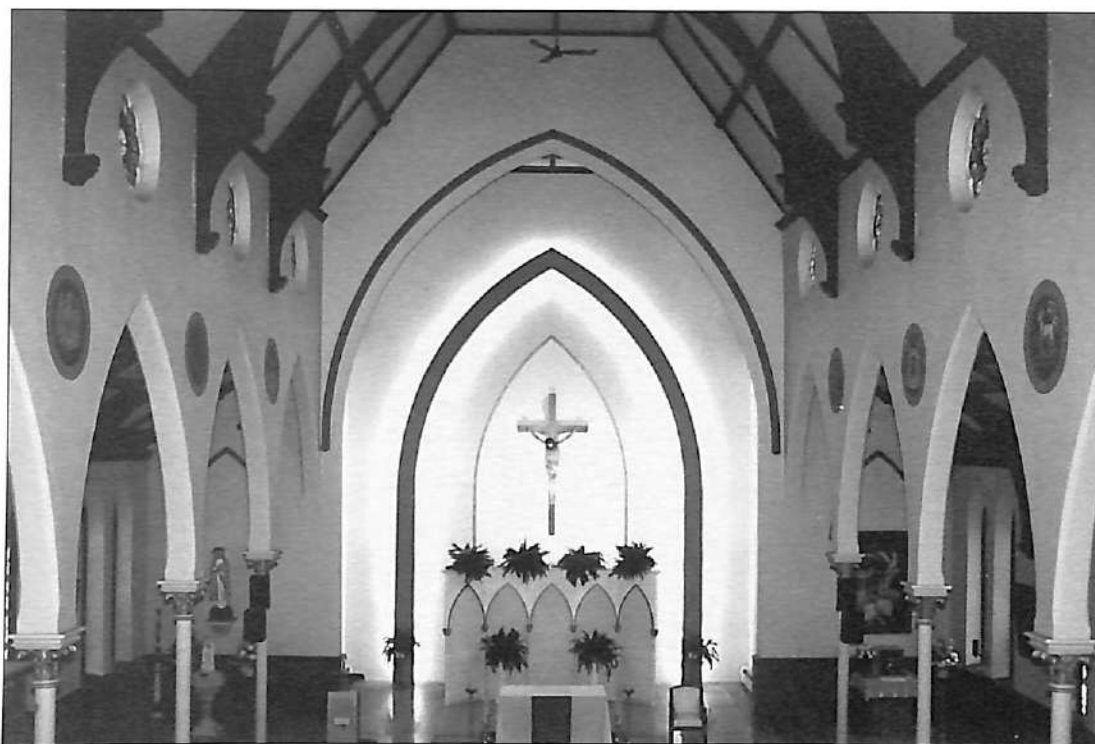
After great effort by the Altar Society in their fundraising activities, primarily bingos, the mortgage for the new hall was discharged in November, 1993.

In 1993 the church roof was again replaced and plans were made to renovate the sanctuary. A striking backdrop behind the main altar was designed to reflect the gothic style of the windows. To further enhance this gothic structure, a large plaster arch, the full height of the back wall was formed to soar over the

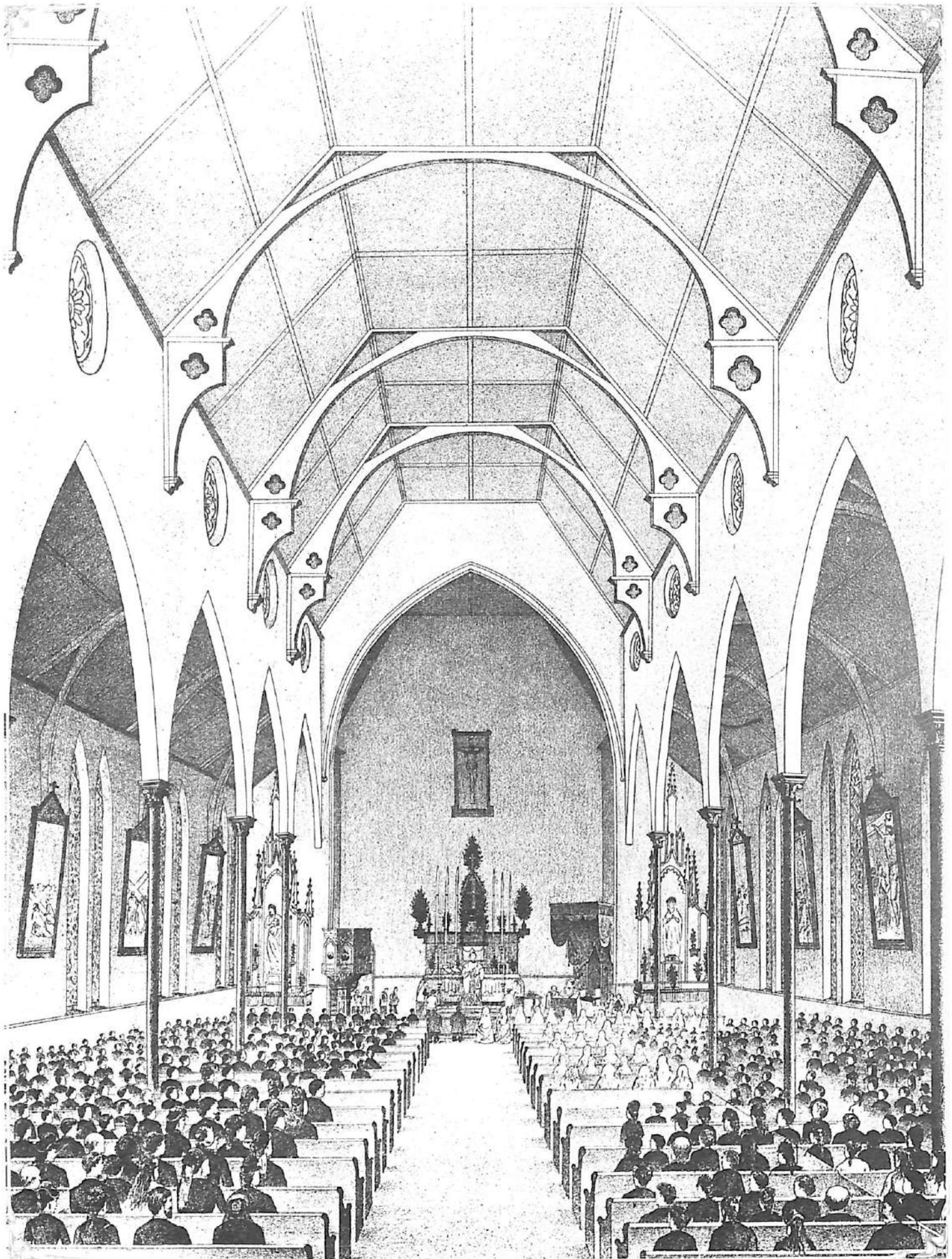
sanctuary. Smaller, matching arches were located at each side. All of the arches were painted a rich blue and trimmed with gold. A new main altar and two side altars were built by a local craftsman, Doug Wright. The repainting and refurbishing of the sanctuary added to the interior beauty of our historic church as the pictures of the anniversary celebrations clearly illustrate.

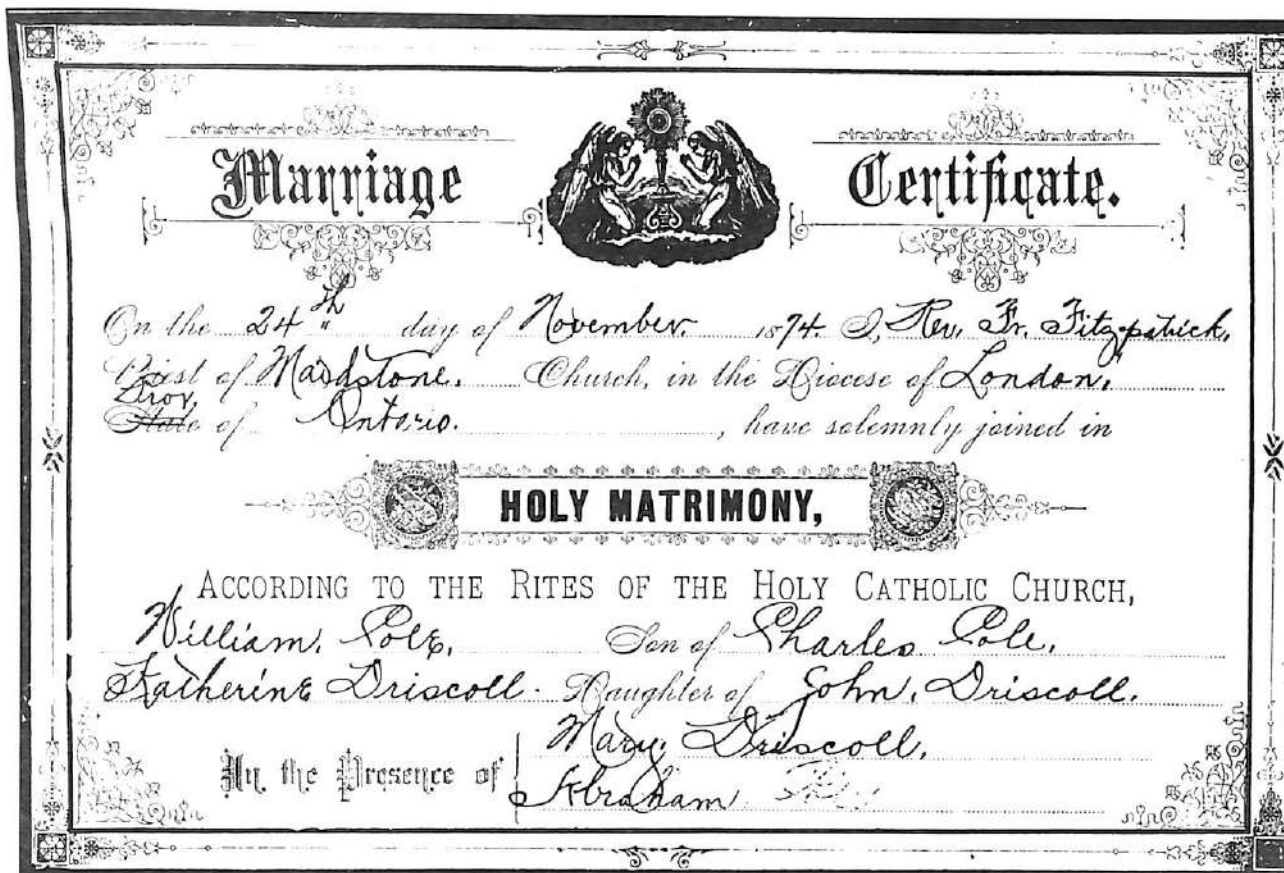
To illuminate the exterior of the church at night, two large spotlights are now aimed at the tower. Fr. Mousseau will have a new furnace installed in the rectory in 1996 to bring all systems up to date. He has also made plans to have the tower rebuilt for safety and to extend the life of the building.

Throughout the years, with the generosity of faithful parishioners, the parish priests have managed to repair and improve the physical structure of the building as well as to provide a rich spiritual and social life for St. Mary's Parish.









The first wedding in the present church was solemnized between William Cole and Catherine Driscoll (picture left, marriage certificate above).

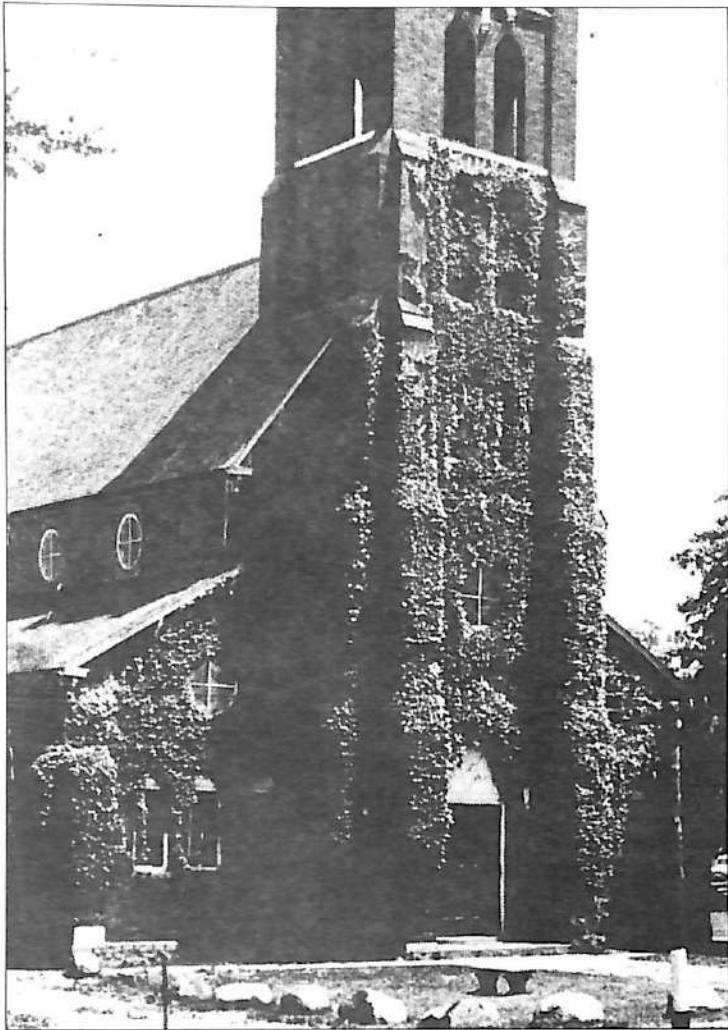
Some of the first baptisms recorded for the present church in 1874 include Richard McCarthy born Oct. 5, Thomas Ferry, born Oct. 9, Joseph Conroy born Oct. 29, Bridget McLean born Nov. 22, Margaret Mary McCarthy born Nov. 29, Charles Collins born Dec. 3, and Margaret McCarthy born Dec. 12.

Early 1875 baptisms include Henry Burke, James Byrne, Sarah Geehan, William McIntyre, Hugh Kane, Catherine Lyons, Ellen Conroy, Henry Lesperance, Thomas McCloskey, John McCarthy, and Francis James McAuliffe.



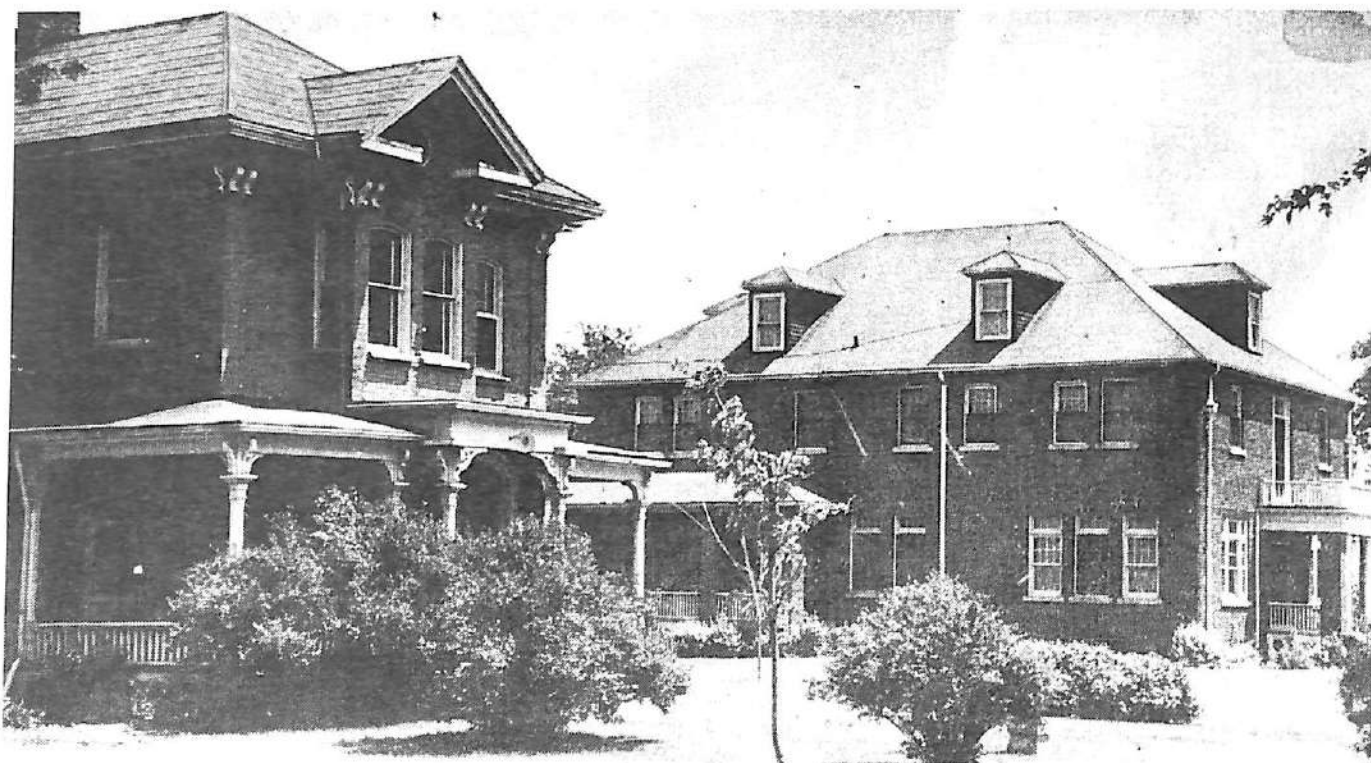
The Sanctuary in 1952





## **The Rectory, Convent and Church in 1950**

However attractive the ivy was in 1950, it may have weakened the structure and necessitated the major repairs in 1996.



## The Church in 1974



This 1974 photo of the church, taken by Tom Fuerth, was used as the front cover of the 1974 book.

## Priests Who Have Served Maidstone

### Missionaries

Fr. Angus MacDonell, 1831  
assisted by Fr. J. Foley, Fr. J. Lostrie, Fr. Pierre Schneider, Fr. Jean-Baptiste Morin  
Fr. Michael McDonnell 1840-44  
Fr. Chazelle S.J. 1845  
Fr. Jean Jaffré S.J. 1845-55

### Parish Priests

Fr. Connileau, 1855-59	Fr. W. P. L'Heureux 1897, assistant
Fr. Robert Keleher, 1859-61	Fr. Peter McCabe, 1904-28
Fr. Bayard, 1861-62	Fr. J. I. Quinlan, 1924-28, assistant
Fr. Laurent, 1862	Fr. E. J. McMahon, 1927, assistant
Fr. Cannon, 1862	Fr. A. Stroeder, 1928-33
Fr. Virgilius Devlin O.S.B. 1862-65	Fr. J. P. Gleeson, 1933-47
Fr. W. B. Hannet, 1865-67	Fr. J. H. Chisolm, 1947-53
Fr. Joseph Scanlan, 1867-68	Fr. J. A. Jordan, 1953-58
Fr. O'Donovan, 1868-69	Fr. M. J. Quenneville, 1958, for six months
Fr. Gauthier, 1869-72	Fr. Ignatius O'Neil, 1958-59
Fr. P.J. O'Shea, 1872-73	Fr. J. P. Gleeson, 1959-60
Fr. Delahunty, 1873-74	Fr. J. A. Mackesy, 1960-65
Fr. Fitzpatrick, 1874 for six months	Fr. J. W. Graham, 1965
Fr. F. J. Ouellette, 1875-1881	Fr. W. McNabb, 1965-66
Fr. James Scanlan, 1877, assistant	Fr. John Fogarty, 1966-69
Fr. Joseph Molphy, 1881-84	Fr. A. Paul Marentette, 1969-78
Fr. E. J. Hodgkinson, 1884	Fr. Linus Bastien, 1978-85
Fr. John O'Connor, 1884-90	Fr. Bill Kornacker, 1985-90
Fr. D. P. McMenamin, 1890-92	Fr. Lawrence Mousseau, 1990 - present
Fr. C. McGee, 1892-1904	

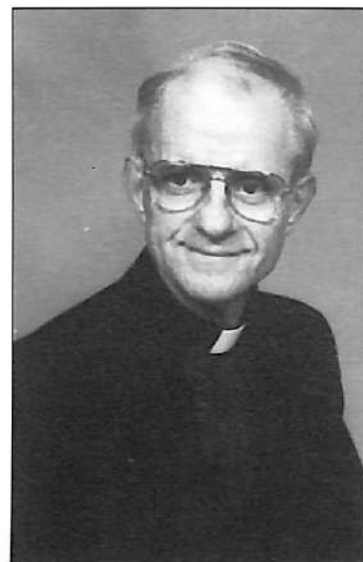
### A Tribute to St. Mary's Parishioners

Since July 1, 1990 when Fr. Larry and I arrived here, my admiration for all of you keeps growing. This is a family that is warm and welcoming, and appreciative of its Catholic heritage. Also, within your own individual families I see genuine love and respect.

Thank you for your positive example.

*Fr. Bob Charbonneau*

Fr. Bob Charbonneau





## Father Ouellette's Letter of April 1875

The parish archives have the original letter sent by the new parish priest of St. Mary's Maidstone Cross to a friend in the St. Mary's Parish of Lambton. It is clear that 1875 was a stressful time for Father James Ouellette as he copes with the debt of the new church and the trials of living in the wild bush.

We have the letter because of the kindness of Kenneth Yates, formerly of Evergreen Park, Illinois who was a local historian of the St. Clair River area. Our parish is grateful that he chose to mail the original letter back to Maidstone, as it gives a rare glimpse into parish concerns of the day.

Fr. Ouellette is elsewhere described as popular and energetic, and as seeing choral music as a liturgical priority. One of the original sanctuary windows was dedicated to the memory of his mother Heidi H. Ouellette.

*Maidstone Cross*

*Monday, 25th April 1875*

*My dear Michael,*

*Perhaps you will wonder at the heading of this letter, and indeed you may. You would wonder still more, if you were here and see the place and compare it with the mission I have left. I am here since the 16th of this month, and so far, I have no reason to regret the change, although I do not meet here with the comfort I had in St. Mary's, but, after all, this is of minor importance.*

*I was asked to come here to battle with difficulties, and I can assure you, if difficulties will make a man happy, I am the happiest man in God's world. I have a church to finish and for that purpose, I have to find \$4500 before the 1st of November next; where? - aye, that's the rub. Besides, I have a debt of \$10,000 more weighing on my weak shoulders, I suppose, to keep me in balance. So you see, I have a bright time of it.*

*Manyatime, from this wild bush, I turn my eyes to my quick and happy home on the banks of the St. Clair river and often, I find myself musing over days long gone bye, counting again the steamers etc. thinking of those days when I was blocked in Bear Creek. All those things rush to my memory as so many cherished images of the past which fond recollection likes to unroll before my eyes.*

*If in a year or so, you happen to read on the papers that I have been sent to some insane asylum, by referring to this letter, you will know the cause.*

*I enclose a few little souvenirs, they are not much, just tokens that I do not forget "old friends" - one for you one for your mother - one for Norah - one for Miss Julia - one for Florence, if she is with you yet - and one for Jimmy*

*Remember me to all*

*Yours truly*

*F. J. Ouellette*

*Don't forget to remember me to your father -*

## Father Peter McCabe

Fr. Peter McCabe, the longest serving Pastor of our Parish (1904 - 1928), is remembered by our senior parishioners as a strong leader with an autocratic manner. An indication of the great respect accorded to him is the fact that Peter John was named after him, although Peter also attributes his name to the fact that his mother Camilly sincerely wished that Peter would one day become a priest like Fr. McCabe.



In this vein, oral history has it that the late Peter L. Halford was sent in 1907 to be baptized John George Halford, just as his brothers had been baptized with the first name John. Fr. McCabe decreed that there were already enough "Johns" in the family and the baby would be christened "*Peter after me and Leo after the Pope*" (the well-loved Leo XIII). He came home a Peter Leo rather than a John George.

Although his autocratic, even irascible, nature could manifest itself on the altar itself - where he would not hesitate to publicly chastise a misbehaving altar boy in the middle of Mass - he is more remembered for his kindness towards others in need.

A 1992 letter in the parish archives relates the experience some 75 years earlier, of George Hooker of Leamington. About 1917 he was a boy of 11 or 12 and was riding his bicycle to Windsor with his cousin on Talbot Road. At that time the road was just a dirt and gravel road with the electric streetcar tracks embedded in the surface. Trying to cross the trolley tracks in front of St. Mary's Church:

*My bike went out from under me and I skinned both knees and my elbow grinding dirt and gravel into the scrapes. As luck would have it at the time there was a very kindly old priest standing in front of the Church. He came to my rescue, he took me into his house and washed out the dirt and gravel and he put some kind of salve on and sent us on our way. Bless his heart! You have no idea how good that was to a small boy so far from home. I never knew what that old man's name was throughout the years but I never passed Saint Mary's but I had the kindest thoughts of the man who befriended me so well.*

Through Jim Kirwin, he finally found out that it was Fr. McCabe who had helped him and, in remembrance of a 75 year-old kindness, made a donation to the parish.

Another indication of Fr. McCabe's kindness is that he raised an Irish orphan, Peter Clark, who in his later years was helped by Frank McCloskey.

Monica Collins VanderAa recalls the story that Fr. McCabe once sold a cow to Jerry Collins who lived across the road from the church. The cow (was she stubborn?) was called "McCabe" and, on one occasion, one of the Collins sons yelled at her "Move over McCabe!" Fr. McCabe heard and hustled over to find out why he was being called; it is reported that he was not at all amused to find that the cow had been named after him and that he made his displeasure clear to all.

Father had always made parish visits by horse and buggy and when he learned to drive a car of his own, the story is told that he once hit a icy patch and shouted "Whoa!" to the car.

Despite what would now be seen as old-fashioned paternalism, Father McCabe was ahead of his time in his ecumenical spirit and, it is told, in this spirit, he once welcomed a new minister to the Maidstone area with the offer of a drink and/or a cigar. The minister politely declined, which totally astounded Fr. McCabe and his Irish ways.

Fr. McCabe died November 16, 1928 at the age of 74; he is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Right, Father McCabe wears the biretta that was usual on formal occasions before Vatican II.



Below, he is pictured with Loretta Kane, Mrs Vesty McGuire (Jane McCann) and Mrs. Wm. Kane, all of the parish.



## Parish Priests



**Fr. Gauthier**  
1869-72



**Fr. E. Hodgkinson**  
1884



**Fr. D. P. McMemanin**  
1890-92



**Fr. W. P. L'Heureux**  
1897 (assistant)



**Fr. C. McGee**  
1892-1904



**Fr. John O'Connor**  
1884-90



**Fr. James Quinlan**  
1924-28  
assistant



**Fr. J. P. Gleeson**  
1933-47  
1959-60



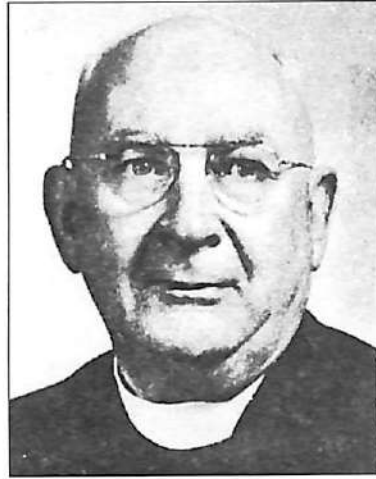
**Fr. J. H. Chisolm**  
1947-53



**Fr. M. J. Quenneville**  
1958



**Fr. I. O'Neil**  
1958-59



**Fr. J. A. Mackesy**  
1960-65



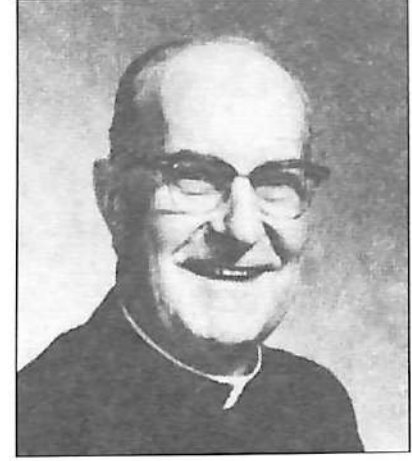
**Fr. J. P. Graham**  
1965



**Fr. W. McNabb**  
1956-6



**Fr. J. M. Fogarty**  
1966-1969



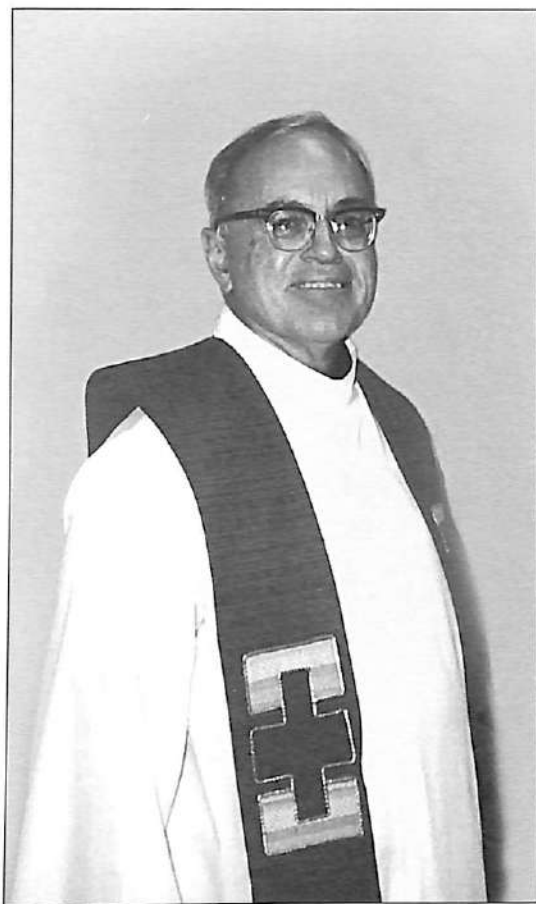
**Fr. A. P. Marentette**  
1969-78

## Father Linus Bastien

I'm happy to join you in thanking God for the first 150 years of St. Mary's Parish. From my seven years as your pastor, I can attest to your deep faith in God, in Christ and in His Church, to your respect for all you have received through your ancestors, to your willingness to sacrifice for its preservation, to your generosity in meeting new challenges. We worked together to get to know Christ better through Bible study and prayer, to renovate the church building inside and out - to restore the stained glass windows, and the mosaics and stations of the cross, to refinish the pews and lower walls, to re-point the bricks and paint inside and outside. I especially remember the parish council and renovation committee, and the NEED project of 1983, which was a government grant of \$137,000, enabling us to hire twelve people to do most of the renovation work on the church building. We did not need to borrow money for all this and were even able to purchase a new Allen organ.

There were times when angels joined us in the choir; there were times when I was not sure we'd make it. Now with the sanctuary renovated, we can fittingly celebrate the past 150 years with joyful praise and thanksgiving.

Your parish priest from 1978 to '85.



Rev. Linus Bastien



# st. martin de porres church

1808 LABELLE STREET

Telephone



WINDSOR, ONT. N9E 1B4

969-1824

Easter 1995

Dear people of St. Mary's

What an honour to write about St. Mary's! After spending seven years in Peru, you people were super-patient in allowing me to land myself once again on Canadian soil. You put up with all my stories and mountain mission talks and you never stopped me when I retold an old missionary story one more time.

The people of Maidstone are dear to the hearts of many priests in our Diocese. Long before I was appointed to the parish by my classmate Bishop Henry, St. Mary's was an envied spot to be assigned to. You are a welcoming congregation and a cooperative community rooted in the Catholic faith long before our Diocese was even in existence.

The new hall that we built together will always be the cornerstone of my pride and memory of being among you. Thank you for the continued warm welcome that I still receive as I drive through town hoping to see an old friend on the streets of Maidstone.



Your friend

*Fr. Bill*

Fr. Bill Kornacker

## Vocations to Religious Life from St. Mary's Parish



Fr. N. Dixon

**Father Michael Tiernan** was the first priest from St. Mary's Parish, his parents, Peter Tiernan and Minnie Nevin, were commemorated in stained glass windows. We were unable to locate further information, living descendants or a picture of this priest.

**Father Nicholas Dixon** was born in Maidstone February 4, 1857, the son of Nicholas Dixon and Mary Goodall. In 1871, Nicholas Dixon is listed as being part of the Confirmation class confirmed by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Walsh.

He was the pastor at Kingsbridge in the Goderich area at the time of his death June 21, 1900. Relatives still living in the parish include the Milligan and Kavanagh families.

**Father Charles Collins** was a well-known Basilian from our parish, the son of Jeremiah Collins Sr., and Ann Cavanagh. He was born on a farm near Maidstone on December 3, 1874; it is appropriate that a son of two of Maidstone's earliest families was one of the first infants baptized in the present church. He was ordained a priest of the Basilian Order, August 15, 1899. He taught in Texas, did parish work in Owen Sound, Ontario and Detroit, Michigan but spent the greatest part of his life at Assumption College. He taught, wrote poetry and was a good public speaker; many of his reminiscences were published in the alumni papers of Assumption College and in the Basilian papers. He died June 2, 1947.

Unpublished manuscripts by Father Collins are now in the general archives of the Basilian Fathers in Toronto. Considered the first historian of Assumption College, his "Memories of Assumption in 1888" is reprinted in *Assumption College: The O'Connor Years 1870-1890*. A history of Maidstone by Fr. Collins was reported in a 1934 Essex Free Press article about Maidstone.



Francis Langan recalls that about 1940 when he was a student at St. Mike's High School in Toronto, and then later at Assumption College in Windsor, Fr. Collins was a familiar figure on campus. Notable for his short stature and roly-poly appearance, he always had a smile that was ready to break into a jolly laugh at the slightest provocation. As well, he was a great storyteller; many of his anecdotes focused on Maidstone, which he referred to as "God's Country."

## Fr. Tim Kavanagh

In 1974, in a letter which was included in the 100th Anniversary Parish History, Fr. Tim Kavanagh wrote fondly of his home parish: *St. Mary's Church, Maidstone, means a great deal to me. I was baptized, received First Holy Communion and Confirmation, offered my First Holy Mass after ordination on June 9, 1946, and was presented with my Missionary Cross... all at the foot of the altar in St. Mary's Church, Maidstone.*

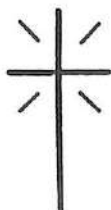
Fr. Tim, born on November 30, 1915, one of ten children of Arthur and Margaret (Fields) Kavanagh, was invested as a Capuchin Franciscan on August 27, 1938 and ordained a priest in 1946. A year after his ordination, Fr. Tim accepted his mission assignment to Guam and remained there until his death. He served a number of parishes on the island until his retirement in 1978, after which Fr. Tim resided at St. Fidelis Friary, helping out when needed. In 1989 the people of Guam honoured him on his golden jubilee as a Capuchin.

In Fr. Tim's 1974 letter, he continued to express his love for his home parish. *I have loved it, and still love it tenderly, as the cradle of formation for my present Missionary "Career", still centered around the Tabernacle in Commemoration of the Crucifixion. My priestly Blessing to all the People of God in the God-Blessed Parish of St. Mary's, Maidstone.*

Fr. Tim passed away August 17, 1995 leaving his sister Norene Mitchell of Essex, and brother Tom of Windsor; predeceased by Clarence, Margaret, Bernard, Harold, Rita, Ozzie and Ray. Though buried half a world away, Fr. Tim kept Maidstone parish in his heart.



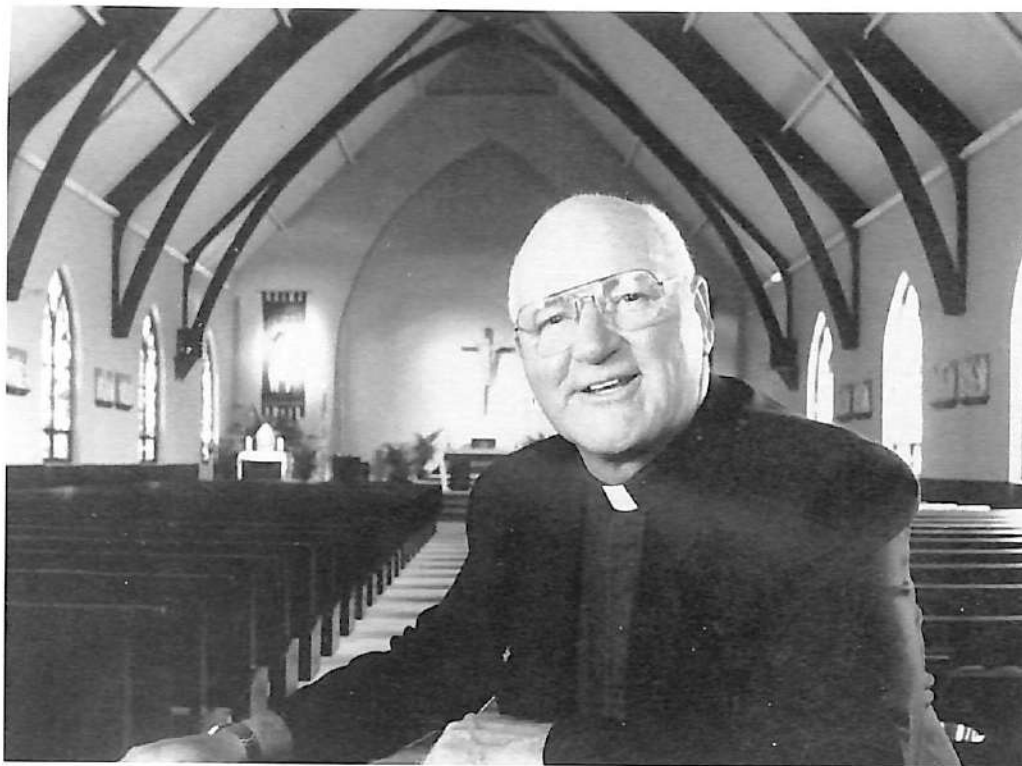
On the left is Fr. Tim in his early years as a Capuchin. Fifty years later he made a special visit to Canada to celebrate the occasion of his Golden Jubilee.



*St. John the Evangelist Church* (519) 723-4458

R.R. #1,

Woodslee, Ontario N0R 1V0



July, 1995

Dear Parish Family of St. Mary's

Congratulations on your 150th anniversary as a parish family - The People of God - the Church. When I think of 150 years, the first thought that comes to my mind is that it's a lot of living, many memories and great numbers of people who have been given, and have been touched by the Catholic Faith and the grace of God over the years. I can only say "Thank You God" for the goodness and love that you have showered upon the Parish Family of St. Mary's.

With my roots well founded in the Parish Family of St. Mary's where I was baptized, made my First Communion, Confirmation and returned to offer my first Mass of Thanksgiving on June 3, 1962, I can again say "Thank You God" for your grace, the gift of faith that you have shared with me, and which has been supported so many times by my home Parish Family of St. Mary's Maidstone. You are a people of God who are very dear and near to my heart and also to the hearts of all the members of the Quinlan Family.

May God continue to bless you and may we be a People of God, always open to His great love. Congratulations on your 150th Anniversary!

With love and prayers from an ever-grateful son of St. Mary's,

Father Chris Quinlan

## Best Wishes from Sister Adelaide McAuliffe

Congratulations are very much in order to a parish celebrating 150 years of existence.

Congratulations, too, to those who have organized the commemoration of the historic event. This task involves hours of hard work. May you be blessed abundantly for undertaking the accomplishment.

Sixty-four years away from the parish have not lessened my interest in and my love for everyone and everything that happens in "God's Country." It is always a pleasure to attend parish functions and it is gratifying to know that these gatherings serve to keep alive the wonderful spirit of hospitality that always existed among the parishioners.

For me, the highlight of the Anniversary is to know that the beautiful Crucifix is once more in its rightful place above the altar in a very attractive and appropriate setting. The magnificent Calvary scene, that had been there for many years, will always be missed. We must accept changes made by time.

God has always blessed our parish and hopefully He will continue to do so.

Happy Anniversary!

Picture taken in July 1992 on the occasion of Sister Adelaide McAuliffe's Golden Jubilee as a Sister of St. Joseph.

Now enjoying retirement at the Holy Rosary Convent, Sister Adelaide was pleased to be able to attend the various 150th anniversary celebrations of her home parish of St. Mary's.

In retirement, she has a bit more time to devote to her life-long love of baseball and has been recognized on WJR's Tiger broadcasts as a real Detroit Tigers fan.





## Sister Elaine Flood C.S.J.

Our parish celebrations of one hundred and fifty years inspire me with feelings of deep gratitude to God, the source of all goodness, and to our ancestors who endured many hardships in order to live and share their faith here in Maidstone.

While my official reception into the Church at Baptism is a bit of a blur, I do have many warm memories of St. Mary's dating back to toddler days when the kneeler was just the right height to serve as a comfortable pew. One early memory is of Benediction. On Sunday afternoons Grandpa Tom McCloskey or my godfather, Uncle Mike McCloskey, would round up those of us who were playing outside in the village and off we would go to Benediction. Even though everything was conducted in Latin, I believe that we observed the sincerity of the adults and we realized that something very special was happening.



As I grew up, the parish community continued to have an influence on my life. In fact the Church became almost a second home when I began playing the organ for daily Masses at nine or ten years of age. At that time sliding down the banister after Mass was part of the daily ritual, unbeknown to the pastor.

In 1958 when I entered the Sisters of St. Joseph, our rules were such that I had to wait five years before returning home for a one-day visit. Little did I dream that, blessed with the full support of my Community, it would become possible to return home and minister to the needs of my aging parents and Uncle Frank McCloskey.

This privilege, in turn, has provided an opportunity for me to experience our present parish

community over an extended period of time; my sense is that St. Mary's is alive and well. It is my hope and prayer that each of us will continue to discover Christ anew and bring Him to others.



## Sister Margaret Ann Beaudette

Hello from Canada's great North! Since I moved from Maidstone in 1965, my journeys and experiences have been numerous. I taught for 18 years in London Diocese in London, Belle River and Leamington. In 1986 I ventured north to Yellowknife. I taught in Yellowknife for 6 years and I am now living in Lutsel K'e, formerly called Snowdrift. Lutsel K'e is Chipewyan for "place of little fish."

Lutsel K'e is a Chipewyan village of 300 people. It is situated on the east arm of Great Slave Lake. Access to the community is by air. Lutsel K'e is a 45 minute flight from Yellowknife; small planes such as twin-otters are our mode of travel. In the summer and winter people do travel by boat or skidoo, however the trip is between five and seven hours across the lake.

The land around Lutsel K'e is rich in beauty. The community is built on a hillside with water on three sides. In the summer trout and grayling are abundant, as are several kinds of berries. In the winter caribou travel close to the community and provide meat for the people. Moose, muskrat and beaver are also eaten and the hides and furs used for clothing and other articles. Not much is ever discarded.

With the shortage of priests especially in the North we do not have a priest in Lutsel K'e. Our parish is Holy Family Parish and Sunday prayer and communion is led by a group of the native people. A priest arrives every two months for a few days.

From mid-July to late September a few barges arrive bringing supplies of oil, gas, building materials, large food orders. It's always exciting to see the barge come.

I teach in the school which ranges from Kindergarten to Grade 8 as well as an older group of students receiving special programming. Our school population is 66 students. Presently I am teaching Kindergarten and Special Needs. I have also been the Principal this year as one was needed in mid-September. Unlike field trips in the south where I would book a bus, here I line up six or seven skidoos and sleds for a winter adventure. The students have an opportunity to be taught their Chipewyan language and culture in school.

Last summer I enjoyed the experience of camping for a week with eight elders and twenty children on Eagle Island, 15 kilometers from Lutsel K'e. We were taught traditional life-style and I helped scrape hide, make dry meat, set up a bush tent, and tan a hide. We caught a 25 pound trout!

These are just a few of my adventures. At times life does get very challenging and overwhelming but family and friends have been most supportive with prayers, letters and phone calls.



Peggy Beaudette of the St. Joseph Sisters is the daughter of James C. and Helen (Garrod) Beaudette.

## Vocations to Religious Life

Not many years ago, many of the social benefits that we presently enjoy – and expect – were not provided by governmental agencies on the federal or provincial level. Instead of unionized social workers, teachers and health care workers, care was provided by members of religious orders, “The Sisters.”

Records show that women from our parish, our sisters, aunts and cousins, have been involved in this type of religious commitment and the hard work involved in caregiving for at least a century and a quarter. From medicine to music, from early childhood education to gerontology, these women have made an often underestimated (and underpaid!) contribution to the quality of our lives.

Some were high profile and very well educated. Sister Mary McCarthy, for example, a nurse and a registered pharmacist, was named first Director of the Hotel-Dieu School of Nursing in 1907. This was a remarkably high level of education and position of responsibility for anyone at that time, especially a woman! The contributions of others were less remarkable and may not have been noted for future generations to praise in local history books; nevertheless, their example of dedication and service to their church and to the community provides a model for each one of us.

### O'Brien Sisters



**Mother Mary St. Peter (Mary Catherine)** and her sister **Sister Mary of the Precious Blood (Jane)** were daughters of James O'Brien and Martha Dixon. Mother Mary St. Peter died December 29, 1960.

We believe, but are not certain, that both were members of the Precious Blood Sisters.

### The Janisse Sisters

**Sister Marie Patrice** and **Sister Marie Cecile** were daughters of Frank P. Janisse and Claire Durocher. Sister Marie Cecile died in 1970.

## McCarthy Sisters

These Sisters of the Hotel Dieu Order were also sisters in one of Maidstone's oldest families; they are **Anne and Mary**, daughters of Richard and Catherine (McCann) McCarthy. They were sisters of Andrew McCarthy and aunts of Rosemary Hebert and Emmett McCarthy.

**Sister Mary McCarthy** was a graduate of the Hotel-Dieu of Chicago School of Nursing and a registered pharmacist. In 1907 she became the first Director of the Hotel Dieu of Windsor School of Nursing. **Sister St. Joseph (Anne)** died in 1928 and Sister McCarthy (Mary) in 1929.



The McCarthy sisters are shown here in their traditional habits; readers accustomed to the more secular style of clothing of contemporary sisters may find these habits an historical curiosity.

## Lennon Sisters

**Sister Marie Lennon** was born in 1901 and entered the Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception in Pembroke; she died in 1995.

Her sister **Sister Clarice Lennon** was born in 1904 and entered the Ursuline Sisters at "The Pines" in Chatham in 1925. She taught in a number of schools in London Diocese and is currently retired and living at "The Pines" in Chatham.

The sisters were daughters of Edward Lennon and Catherine Moynahan; both parents were born in Maidstone and were from early pioneer families



**Sister Marie Lennon**



**Sister Clarice Lennon**



## Ursuline Order



**Mother Amelia  
Stella Lepain**  
F - Joseph Lepain  
M - Amelia McLean  
Died



**Mother Xavier  
Mary Frances Cole**  
F - Abraham Cole  
M - Maggie McGuigan  
Died - 1969



**Sister Mercedes  
Clair Marie Conroy**  
F - Stephen Conroy  
M - Loretta Collins  
Died -

## Other Orders



**Sister St. Philip  
Eleanor McLoskey**  
F - Vincent McLoskey  
M - Delia  
Died 1973  
Servite Order



**Sister Thomas  
Clara McCarthy**  
F - Thomas McCarthy  
M - Lillian  
Died - 1960  
Holy Names Order





**Sr. St. Timothy  
Katie Sullivan**  
F - Timothy Sullivan  
M - M. McCann



**Sr. Mary Edmunda  
M. Brazill**  
F - Daniel Brazill  
M - Theresa Halford  
Died - 1937  
Sisters of Providence



**Sr. Rose de Lima  
A. McCarthy**  
F - James McCarthy  
M - Bridget O'Connell  
Died - 1954  
Seton Order of Charity

**Sister Noreen (Mary Sexton)**  
F - Thomas Sexton  
M - Rose Barrett  
Died - 1973  
Dominican Order





## St. Joseph Order

### **Sister Alphonse**

#### **Katie Sullivan**

F - Michael Sullivan

M - Catherine Kelly

Entered - 1876

Died - 1884

### **Sister Benedict**

#### **Alice Spring**

F - John Spring

M - Mary Downing

Entered - 1880

Died - 1933

### **Sister Sabina**

#### **Theresa Kelly**

F - Christopher Kelly

M - Theresa McDonald

Entered - 1921

Died - 1986

### **Sister Agatha**

#### **Mary McCarthy**

F - Jeremiah McCarthy

M - Susan McMahan

Entered - 1881

Died - 1931

### **Sister Elizabeth**

#### **Mary Higgins**

F - Thomas Higgins

M - Mary Cavanagh

Entered - 1880

Died - 1938



### **Sister Mechtilde**

#### **Susan McCarthy**

F - Jeremiah McCarthy

M - Susan Mc Mahon

Entered - 1881

Died - 1943



### **Sister Vincent**

#### **Margaret Halford**

F - John Halford

M - Ellen Barrett

Entered - 1892

Died - 1948

## Sister Agatha Halford

**Sister Agatha** (Mary Genevieve) Halford of the St. Joseph Order spent most of her sixty-three years of religious life caring for children at orphanages in London and Windsor. On her retirement in 1971, she volunteered to continue serving in Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories. She eventually retired to Mount St. Joseph, London.

She was the daughter of Elizabeth McCloskey and Robert A. Halford, the fourth of fifteen children. Sister Agatha died in January 1995 at the age of ninety-three.

When Sister Agatha left Maidstone to join the St. Joseph Sisters she went with her cousin Adelaide McAuliffe. They were continuing the earlier Halford tradition of cousins and/or sisters in religious life. In the mid 1800s the Immaculate Heart of Mary Order received both **Sister Estelle** (Anna Mae Halford) and **Sister Clarissa** (Ettie Halford), daughters of William Halford and Rose Kelly.

Cousins of those sisters were another set of sisters in religious orders.



## Sister St. Ferdinand

**Sister St. Ferdinand** (Ellen Halford), daughter of Abraham Halford and Ellen Flynn, entered the Presentation of Mary Order while her sister **Catherine** was **Sister Laurentia** of the Holy Name Order. In 1825 their father came to Maidstone Cross as a ten-year-old.

### **Sisters of St. Joseph Who Served in Maidstone (Deceased)**

Sr. Addolorata McDougall	Sr. Fidelis Fortune	Sr. Mary Catherine McSherry
Sr. Alberta Kenny	Sr. Florence Said	Sr. Mary Edward Hill
Sr. Alonzo Murray	Sr. Francis Theresa	Sr. Mary Francis McMillan
Sr. Augusta Fuerth	Sr. Geraldine Hanlon	Sr. Mary Immaculate Krauskopf
Sr. Baptist Stafford	Sr. Helen Noonan	Sr. Pauline McGuire
Sr. Berchmans Connelly	Sr. Helena Larocque	Sr. Perpetua Morrissey
Sr. Bernadette Kerrigan	Sr. Hildegard Carrigan	Sr. Regina Toohey
Sr. Bertha Bannon	Sr. Immaculate Heart	Sr. Remigius McIntyre
Sr. Bertrand Langan	Wilkinson	Sr. Rosalie Joly
Sr. Bonaventure White	Sr. Isabel Tobin	Sr. Sabina Kelly
Sr. Borromeo McManus	Sr. Josephine Fallon	Sr. St. Alban Quinlan
Sr. Brendan McCarthy	Sr. Kathleen Gleeson	Sr. St. Charles Moss
Sr. Catherine Cunningham	Sr. Leocrita Faubert	Sr. St. Dominic Carrigan
Sr. Cecilia Podleski	Sr. Lucy Kennedy	Sr. St. George Murray
Sr. Clotilde Morrissey	Sr. Lutgarde Stock	Sr. St. Leonard Phelan
Sr. Dionysia Sullivan	Sr. Madeleine McDonald	Sr. St. Martin McGrenere
Sr. Eileen Cronyn	Sr. Magdalen McCarthy	Sr. St. Omer Glavin
Sr. Elzear Hinnegan	Sr. Marceline Tully	Sr. St. Peter Troy
Sr. Emily Shanahan	Sr. Mildred Henry	Sr. St. Teresa Jordan
Sr. Emmanuel Dunn	Sr. Mildred Soulliere	Sr. St. Thomas Dillon
Sr. Ernestine Barrette	Sr. Monica O'Reilly	Sr. Thecla Martens
Sr. Eugene Bond	Sr. Mary Walsh	Sr. Ursula Dalton
Sr. Eulogia Isber	Sr. Mary Alice McGrenere	Sr. Wenefreda Moran
Sr. Febronia Nigh	Sr. Mary Angela Flaherty	

### **Sisters of St. Joseph Who Served in Maidstone (Living)**

Sr. Alexandrine Callan	Sr. Florian Atkinson	Sr. Mary Cornelius Foran
Sr. Alma Jordan	Sr. Isabelle Girard	Sr. Mary Louis McSherry
Sr. Aloysia Van Dorrestyn	Sr. Jeannette Leahy	Sr. Mary Kieran
Sr. Benedicta O'Reilly	Sr. Loretta Hagen	Sr. Mary Raphael Giedemann
Sr. Bernice Hennessy	Sr. Lucille Dwyer	Sr. Victoria (Mary Pius) Burtney
Sr. Clarence Loftus	Sr. Marguerite Sullivan	Sr. Patrick Sloan
Sr. Columba Ward	Sr. Marie Laprise	Sr. Rosary Fallon
Sr. Edmund Isber	Sr. Marie Vianney Murray	Sr. Rose Theresa
Sr. Eileen Foran	Sr. Marietta Suske	Sr. St. Hubert Heron
Sr. Esther Bardawill	Sr. Maura McGuinness	Sr. Thecla Martens

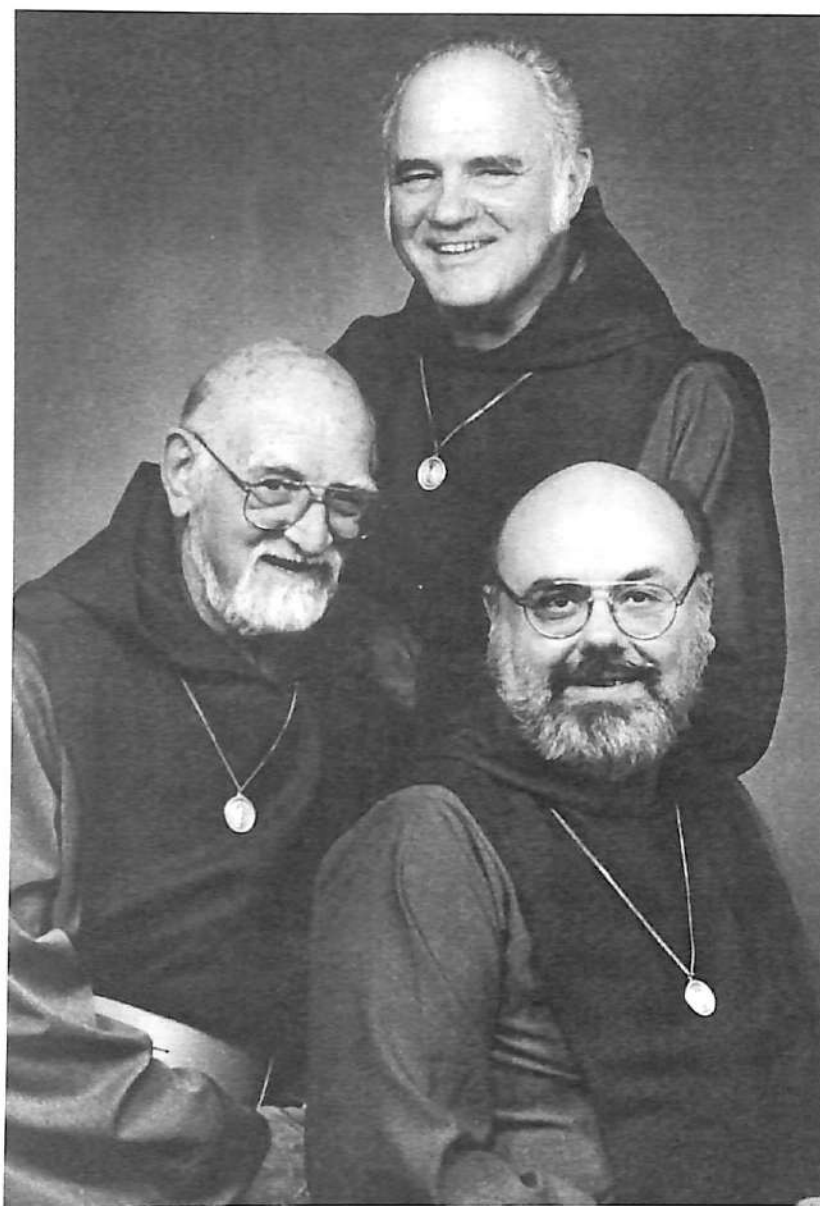
Compiled by Sr. Pauline Leblanc, Archivist of the Sisters of St Joseph of the London Diocese

## Christian Life Society - Our Brothers in the Monastery

*Our Brothers in the monastery, whom you have seen over the years, form a community called The Christian Life Society. This Society is a new religious community which seeks the contemplative life with an openness to a ministry that shares contemplative insights with others and even guides others in their deeper walk with God.*

*The Theology underlying The Society is that the mysteries of Christ's life should be made real or actual in all of our lives. That is to say, Christian life is the continuation or extension of the re-living of the mystery of the incarnation. The Word of God wants to become flesh in all of us.*

*St. John of the Cross describes the contemplative as a person whose entire life is reduced to nothing but faith, hope and charity. An interesting description of contemplation is from its etymology **cum** and **temple** - to be in the temple with (God); indeed, to **be** a temple with God.*



*Our first emphasis is prayer, the great means of union with God. We also stress sacrifice - leading us to let go of all that is not God and spiritual direction - guidance toward correct behaviour in our approach to God. A great emphasis in our approach to contemplation is the healing of the inner person - the call to wholeness. This includes psychological ministry as well as spiritual. As a fruit of our discipline, we have an apostolate to others in their search for union with God and consequent wholeness.*

*Our members come from varied backgrounds. We seek to be self-supporting from our own gifts and talents and have thus expanded our apostolate to include the making of sacred vestments and liturgical adornment. For the rest, we believe that spiritual life is situated in ordinary everyday real life and includes direction which helps to integrate life with God with our everyday life and work in the world.*

Written by Fr. Mark

**Father Mark Barron, Brother George Starmer and Brother Gerald Henn**

## Altar Society

St. Mary's Altar Society started sometime in the 1890's when Fr. McGee was pastor. The basic aims of the society have always been to maintain, repair and re-plenish the sacred vessels, linens, altar veils and robes for the altar servers. In addition, the Society makes available religious articles and books and, for special occasions, decorates the church with flowers. At present, all parishioners are automatically considered members and the Society offers a monthly Mass for all our intentions as well as a memorial Mass on the death of a parishioner.

Fund raising efforts have varied over the years. Keno parties were at one time very popular; picnic suppers were yet another crowd-pleaser in the past. In fact, records note that more than 1,000 people attended the annual picnic and chicken dinner on 26 August, 1929, the proceeds of which were added to the fund for the new convent to be built for the Sisters of St. Joseph. Of course all the food was donated, prepared and served by the ladies of the parish. With the arrival of the war, rationing was imposed and effectively put an end to the annual picnic.

A more enduring form of fundraising has been the ongoing Lenten Card Party series. Certainly there have been changes and players from outside the parish are now as numerous as parishioners, but the pleasures of an evening of euchre, a light meal and the chance of prizes remain a drawing card after all these years. These games are so much a part of our parish life that they even were the subject of a paper on folklore by a researcher from the University of Michigan, Francine Giguere Simmonds.

More recently, the fundraising committee has sponsored numerous bingos at large, loud and smoke-filled bingo halls in Windsor. Volunteers who subjected themselves to the noise, nicotine and long hours helped to pay off our new hall.

Adaptability to changing circumstances is not a new aspect in St Mary's. About the turn of the century a storm damaged the bell tower; the ladies went from door to door asking for pledges to raise money to repair the tower and purchase a new bell. All those who gave a pledge had their name embroidered on a patch of material. Later the ladies sewed these all together and made a large quilt to be raffled. The money pledged paid for the tower repairs and the new bell, and the money made from selling the tickets helped to pay the fuel bill for the church. Their ingenuity benefited all!

All of these endeavors take time and sacrifice and it is with gratitude that we remember the leadership of people like Christine Halford, the first Secretary Treasurer; also Elizabeth Halford, Mary Renaud, Marie Allen, and Edna Chittle who served as president for 25 years. For many years the Austin sisters have kept the linens laundered and the sacred vessels clean and polished.

During the 150th anniversary celebrations, former altar society presidents were honoured at the Mass for senior parishioners. Roses were presented as a token of thanks to Ella Mae Markham, Evelyn Markham, Joan Hebert (representing Violet Shanahan), Helen Beaudette, Carol Strong, Loretta McCarthy, Marie Markham, and Elizabeth McCarthy.

## C.M.B.A

The Catholic Mutual Benefit Association was a charitable fraternal organization to provide inexpensive life insurance for Catholic men. It was established in 1876 and Maidstone parish actively participated from 1883. At the time of his death from pneumonia in May of

1898, sixty-three year old Richard Barrett had been a member for fifteen years; his son Thomas F. Barrett received \$1900 while the secretary of the C.M.B.A. Maidstone Council, William Cole, received \$100.



### Altar Society Presidents



### 1996 Parish Council



Front row: Diane Lawhead, Monica Pare, Suzanne Rau, Sal Gignac  
Back row: Terry Ukraineec, Tom Halford, Omer Souilliere, Tim Halford.

## Altar Society Lenten Card Parties

Lenten Card Parties have been a traditional way to raise funds in Maidstone, a logical extension of the many games of euchre enjoyed by parishioners in their own homes.



Current organizers, Fran Rauth and Theresa Tetzlaff, are shown above discussing fine points of strategy with long-time card players, Emmett and Rita McGuire and Evelyn Markham.



The tradition continues with excellent card players among young people as well as senior parishioners. Facing the camera from left, are Jade Jobin, Ryan Fuerth and Jeff Benoit.

## Some of Our Former Altar Boys



Back row: Norbert Kosokowsky, Victor Bellaire, Leonard McCarthy, Frank McCloskey, Francis Kotow, Ron Bissonnette, Gary Deehan, Vincent (Spin) Brown, Joe John, George Markham, Peter John, Richard Bissonnette, Leonard Collins, Terry Collins, Joe Mullins, Jim Mullins.

Second row: Fr. A. P. Marentette, Leo Kosokowsky, John Bissonnette, Dan McGuire, Mark McGuire, Joe Kotow, Orville Bellaire, Ray Vandongen, Jerome St. Louis, John Mullins, Emmett McGuire, Dick McCarthy, Jack Vandongen, Michael Collins, George John, Joe McCloskey and Charles Sexton Sr.

## Altar Servers in 1974



Back row: Fr. Marentette, Paul Kosokowsky, Richard Markham, Robert Markham, Joe McCarthy and Todd Kavanagh

Second row: Casey Hossack, Michael Fortowsky, Donald Bissonnette, Michael Bissonnette.

Front row: Terry Hossack, Dan Bissonnette, Sean Collins, Glen Kosokowsky, Chris Fortowsky and Tim Hossack.

## Present Altar Servers



Front row: Anna Hayes, Amy St. Louis, Jenny Schuurman, Tricia Daniher, Danielle Dupuis, Nicole Brouyette, Kent Hergott.

Middle row: Peter Burke, Daniel Fraser, Jonathan McKee, Melanie Moretto, Jessica St. Louis, Katrina Johnson, Melissa Edwards.

Back row Joseph Dula, David Fraser, Victoria Eyraud, Christina Gardonio, Meaghan Czerwieniec, Mike Hebert.



Adult Altar Servers volunteer their time to serve funerals.

Front row: Omer Souilliere, Tom Halford, Earl Allen

Back Row: Emmett McGuire, Dick McCarthy, Pat Knuckle, and Harry Fraser

## The Cemetery Board

On completion of the first brick church in Maidstone, around 1848, a cemetery was established and remained in use for about twenty-five years, at which time the current cemetery was opened in conjunction with the construction of the new church. Those interred in the old cemetery were moved to the new as were the grave markers. Thus we find such inscriptions as: In Memory of Ann, Wife of Michael Cavanagh, Died Nov. 7, 1858. Age 46 yr. and Daniel Costigan Family, Lawrence 1862-1864, and Rebecca six months, 1874.

The property for the present cemetery was donated by Mr. Patrick McNally, who died in 1894 at the age of 83 and whose descendants include the Deehan and Kane families. The first adult interred in the new cemetery was John McFarland, buried on July 15, 1874.

Few records exist of the early years of the cemetery as it was not until a cemetery board was formed by Father J. P. Gleeson in March 1939 that record keeping was formalized.

In the following fifty-seven years members have demonstrated a sense of long service commitment. We have had only three presidents: Margaret Robinson (1939-1966); Grace McCarthy (1966-1979); and Martin Strong (1979 to the present). Vice-presidents also show a strong sense of commitment: Grace McCarthy (1939-1966); Mrs. Emmett Doyle (1966-1970); James Markham (1970-1974); Peter L. Halford assisted from 1970-1979.

The four secretary-treasurers are Mrs. Joseph Perrin (1939-1946), Bernadette McLean (1946-1975), Carolynn Collins (1975-1979) and Judy Jobin (1979 to the present). Past members include Jim McAuliffe and Lawrence Jobin, and present ones are Wendy Halford and Carolynn Collins.

In 1947 the cemetery was re-tiled; as well, Thomas McCloskey and Melvin Markham placed markers on the corners of each lot. In 1958 the Board took over the sale of graves.

The wrought iron fence surrounding the cemetery was installed, and a sign, donated by Miss Robinson, was erected at the center gate.

From its formation until 1942, cemetery lots sold at \$18.00 for eight graves, \$9.00 for four. In 1942, new government regulations required that all graves be sold for \$3.00 each! More government regulations added in 1959 required the collection of perpetual care fees with the purchase of every grave. Since 1992, care and maintenance fees must be collected on every memorial installed. Our Board has continued to raise fees regularly to insure that there will be sufficient funds for future development and improvements.

Since the early seventies, graves have been sold only to parishioners. This careful planning will allow the existing property to provide cemetery services for our parish community for many years to come.

Recent improvements include a monument to the unborn who have lost their lives through abortion, the planting of trees along the border with the school, the installation of tile and catch basins to improve drainage, and the construction of a walkway to join the cemetery to the school driveway.

The Board is a member of the Diocese of London and Essex Deanery Association of Catholic Cemeteries. We are regulated by the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial relations, reporting annually on the required Care and Maintenance Funds, both for property (formerly known as Perpetual Care) and for monuments.

Volunteers on the board are committed to providing their fellow parishioners with a peaceful sacred place for the interment of their loved ones. We are conscious of our duty to preserve our cemetery as a source of local history and as a memorial to those who have gone before us in faith.

Compiled with the assistance of Judy Jobin.



## Special Occasions in the Cemetery



November 12, 1995 - Dedication of the Monument to the Unborn

## St. Mary's Mission Society

Jesus said "As long as you did it to the least of my brethren, you did it to me" (Matthew 25, verse 40). St. Mary's listened to Jesus' request to help the needy and the hungry and began a Mission Society, February 1989, inspired by Father Bill Kornacker. Carol Strong was the first president and Ruth Quinlan is the present one.

The aims of the Mission Society are to raise awareness of the needs of the two-thirds of the world's population who are hungry, to pray for the spiritual and material needs of the less fortunate of our brethren, and to raise funds for the material needs of the poor.

Since its inception the Society has invited men and women missionaries to share their experiences of living and working with the poor, both in foreign missions and in Canada.

Money is raised by means of raffles, dinners, such as the Fish Dinner on Good Friday (co-sponsored with the Altar Society), the annual Yard Sale at the home of Pat and Blanche Knuckle, and private donations. The Society also collects stamps and pennies and conducts an annual clothing drive.

St. Mary's Mission Society has sent money or goods to:

- Esk-Imo and Keewatin-LePas in the Canadian North;
- El Salvador (care of SalveAide);
- Guam (care of the late Father Tim Kavanagh);
- St. Peter Claver Parish in Kingston, Jamaica;
- Madonna House in Ghana, West Africa;
- Brother Robert Middle Loetz, India;
- Windsor Downtown Mission and Hiatus House.

In addition, assistance has been given to Birthright and Holy Names School Chaplaincy.

The London Diocese Mission Office, with Father Mousseau as the Director, is located here at St. Mary's rectory. Father Mousseau gives the missions and our society great encouragement and help.

Parishioners are noted for generosity as much today as they were in the days when Jesuit missionaries from Assumption served their spiritual needs. Members of the Mission Society hope that those who give will receive back a hundredfold.

Compiled with the assistance of Elizabeth McCarthy.

## Holy Name Society

The Holy Name Society started in St. Mary's Parish sometime after World War I while Father Peter McCabe was pastor. A few of the early officers were Robert Halford Sr., John McAuliffe Sr., Thomas McCloskey and Mike McCloskey. Their main functions were to give good example by honouring the name of Jesus and by receiving Holy Communion in a body the second Sunday of each month.

Each year on the second Sunday in June a rally would be held for the entire county, each parish taking its turn to host the special occasion.

One year shortly before World War II, hundreds of men marched from downtown Windsor to Jackson Park for Benediction in the open air. The rallies were suspended later because of gas rationing and were never held thereafter.

### Good Friday Fish Fry - An Annual Tradition



### Mission Society Yard Sale, September 1995

Ruth Quinlan, Sister Mary Ryan, Grace Maitre, Pat and Blanche Knuckle, Elizabeth McCarthy, Ella Mae Markham, Vera Quinlan, Lucille Allen.

## **Knights of Columbus**

### **St. Mary's Council No. 9226**

Founded in 1880, the Knights of Columbus is a Catholic, fraternal, international service organization with more than 1.5 million members belonging to more than 9,600 local Councils. It is a group of men and their families enjoying time together, helping others, sharing their faith and united in common causes. Maidstone connections to the Knights go back a long way as a 1919 photo of the Windsor Council shows two parishioners, Robert Halford and Robert McCarthy

St. Mary's K of C was instituted on February 9, 1986 due to the considerable efforts of various Charter members including Fr. Bill Kornacker, Gerry Lachine, Bob Croft and District Deputy Marcel St. Pierre. Prior to 1986, many parish men belonged to the Essex or McGregor K of C; since 1986 the 58 charter members have grown to 142. They have donated over \$90,000 and hundreds of hours to local charities, as well as church, community and youth activities in the past five years.

Activities sponsored by the St. Mary's K of C Council include an annual February banquet where the Knights of the month, year and decade, the family of the year and the volunteer of the year are honoured. There is an annual family picnic and horse-shoe tournament, an invitational family softball tournament, a summer golf league as well as the annual Vanhoorne golf tournament, Harrow hockey tournament, the K of C Free Throw Tournament for youths between the ages of 10 to 14 years old as well as children's Halloween and Christmas parties.

The officers in 1986 and the present ones are shown below:

Chaplain	Fr. Bill Kornacker	Fr. Larry Mousseau
Grand Knight	Bob Croft	Ed Byrne
Deputy Grand Knight	Gerry Lachine	Gord Edwards
Treasurer	Harry Fraser	Brian Carr
Chancellor	Mike Cassar	Shaun Fuerth
Advocate	Hugh Hebert	Frank Sauve
Recorder	Tim Hebert	Brian Soulliere
Lecturer	Philip Eyraud	
Warden	Dan Hebert	Ken Gignac
Inside Guard	Roy Deehan	Charlie Sim
Outside Guard	Barry Bellaire	Doug Mailloux
Outside Guard	Ed Byrne	Terry Collins Jr.
Trustee	Jim Croft	Mike Cassar
Trustee	Jim Markham	Mike Markham
Trustee	Emmett McGuire	Jamie Hunter
Financial secretary	Louis Benoit	Jim Croft
District Deputy	Marcel St. Pierre	Gary Triolet

Compiled with the assistance of Ed Byrne



Charter Members - Back row: John Deehan, Mike Mullins, Phil Eyraud, Tim Hebert, Jim Croft  
 Middle row: Roy Deehan, Gord O'Neil, Bob Croft, Harry Fraser, Gerald Vanhoorne  
 Front row: Fr. Bill Kornacker, Mike Cassar, Dan Hebert, Gerry Lachine, Emmett McGuire



Knights of Columbus - 1996 - Back row: Harry Fraser, Brian Carr, Brian Souilliere, Jim Croft,  
 Shaun Fuerth, Charlie Sim, Doug Mailloux.  
 Front row: Mike Cassar, Jim Barry, Ken Gignac, Mike Markham, Ed Byrne, Jamie Hunter, Gord  
 Edwards.



## Youth Groups

The Catholic Youth Organization was established in Maidstone Parish in 1958 under the original direction of Harold Wellwood. It provided youth activities, including dances, hay rides, skating parties, etc. Later directors were John Hebert, Ted Hossack and Larry Donald. The C.Y.O. disbanded in the mid 60s.

The most recent St. Mary's Youth Group, known as KICKS (Kids in Christ's Kingdom), was comprised of young people from ages 12 to 18. Various activities included starvathons during Lent, Passion Plays at Easter, visits to

nursing homes, peer group discussions, car washes, hayrides, a canoe trip and camping.

In addition, the youth became involved in the various lay roles within the liturgies. They fulfilled traditional adult roles, such as readers, ushers and greeters. A number of dedicated co-ordinators including Tim and Wendy Halford, Joe and Sherry McCarthy, Roy and Maureen Moffatt, Dan and Marie Hebert, Luann Hebert and Paula Deehan helped the KICKS programme be a success in our parish.

## The Catholic Women's League

St. Mary's first Parish Council of the Catholic Women's League was organized by Father Peter McCabe in 1922, with Elizabeth (McCloskey) Halford as President. In 1940, Fr. J. P. Gleeson re-organized the group with Mrs. Albert Huneau as President and Anne (McCann) Quinlan and Marie (Connell) Allen on the executive. Marie Markham, served as president for nine years under seven consecutive directors: Frs. J. Jordan, M. J. Quenneville, I. O'Neil, J. P. Gleeson, J. A. Mackasy, J. A. Graham, W. McNabb and J. Fogarty when the charter was surrendered.

In fundraising the League sponsored an annual bingo, bake sale and card parties. The money raised assisted deserving families with food and clothing, helped educate young priests, as well as Fr. Tim Kavanagh when typhoon Karen struck Guam. The C.W.L. arranged for a the dinner for Father Quinlan's first mass as well as meals when directors died,

and they helped renovate the convent chapel as well as the parish hall.

The League gave Grade VIII pupils graduating pins and it also sponsored an annual public speaking contest at St. Mary's School; it awarded prizes and a plaque with the winner's name that was kept at the school. The last undertaking of St. Mary's League council was to establish, in conjunction with the United Church women, a senior citizen's friendship club for the enjoyment of all in the community. Hobbies, games, shuffleboard and checkers were enjoyed and lunch, tea and coffee were served by the members.

Socializing and cardplaying were also part of the C.W.L. Minutes of meetings state: "The meeting ended with a game of euchre as usual," or "Due to the length of the meeting there was no time for the usual game of cards."

**KICKS Camping Retreat**  
**Camp Cedarwin, May, 1990**



**Starvation,  
Lent, 1982**

## Senior and Junior Sodalties

While Fr. A. Stroeder was pastor in 1930, the Sr. Sodality of the B.V.M. was established by Sister St. Martin shortly after the Sisters of St. Joseph arrived at the new convent. Twenty-five single women between the ages of sixteen and thirty were enrolled. Early officers were Estelle Kavanagh, Pauline Halford, Marjorie Brown, Mary Markham and Mary (Tom) McCloskey. Mary (McCloskey) McCarthy remembers the fund-raising dances of the Depression years: entry cost 50¢ and there was always tension until the first 50 had paid and thereby guaranteed the \$25.00 owed the band.

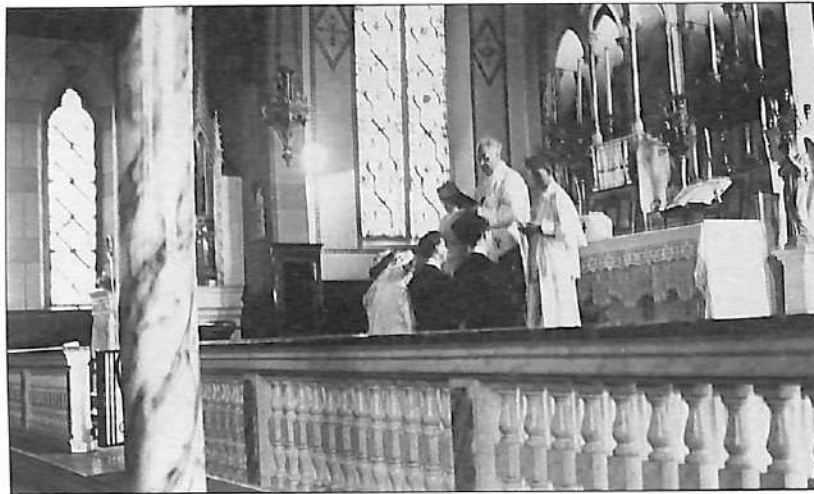
The Jr. Sodality was organized for 42 girls, from 9 to 15 years of age in May 1935 under the guidance of Sister St. Leonard; Elizabeth Chittle was the first president.

On the third Sunday of each month, the Sodality sang the Mass and received communion in a body and their banner was displayed in the sanctuary. Each year in May, the members marched in procession from the hall to the church to crown the statue of the Virgin Mary and to attend Mass and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. This was the highlight of the year and the church was filled with families and friends.

After fundraising by the Sodality a new tabernacle was installed by Charles Sexton on December 19, 1935. A list of donors was found under the tabernacle during recent renovations.

Donors who were Sodality Members included Mary McCloskey, Mary Markham, Geraldine Halford, Dora Allen, Muriel Bellaire, Monica Beahan, Marjorie Brown, Leticia Conroy, Margaret Conroy, Betty Collins, Alma Dawson, Mary Dawson, Edna Deehan, Grace Deehan, Mary Ferry, Betty Halford, Geraldine Halford, Mary Halford, Pauline Halford, Rosemary Halford, Kathleen Hayes, Monica Hayes, G. Hayes, Loretta Jobin, Josephine John, Clara Mae Kavanagh, Miss White (Father Gleeson's housekeeper), Estelle Kavanagh, Norene Kavanagh, Mary Kavanagh, Rita Kavanagh, Patricia McCann, Cecile McCarthy, Mary McCarthy, Rosemary McCarthy, Helen McLean, Marion McHugh, Miss Jean Drew, Bonnie Mullins, M. Mullins, Helen O'Brien, Evelyn Renaud, Helen Sexton, Sadie Shanahan, Olga Melnik, Annie Melnik, Aileen Renaud, Sister M. Ursula, Director, Fr. J. P. Gleeson, Pastor.

Parishioners who contributed included Mr. and Mrs. Robert Halford & Family, Mr. & Mrs. Ignatius Halford & Family, Denis Halford, John McAuliffe, Cyril McAuliffe, M. McAuliffe, William Hayes, Miss R. Halford, John Halford, Eugene Chittle, J. Halford, Mrs. Adelaide McAuliffe, Wm. O'Keefe, Mrs. Charles Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Jim O'Connel, Harold O'Connel, Mrs. Ed Hurley, Miss Mame Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Brockman, Aloysius Brockman, Agnes Brockman, Wilfrid Brockman, Austin O'Brien, Mrs. Lepain, Frank Lepain, Mrs. L. Lepain, J. F. Lepain, W. L. Lepain, R. Lepain, A. M. Lepain, Mrs. M. Lepain, R. J. Lepain, Miss Phyllis Lepain, K. Lepain, W. J. Lepain, Theresa Lepain, Miss Monica Lepain (deceased), Mrs. Annie Markham, Frank, Marie, Mary and Norman Kane.



Wedding of Rita Austin (Brousseau) in 1948  
The greatest privilege of a sodality member was permission to be married in the sanctuary.



Crowning of the Blessed Virgin, 1944

## The Maidstone Shamrocks

To the best of our information the original Maidstone Shamrock team was organized in the early 1930s and ceased operations in the late 40s or early 50s. Certainly various parish priests such as Fr. Gleeson and Fr. O'Neil had great interest in the team. The most notable manager during the first era was John Robinson and some of the prominent players were: O'Brien, Kavanagh, McCarthy, Penner, Ewing, Hillier and Jessop. Emmett McCarthy is a current parishioner who played under John Robinson. During this era large crowds attended the games most notably when the Shamrocks played the Camp Borden team. The Shamrocks also competed in Ontario baseball playdowns from time to time.

The second franchise began in the late fifties (perhaps 1957) when Pat McAuliffe and Harry McRae combined to bring the Roseland team to Maidstone. The Shamrock name was again used and the teams of this era were quite competitive. Some of the managers during this time were Harry McRae, Wilf Greaves, Al Lassaline, Len Quinn, Terry Collins, Hank Czerwieniec, Gary Deehan, Jim McAuliffe and Bernie Burke. Both Senior and Junior clubs represented the Shamrocks for many years in the Essex County leagues. The Juniors won two or three titles and, in one nine year span beginning in 1962, the Senior Shamrocks won seven league championships.

The park and playing field were considered among the finest in Essex and Kent counties during this period: Maidstone and area fans enjoyed watching the teams while having the comfort of cool shade provided by the large trees at the park.

Some current parishioners who were involved with this second era either as players or executive members are: Bob Kettels, Terry Collins, Bob Croft, Jim McAuliffe, Roy Deehan, Tom Halford, Dick McCarthy, Emmett McCarthy, Hank Czerwieniec, Len Collins and Gerry Fraser.

Compiled by Gary Deehan.





## Music Ministry

A commitment to choral music is a tradition at St. Mary's that goes back at least to the first brick church in Maidstone in the 1840s. As Fr. Charles Collins notes in his history of the parish: *"A choir was formed. Bessie Mooney was appointed organist and choir directress of the same. Her singers were Philip, Richard and Edward Mooney and big Paddy McCann. It was not long before she had a rather large band of musicians ready and willing to lend their voices."*

In 1875, Father James Ouellette, harried as he was by the debt incurred in the building of the church, gave considerable attention to the development of the choir since he believed that *"if the choir gets going, all else will take care of itself."* He was, it is recorded, rewarded with excellence." Surely the fine acoustics of the new church played no small role in this achievement: to this day, the design of the structure lends itself to a bright, crisp quality that is valued by all who sing or record there.

Another time-honoured practice is the attention given to the training of young voices. In the days before Vatican II and its promotion of a liturgy in the vernacular, the Latin of hymns and responses had to be learned along with the accompanying music. Since the pupils neither knew how to read music nor understood Latin, rote learning was the rule under the tutelage of the (usually) patient Sisters of St. Joseph. In the 40s, Don Borrowman remembers that choral music was taught regularly and that sometimes "a

*travelling nun would come and provide additional instruction."*

During the 50s, Friday afternoons were given over to choir practice and students were brought from No. 5 & 8 and No. 2 to No. 7 for this purpose. Few were exempt from choir practice and Sisters doled out such boring seatwork that even those with minimal musical skills preferred to participate.

The recent successes at the annual Kiwanis Music Festival of the youth choir, under the direction of Rose (Renaud) Jobin, show clearly that choral excellence in young singers is still actively encouraged and appreciated.

We are a fortunate parish indeed to have choral and instrumental music at all three weekend masses. In addition, few parishes have a Resurrection Choir to console the grieving and to celebrate new life in Christ.

Much has changed since the days of Bessie Mooney and Father Ouellette's choir: Latin is rarely sung these days; pump organs and early electronic models have given way to the digital wizardry of the Allen organ and the electronic keyboard; other instruments enrich, on occasion, the traditional combination of organ and voice. Some things, however, die hard: most choir members still cannot, or can only minimally, read music and the patience of present choir directors is tried almost as often as that of the nuns in the old days. Their patience, though, and the sweet acoustics of the Church continue to ensure that parish celebrations are filled with a "a joyful noise."

## Tim Hebert

In our 150 year history we have had a number of long-serving organists/choir directors and, after nearly 30 years of involvement, Tim Hebert has a lot of memories of the music ministry. *"I owe my start to Sr. Alexandrine who, given the task of finding an organist for the weekday masses, felt that this grade four student with two years of piano lessons under his belt was a logical candidate. After a brief audition playing 'Praise to the Lord' the job was mine and I was destined to spend the bulk of my time at church in front of the keys rather than in the pew."*

Over the years, working with five pastors, he has played over 4,000 masses, weddings and funerals. Until he got a drivers' license his mother Rose drove him so that he could play, for the first 3 years, the weekday masses, the next 15 years all three weekend masses, and for the last 12 years he has played the 11:00 mass. During his tenure, his equipment has changed from the Conn electric organ of the 60s to the Allen digital installed in 1983 and the recently purchased Roland keyboard.

He has also enjoyed the many years of involvement with the choir. Although some members have come and gone, others have been singing with him for 20 years. He notes that the choir has always enjoyed not only singing together but also relaxing together; choir members particularly remember sometimes raucous celebrations that have marked seasons and competitions. His tribute to the singers is that *"while together primarily for Christmas, Easter and special occasions, the group has always been able to achieve an inspiring sound with only minimal practice."*

Parishioners and the many couples whose wedding he has enhanced, are fortunate that he is not easily discouraged: he remembers that at his first wedding in St. Mary's the bride fainted and threw up and he was quite worried that it was because she hated his music. Certain moments stand out as particularly noteworthy for him: the church centennial celebrations in 1974; farewell masses for the Sisters of St. Joseph, and for Frs. Marentette, Bastien and Kornacker; the men's choir participation in the ordination of Bishop Fred Henry in London; participation in a number of Kiwanis Music Festivals and the musical recording for the 150th anniversary. At the June 9 Mass, it was he who chose to have the choir sing some of the very old, rarely heard hymns that had the Bishop in tears.

St. Mary's has hosted Christmas, Ecumenical, and Marian Music Services and the choir is frequently invited to add to celebrations in other churches as well as to such community occasions as the Essex Christmas Song Festival.

Having worked with many talented musicians and singers and having played in numerous churches, Tim really appreciates the beautiful acoustics of our building. He concludes: *"As I take time to reflect on nearly thirty years of involvement with the music ministry at St. Mary's, I am truly thankful for the talents given to me and the chance to share them with my fellow parishioners."*



## Kevin Masterson

*My association with St. Mary's Choir goes back to the late 1980s when Tim Hebert asked me to conduct the choir for the Christmas and Easter season. Tim and I knew each other from Essex District High School days as he accompanied the choir which I directed.*

*It has been a pleasure and an honour to conduct this choir. They have a beautiful sound and their enthusiasm and musicality remind me so much of the choirs I've had at E.D.H.S.*

*Although I am the conductor, I feel St. Mary's Parish has been blessed in the leadership and talents of Tim Hebert. The choir reflects his style and feeling for music; the warmth and blending is a tribute to the way he introduces and teaches new selections. Tim is unflappable. The choir is a special blend of relatives and friends and this has contributed so much to the success of this organization. It is such a positive and happy group and I am always so proud of the way they perform.*

*How does the choir feel about rehearsals? Well, they have added that activity as another deadly sin! Nevertheless, they seem to always manage to come together to enhance liturgical celebrations.*

*I also believe that the clerical support they enjoy is very important. Not all parish priests recognize the importance of liturgical music. All those involved in the music ministry should be grateful to Fr. Mousseau and his predecessors and should also be congratulated for their contributions to the parish of St. Mary's.*



### Senior Choir -

Back Row: Marie Hebert, Theresa Clermont, Lou Ann Hebert, Maureen Chope, Lianne Market, Carol Ann Duronio, Rose Claire Hayes, Carolyn Collins, Jo-Anne Hayes, Diane Lawhead.

Front Row: Tim Hebert, Mark Cloutier, Tim Belleau, Chris McCarthy, Don Nemeth, Patrick McGuire, Peter Halford, Dan Hebert, Harry Fraser, Tim Halford.

Absent: Hugh Hebert, Gerry Fraser, Chris Allsop, Shirley Desjardins, Barb McKee, Jean Bastien, and Director - Kevin Masterson.

## Youth Choir



Choir Director Rose (Renaud) Jobin and Accompanist JoAnne Vermeulen.

Back Row: Sara Petruzzi, Kim Dunn, Annie Marie Levesque, Kim Hebert, Colleen Pandolfo, Sarah McCarthy, Jessica McCarthy, Cassia Hebert.

Middle Row: Brielle Hayes, Meghan O'Neil, Alison Croft, Katrina Johnson, Michelle Hebert, Jenny Schuurman.

Front Row: Brittany Johnson, Lia Marinell, Kathleen Fraser, Mary McKee, Catherine Hebert, Jessica O'Neil.

## Rose Jobin

For the past fifteen years, St. Mary's Parish has been blessed to have a Youth Choir under the leadership of Rose Jobin and assistants Lana Deehan (past) and Kathy (Hayes) Kehoe (present).

Rose (Renaud) Jobin writes: *The beautiful acoustics of the church add to the vision of thirty angelic young choristers walking down the dimly lit and poinsettia decorated centre aisle, holding a candle and singing a carol on Christmas eve. A sight to behold and experience!*

*The Youth Choir has built a tradition of singing for special occasions throughout the liturgical year. During the Christmas season, they sing for the Children's Mass on Christmas Eve. To terminate the Christmas season, they sing for the acclaimed "Twelfth Day Christmas Festival" held at Central United Church in Windsor. During the Easter season, the Youth Choir sings for Holy Thursday and Easter Sunday services. To add new dimensions to the singing experiences, the choir has participated in the annual St. Mary's Church Spring Festival and the Windsor Kiwanis Music Festival; in the latter, they have been awarded "gold" for their performances. In June 1997, at St. Denis Centre, University of Windsor, St. Mary's Youth Choir will be performing at the mammoth premier production of the "Windsor Choir Festival," featuring church, community and school choirs from both Windsor and Essex County.*

*There is always an open invitation to join the St. Mary's Youth Choir; a love of singing, a commitment and dedication to practicing and rehearsals are the only requirements. What better way is there to teach our young people how to proclaim the word of God than through song?*



## Hospitality Ministry



With varying degrees of formality and organization, ushers have always been a part of St. Mary's liturgical celebrations. Now a number of parishioners contribute by greeting people at the entrance of the church before each Mass as well as helping with the offertory collection and procession.

Present greeters and ushers are, front row: Linda Halford, Sue Rau, Shirley Kennedy, Theresa Tetzlaff, Nettie Market, Nancy Cook, Marlene Markham, Dawne Market, Jane Cloutier, Judy Eyraud.

Back row: Robert Kennedy, Dan Bissonnette, Richard Lafreniere, Randy Dame, Gord Edwards, Bob McCarthy, Pat Duronio, Jim McAuliffe.



Many children remember St. Mary's as "that nice place where they give out candy after Mass." For many years Frank McCloskey continued this tradition, started by his father, Tom McCloskey.

Since Frank's death, Knut Egebert continues the tradition of rewarding well-behaved children.



## Sacramental Celebrations - Confirmation Class of 1910



Front row: Agnes Halford, Genevieve Barrett, Alma McCarthy, Bernadette Halford, Myrtle Sullivan, Bernadine Dunn, Aglae Jobin, Corrine Renaud, Sylvia Reaume, May Dunn, Florence Sexton, Marguerite Lennon, Irene Brown and Loretta Deslippe.

Second row: Evangeline Halford, Bernadette McCarthy, Marie Fitzpatrick, Helen McCann, Georgina Fields, Agnes McAuliffe, Angela Halford, Veronica Sullivan, Grace Barrett, unknown, Frances Eyraud, Florence Costigan, Marie Grandmaison, Lyons.

Third row: unknown, Grandmaison, Mary McCann, unknown, Agnes Donovan, unknown, unknown, Clotilde Halford, Elizabeth Kavanagh, Margaret Costigan, St. Louis.

Fourth row: unknown, Deslippe, unknown, Mary Greenway, Ida Kane, unknown, unknown, unknown, Charlotte Scally, unknown.

Last row: Beulah St. Louis, Annie Battersby, Millie Eyraud, Sadie Barry.



Front row: Fred McCann, Frank Jobin, Roy Russette, Darrel Reaume, Charles Kane, Wark Larkins, Joe Deslippe, Charles O'Connell, Harold Sexton, Gerald McAuliffe, William Greenway.

Second row: John Hayes, Frank Kane, Joe McNorgan, Stanley O'Connell, Joe Kane, Dominic McCarthy, Russell Coffee, Russell Sexton, Charles DeLisle, Arthur McPharlin.

Third row: Frank Lepain, William Donovan, Joe Hayes, Basil Cunningham, John Sullivan, Fred DeLisle, Charles Conroy, Laurier Stowe, Joe McCann, Llwellyn Dunne, Fred Fitzpatrick, Wilfred Kane.

Fourth row: unknown, Joe O'Connell, Fergus Cunningham, W. Sexton, Norbert Conroy, Andrew Taylor, unknown, unknown, Clarence Grondin.

Back row: Irvin Jones, Louis Wagner, Bernard Deslippe, Frank Grondin, Gordon O'Neil, Albert Kane.

## First Communion 1947



Girls, front row: Leona Kosokowsky, Maureen Collins, Bridget McCann, Dorothy Hayes, Agnes Durocher, Anna May O'Neil, unknown.

Back row: Jean Collins, Joan Collins, Nancy Turton, Theresa Desjardin, Mary Ann McCloskey, Maureen Lyons, unknown, Shirley Quinlan.

Boys, front row: Dennis Grondin, John Grant

Middle row: Wayne Robinson, John McCann, John Markham, Stanley Durocher, Don Lavin, Francis Desjardin, Jimmy McAuliffe, Jack McAuliffe, Norbert Desjardin, Tom Hayes.

Back row: unknown, unknown, Leonard Bezdan, Tony Ostrowski, Norbert St. Louis. Priest Fr. Harry Chisolm

## First Communion 1951



Girls: Joyce Lepain, M. Belleau, M. Spidalieri, Ruth Ann Croft, J. Grondin, Sharon McAuliffe, Sandra Dydzak, Patricia Kettels, Frances Lecuyer, Mary Anne Turton, L Grant, R. O'Neil, Rea Jobin, JoAnn Walker, J. Renaud, Judy Markham, Marilyn Flood

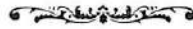
Boys: Larry Quinlan, Tom Halford, Robert McCarthy, W. Robinson, Leonard Adams, Charles Doyle, Jim McAuliffe (altar server), Mike McCloskey (altar server), E. O'Neil, Dan Hebert, P. Hayes, Jim Flood, Phil Eyraud, D. O'Neil. Priests: left, Fr. Chisolm and right Fr. Dwyer.

## Confirmation Class of 1951



Father Chisolm and the Confirmation class of 1951 in front of the main altar with the sanctuary lamp, statuary and the rear wall painting clearly visible.

## Confirmation Class of 1992



Front row: Melissa Quinlan, Diane Daniher, David Eyraud, Sam Kovac, Brian Dame, Amanda Ferriss, Katie Dame, Mark Gerard, Marcel Chauvin, Kerry O'Neil, Shawn Flood, Kyle Martin, Gary O'Neil, Terry Hogan, Gordon Edwards, Shannon Brown, John Flood.

Middle row: Dale Ondic, Rob Zack, Pat Dagenais, Jennifer Docherty, Brad St. Louis, Carrie Robson, Nicole Dalglish, Billie Jeanne Beckett, Mike Fox, Mike Cxerwieniec, Cindy Angelini, Angie Belleau, Kathleen Dennison, Suzy Nikita, Alix McGregor, Joslyne Jobin.

Back row: Bernadette Poirier, Steve Schuurman, Joey McGregor, Derek Stachyra, Shelley Lauzon, Kim Hebert, Rosa Laudicina, Laura Duronio, Cheryl Phillips, Patti Schuurman, Lynn Lavin, Melissa Robinson, Heather Hergott, Lisa O'Neil, Lisa Collins, Chris Stachyra, Mark Esping, Mike Girimonte, Charles Phillips.



## Longterm Service to the Community

Many parish members have influenced the way we know and live at "Maidstone Cross"; a few, by their longtime commitment to the community and by their involvement in its everyday life merit closer examination. We highlight some of those villagers who, through their contacts with so many people through the years, truly marked the way we relate not just to each other but also to our sense of being "from Maidstone."

### Nellie Moynahan and Ann Moynahan Jobin



Beth and Vicki Jobin wrote the following about their great-aunt Nellie Moynahan for the 1974 parish history book:

*She was born on March 31, 1865, daughter of Jeremiah Moynahan and Mary Brennan. At the age of seven Nellie came from Ireland to Maidstone with her parents to reside in the McGuire home. She began teaching at the age of fifteen at No. 7 and later No. 5 and 8. She taught forty years in Maidstone and was known as a strict disciplinarian. After moving to Windsor, she taught for the Ursulines. In 1940 Nellie died at the age of 75. Although Nellie never married, six sisters and two brothers have left many descendants in Maidstone.*



## Annie Markham



Before trans-national telephone companies and world-wide direct dialing that we all take for granted, telephone communication was usually a locally funded and controlled luxury. In such contexts, the local operator was the all-important guarantor of a connection with anyone not on the local party line. For over forty years, Annie (McGuire) Markham was Maidstone's "main connection".

Born August 4, 1879, the oldest daughter of Timothy and Sarah (McHugh) McGuire of Maidstone Township, in 1901 she married George Markham of Belle River. When George died in August, 1922, Annie and her young family of eight children moved to the Village where she became the telephone operator for the Sandwich South Municipal Telephone System in 1923, a position which she held until March 30, 1957.

Here she played a prominent role in the community: she was doctor's helper, nurse, ambassador of happiness and a constant source of information concerning the activities of this area. Since she was on duty twenty-four hours a day and since she processed all calls in and out of the township, she was well aware of what was going on in the area. Some of her grandchildren still remember her giving news and advice - based on "overheard conversations" - to their parents. Her family and the entire community mourned her death on March 27, 1964.

Her tradition of community service is continued by two daughters-in-law, Marie and Ella Mae Markham, a number of grandchildren including Jim and Mike Markham and Carol Strong, as well as great-grandchildren like Margie Johnson and Kelly Blais.

## Mr. and Mrs. Mike John



The long history of community commitment of the John family in Maidstone is due to the church itself. When Mr. and Mrs. Mike John were travelling to Windsor by train after their arrival in Canada, Camily John noticed that our church looked very much like the one in their home village Batroumine, north of Beirut and south-east of Tripoli in present-day Lebanon. She decided on the spot that this was where they were to live and would later bring up their family. There were five sons and five daughters: George, Philip, Josephine, Joe, Peter, Rose, Helen, Mike, Delores and Mary.

They bought the general store from Tom McCloskey in 1915 and continued to serve the village and area until Mrs. John's final retirement in 1982. After Mike's death in 1952, Camily carried on with the help, especially on weekends, of children and later of grandchildren.

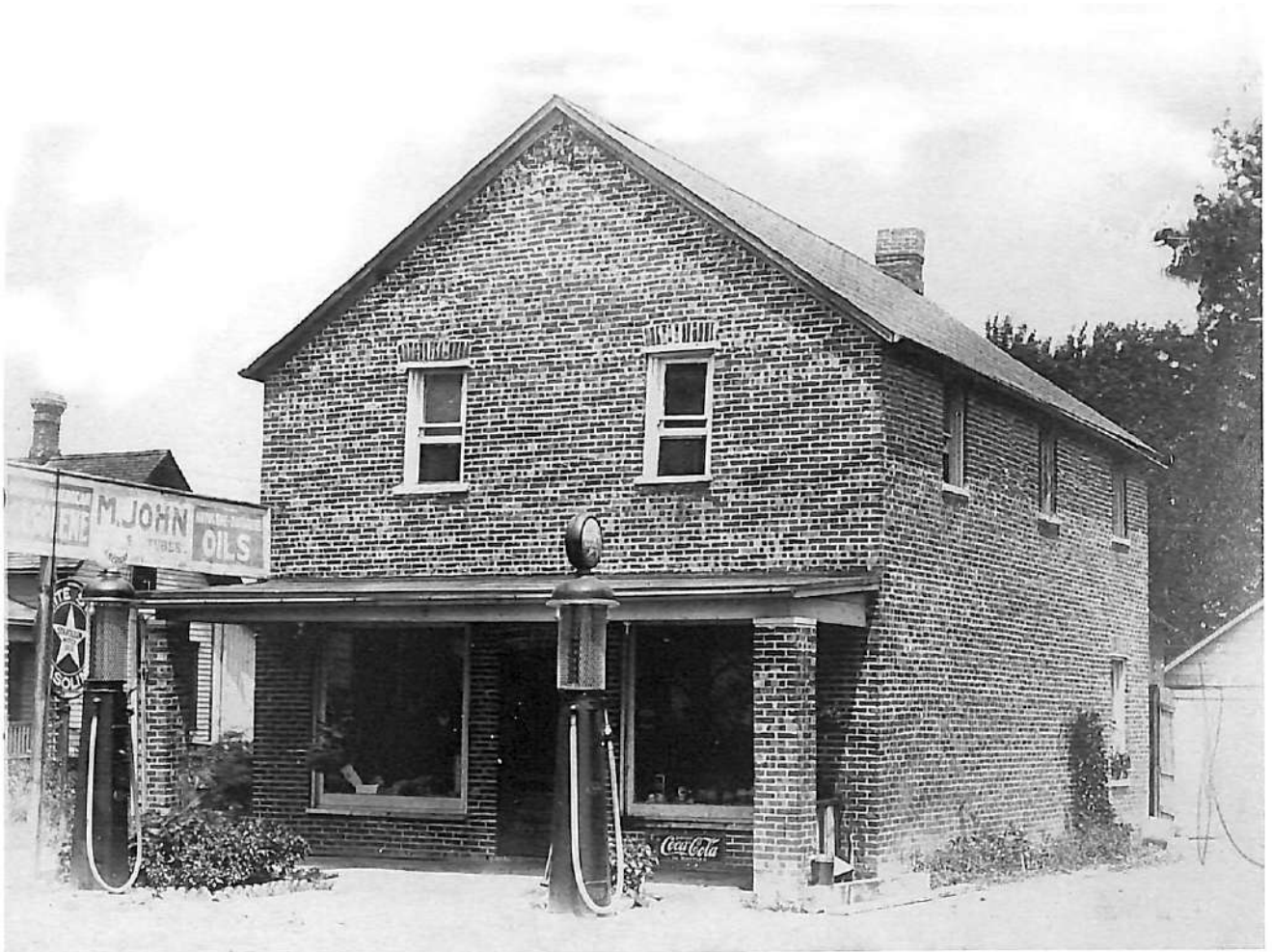
Many of us remember the after-Mass "ritual" on Sunday mornings: from church to "Ma" John's to pick up a Detroit Sunday paper, maybe some other goodies, but - almost always - a slab of orange cheddar from the wheel that was always on the counter. Lovely cheddar, kept at room temperature, with the butterfat just oozing on the cut edge! Real food with real taste.

Mrs. John was a consummate business-woman long before the advent of marketing studies, MBAs and sales gimmicks. Her approach was very straightforward: always present an alternative. So in the 1950s, we kids always had the option, on a purchase of an 8¢ Coke or a 33¢ pack of cigarettes, to receive the change in pennies or bubble gum at a penny each or blackballs at three for a penny. Of course, the "lovely bubble gum" was always "fresh from National Grocers!"

The John's store, and the people who served the community constantly for so many years, remain a part of our heritage which is remembered not only by the locals but also by many farmers who, over the years, lined up with their wagon-loads of grain for Flood's mill and stopped in to get a pop or a pack of cigarettes while waiting to deliver their grain.

The store is no more but the memories live on. As well, many of us enjoy in our homes artwork created by Judy Gould, daughter of Rose and Bill, who not only served the community behind the counter but also brightened our lives with her life and art.

The John Store about 1920



## "Nace" Halford

Ignatius "Nace" Halford was long a figure in the life of Maidstone Cross. Born in 1860, the son of John Halford II and Ellen Barrett, he and his wife Christine (Rourke) ran a general store, the post office and first telephone system in the village. They had nine children - Frank, Agnes (McPharlin), Bernadette (McLean), Dennis, Pauline (Quinlan), and Mary (Walker) - in the home next to the store. Although that store was demolished to make way for the present Post Office, their home still stands, and is presently the residence of the Reverend and Mrs. Roy Dowdy.

A staunch supporter of the church, it was he along with Eugene Sullivan who carted the cornerstone for the present church from Windsor, a matter of great pride to his last surviving daughter, Pauline Quinlan. As well, he also hauled brick from the Lennon farm - later the farm of his son-in-law, Ed Sexton - for the building of the church itself. In his era, there was certainly no question of "thirty and out." In 1945 he was honoured with the King George V Service medal for fifty-five years of service as postmaster of the village; he died the following year. The store and post office, however, continued to serve the community for another two decades: his youngest daughter Mary and her husband Johnny Walker carried on the tradition until 1964.

Nace certainly seems to have been an advocate of communication. Not only did he assure the mail, he also supported telephone links in the early days. The first telephone exchange in the village was installed in the store in 1909, was later moved to their home next door and then was moved one more house west to Annie Markham's house, now the home of Hugh and Luanne Hebert.

His role in facilitating communication, however, was not limited to the mail and the telephone. A number of the older members of our community remember the wider role of a store before such giants as Zehrs and A&P. The store not only provided staples and postal services, it was also a centre where people lingered to get "the news" of the area. As well, it provided a convenient shelter for those traveling on the electric railway, or later the bus. Mrs. Myrtle (Daniher) Crowder remembers that she "traveled to and from the City of Windsor to obtain a higher education and who lived with her parents on a Maidstone farm, Concession 9, often stopped in this store waiting for someone to come from home to pick her up. There were no buses in those days that picked up students..."

Of Nace's many descendants, Nancy (Quinlan) Cook continues the tradition of service to the parish and Clare (McLean) McCarthy has provided a number of photos for this publication.

Ignatius "Nace" Halford, postmaster and storekeeper, with Charles Stowe of Woodslee.







These portraits of Ignatius and Christine (Rourke) Halford were taken shortly after their wedding September 9, 1894. Both were deeply involved in parish activities. Christine Halford was the first president of the Catholic Women's League and was the secretary-treasurer of the League of the Sacred Heart for more than thirty years.

Below are Johnny and Mary Walker (youngest daughter of Nace and Christine) who carried on the general store until 1964, the year that this snapshot was taken. Their family is Shirley (De Meulemeester), Jay, JoAnn (Courneya), Linda (Smith) and Robert.





## Bernadette "Bernie" McLean

1897-1985

Bernadette McLean, daughter of Ignatius Halford and Christine Rourke, was noted for her service to St. Mary's Church and to the community of Maidstone. She married Daniel J. McLean in 1921 and raised five children: John, Clare (McCarthy), Daniel, Christine (Arpin), and Gerald. They were lifelong residents of Talbot Road in the village of Maidstone Cross.



As secretary-treasurer of the Cemetery Board from 1946 to 1975, Bernie devoted countless hours to the tasks involved in running the cemetery: collecting annual dues, raising funds, selling plots, keeping records, and even staking out the graves before the digging. Her meticulous accounting for every penny ensured that the cemetery was never in debt yet was well taken care of. Since she did not drive, Bernie depended on the kindness of her daughters and people like Frank McCloskey to ensure that she would always be at the bank on the appropriate day, so that a day's interest was never lost.

In 1975 on her retirement from the Cemetery Board, Fr. Marentette arranged for a lovely retirement dinner and presented her with a gold chain and medal which she treasured and wore until her death.

Her column, "Maidstone Cross," a source of community news, appeared weekly in *The Essex Free Press* from 1940 to the late seventies. Many local readers remember noting who had "motored down" for special occasions, what out of town visitors were in the community and who had won the ballgame.

Bernie also worked for the Township of Sandwich South as a tax collector and a census taker. Clare McCarthy recalls that her father would drive Bernie to the chosen area for the day's census where she would trudge from house to house recording the necessary information. At the end of the day, Dan would return to the area to pick her up and take her home where she would resume her role as wife and mother.

In addition to these duties, Bernie was also active in the Altar Society and Catholic Women's League. She continued to live a full life, dedicated to family, church and community until her death in 1985.

## **Members of St. Mary's Parish in Politics**

Over the years a number of parishioners from St. Mary's have served in politics. On the federal level John O'Connor, who was born in Boston in 1824 and whose family settled on the Middle Road, Maidstone in 1828, served on Maidstone Township Council in 1856 and eventually became Canadian Postmaster General and Secretary of State.

Patrick Hayes served on Maidstone Township Council as councilor, deputy-reeve and then reeve from 1973 to 1980; on the provincial level, he represented Essex North 1985-1987 and Essex Kent 1990-1995.

At the municipal level, several parishioners served as warden of the County of Essex:

James Halford 1859	Abraham Cole 1896
Jeremiah McCarthy 1866	Robert A. Halford 1922
William Lyons 1877	Joseph Hennin

In Maidstone Township the following served as councilor, deputy-reeve or reeve:

Robert Croft	Hugh McPharlin	Philip Quinlan
Stephen Conroy	John McPharlin Jr.	Thomas Powers
Pat Hayes	Richard Mooney	John Rourke
Clarence Huneau	John Mullins	James Ryan
Thomas Kane	Delbert Quinlan	Patrick Scully
James Markham	Elmer Quinlan	

In Sandwich South Township the following parishioners of St. Mary's served as councilor, deputy reeve or reeve:

Charles Cavanagh	Maurice Halford	Jim McGuire
Abraham Cole	Peter W. Halford	Bill Mogyorody
Alex Dawson	Robert A. Halford	Edward Mooney
James Croft	Joseph Hennin	John O'Keefe
Edward Dumouchelle	Frank Jobin	Don Nemeth
Harry Fraser	Albert Kavanagh	Michael Robinson
Tom Fuerth	John McAuliffe	John Sexton
Jim Gerard	Edmund McCarthy	Herman St. Louis
Robert Greenway	Joseph McCarthy	
John Halford	Charles McGuigan	

## Schools of St. Mary's Parish

### Tom McCloskey Wrote about 1940

*In the 1880s the schools were all Public Schools but were taught by Catholic Teachers. No. 7 was the only one in the district until around 60 years ago when the present school was built on the corner of the Malden and South Rear Roads. Then the present division between this School and No. 7 was made on the line between Ed Deehan and Robert Schwertner's. So the children from the village attended the school on the Malden Road (the writer being one of them) until No. 7 was made a Separate School. One of those who left this school to attend No. 7 was Father Arthur Finn.*

*The teachers who taught in the school on Malden Road were Miss Lewis, J. B. Fuerth, who later moved to Milwaukee and died there, and John Sullivan (brother of Eugene who died here recently) who is at present living in California.*

*The teachers who taught in No. 7 were Moran Morrison, Alfred Halford, Mary Sullivan (who later married Alfie Halford), Nellie Moynahan, Rose Barrett, Agnes McCarthy (who became a nun), Maggie Halford (Sister Vincent), John McAuliffe, Mary McCarthy (Sister Agatha), and the last to teach No. 7 school before it was built on the present site was Mary Jane McHugh (Mrs. Thomas P. McCloskey). The school was then located on the west side of the Tom Lennon farm where Pat McLean lives and it burnt down during vacation. This site was given for school purposes by James Halford who owned this property before Tom Lennon. No. 2 when it was a Public school stood on the opposite side of the road on the McPharlin farm.*

*The other schools in the Parish were located at the corner of Highway 3 and 6th Concession and two at the extreme north side of the Parish which the children of Tecumseh Parish also attended.*

*There was another one on the West side of the Parish in the O'Neil settlement taught by John Moynahan who was the first Clerk of this Township (which was part of Sandwich East before) and later Clerk of Ojibway until his death. Nellie Moynahan taught the longest of any of the teachers. She taught in Byrnedale (which is in Woodslee Parish) in the school on the North Rear Road near McGuire's and in 5 & 8 and No. 7. She taught all of the R. A. Halford family including the father and mother. She also taught me and also Mrs. D. Flood and the only slap I got all the time I went to school was from her, that was shortly after I started. Something was done in the school and she could not pick out the guilty ones so she gave all of us a slap.*



### 1909 Entrance Class, No. 7 School, Maidstone Cross



Front row: Anne Sexton (Gust), Madeline Barrett (O'Brien), Ethel O'Connell (Eustace), Vera Sullivan (Hergott), Nora Sullivan (LaRonde).

Centre row: Clarice Sullivan (Moran).

Back row: Joe O'Connell, Mae Russette (Allen), Janie Barrett (Doyle), Irene McCarthy (Sharkey), Frank Sexton.

This photo was reproduced in *The Essex Free Press* Old Time Corner in 1975; we are grateful for the number of old photos which were made available to local people by means of this column.

S. S. No. 5 & 8, Six Corners, 1910



First row, sitting: Clarence Grondin, Jimmy Costigan, John Walsh, Charles McCann, Lorenzo Brown, Helen McCann, unidentified, Margaret McCloskey, Marie Brown, Agnes Costigan, Dennis Halford, Clarice Lennon, Catherine McCann,  
Second Row, kneeling, Ward Larkin, Ann McCann, unidentified, Agnes Broderick, unidentified, Gertrude Russette, Frank Halford, Joe Kane, Leo Greenway.  
Third Row, Mary (John) McCann, Marie Grandmaison, Margaret Lennon, Marie Lennon, Irene Brown, Rita McCann, Agnes Halford, Mary (Andy) McCann, Bernadette Halford, Corinne Eyraud, Agnes Donovan, Ned Doyle, Vincent McCann.  
Fourth Row, William Greenway, Lewellyn Dunne, Leo Russette, Frances Eyraud, Josie Doyle, Laura Grandmaison, Margaret Costigan, Rose Brennan, Estelle Birkett (Teacher), Margaret Robinson, (Teacher), Irene Russette, Thomas Chittle, and Peter Clarke.



## S. S. No. 7, Sandwich South, 1911



Front row, sitting: Harold Sexton, Ross Marentette, Albert Boismier, Albert Sexton, Florence McAuliffe, Harold Fenton, Elmer Sexton, Anthony McCarthy, Harold O'Connell, Percy Durocher, unidentified, Charles Halford, Leonard McCarthy, unidentified, Leo Sullivan, Harold Kavanagh, unidentified, Warren Sexton, James O'Connell, Harry Barrett, Clifford Deslippe, George Sexton.

Second row, centre: Myrtle Sullivan, Clarice McNeil, Annie Durocher, Marie O'Connell, Genevieve Hayes, Clare McCarthy, Sylvia Deslippe, Gerald Deslippe, Evangeline Halford, Monica McCarthy, Bernadette McCarthy, Mary Small, Grace Barrett, Grace Lynch, Mary McCarthy, Frances Pero, Mary McCarthy (Joe's), Clarice Pero, Alma McCarthy, Eleanor McCarthy, Florence Sexton, Genevieve Halford, Angela Halford, Agnes Broderick, Annie Fenton.

Back row, Nellie Moynahan, teacher; Elizabeth Kavanagh, Mae Sexton, Irene McCarthy, Clarice Sullivan, Stan O'Connell, Vera Sullivan, Charles O'Connell, Joseph O'Connell, Elmer O'Connell, Joseph Deneau, Georgina Fields, Ray Sullivan, Bill Durocher, Robert Halford, Charles Small, Dominic McCarthy.

## S. S. No 7, Sandwich South, May 1924



Teachers: Miss Doyle, Miss McLaughlin

Girls, Row 1: Rose Mary O'Keefe, Clara Mae Kavanagh, Nora Perrault, Kathleen Beahan, Rose McCarthy, Mary Irene Sexton, Catherine Kavanagh.

Row 2: Ellen Kavanagh, Betty Deslippe, Helen Sexton, Norene Kavanagh, Helen Schwertner, Rita Kavanagh, Betty Collins, Ruby Teron.

Row 3: Audrey Duquette, Pearl Bondy, Rose Rosnovan, Catherine O'Keefe, Mary Kavanagh, Margaret Brandenburg, Helen McLean.

Row 4: Geraldine Halford, Mary McCarthy, Pauline McCarthy, Alice Jobin, Jessie Bondy, Eunice Thompson, Catherine Perrault.

Row 5: America Thompson, Geneva Deslippe, Nina Deslippe, Roberta Halford, Estelle Kavanagh, Mrs Andy McCarthy, Rose Halford.

Boys, Row 1: Raymond Perrault, John McLean, Clare Duquette, Leon O'Brien, Francis Kavanagh, Ed Kavanagh.

Row 2: Harry McLean, Harold Kavanagh, Maurice Collins, Wafer Keelan, Ford McLean, Jimmy Teron, Francis Keelan.

Row 3: Emmett McCarthy, Johnny Jobin, Wilfred McCarthy, Jack Sexton, Jack McAuliffe, Doyle Keelan, Mr. Thompson.

Row 4: Stanley Sexton, James Sexton, Gerard McCarthy, Bernard Kavanagh, Michael Teron, Charles Teron, Ralph Sexton.

Row 5: Gerald Sullivan, Charles Kavanagh, Bill McLean, Emmett McLean.

Group around statue of Blessed Virgin Mary: Top, Mary Dawson - left, Mary Halford - right.

Holding banner: Lennon Twins. Front, Margaret Kavanagh - left, Alma Dawson - right.

Priests: seated, Monsignors Parent and Langlois; standing, Father McCabe.

S. S. No. 5 & 8, Six Corners, 1924



First row, kneeling: Patricia McCann, Josephine John, Philip John, Ted Markham, George Langlois, Ted Deehan, Edward McCloskey, Jack Brown, Wesley Melnik, Ernie Siefker, George John, Clarence McCann.

Second row: Mary Ann Taylor, Mary Grant, Frances Deehan, Phoebe Grant, Nellie Dubinsky, Henriette Durocher, Marjorie Brown, Eleanor McCloskey, Aileen McCloskey, Edna Deehan.

Third row: Mary (Tom) McCloskey, Kathleen Grant, Lucille Siefker, Alva Langlois, Eva Lee, Gregory Collins, Thelma McAuliffe, Leo Siefker, Stan Russette, Harry Collins, Frank (Pank) McCloskey, Leo Gilbert, Victor Dubinsky, Will Langlois, Remi Hart.

Fourth row: Hilda Ducharme, Margaret Deehan, Gertrude McAuliffe, Mary (Vince) McCloskey, Clifford Buhler, Homer McCann, Roy Smith, Gerald (Haley) McCloskey, Joseph McCloskey, Vincent (Spin) Brown, Miss M. J. Nolan - teacher.

## S. S School No.7, 1927



Sitting: George Zalba

First Row: Ford McLean, Donna Beahan, \_\_\_\_\_ Langlois, John Kavanagh, Charles Collins, Aurele Bondy, John McCarthy, John McLean, Billy Zalba, Leon O'Brien.

Second Row: Rosemary McCarthy, Clara Mae Kavanagh, Mary Halford, Norene Kavanagh, Rita Kavanagh, Nora Perrault, Betty Collins, Betty Deslippe.

Third Row: Helen Sexton, Rosemary O'Keefe, Maurice Collins, Edmund Kavanagh, Wilfred McCarthy, Raymond Perrault, Roy Tousignant, Francis Kavanagh.

Fourth Row: Ruby Teron, Helen Schwertner, Pearl Bondy, Alva Langlois, Lorraine Bellaire, Jimmy Teron, Jack McAuliffe, George Langlois.

Fifth Row: Helen McLean, Mary McCarthy, Audrey Duquette, Rossie Rosnovan, Jack Sexton, Emmett McCarthy, Harry McLean, Harold Kavanagh.

Sixth Row: Jessie Bondy, Margaret Brandenburg, William Langois, Charles Teron, Neva Deslippe, Geraldine Halford, Catherine O'Keefe, Mary Kavanagh.

Last Row: teachers - Miss Lynch, Miss Dillon.



**S. S. No. 2, Maidstone Township, 1933**



Front row, sitting: Jim Shanahan, Bill Quinlan, Bill Allen, Peter Toporosky, Morris Mullins, Charles Quinlan, Robert Muylaert, Vincent Shanahan, Bill Glowa, Donald Mooney, Norman Little.  
Second row, kneeling: Dorothy Shanahan, Rita Shanahan, Mary Theresa Mahon, Rita Quinlan, Marie Leclaire, Annie Martino, Dorothy Martino, Raymond Seguin, John McPharlin, Francis Little, Harold Mahon, Harold Allen.  
Third row: Catherine Mullins, Margaret Little, Mary Muylaert, Sadie Shanahan, Noreen Allen, Beatrice Kennette, Sophie Glowa, Simone Crevets, L. Roellens, John Mooney, Thomas Shanahan, Oscar Muylaert, Jerry Martino, Deane Allen, Joseph Mooney.  
Fourth row: Gertrude Mullins, Philip Quinlan, Francis Kennette, Thomas Mooney, Charles Mahon, Alphonse Morand, Neil Mullins, Rob. Roellens, John Zack, Peter Martino, Edmund Mahon, Angela Vickerd - teacher (later Sister Frances Clare Vickerd).



## St. Mary's S. S. No. 7, 1937-38



Boys standing, back row: Thomas O'Brien, Mike Collins, Donald Burke, Al Brockman, Jack McLean.

Boys standing, front row: Albert Collins, David (Bud) Austin, Ed McCarthy, Raymond Kavanagh, Stanley Laforet.

Girls standing, back row: Roberta Kavanaugh, Winni Collins, Shirley O'Brien, Patricia Hayes, Nellie O'Brien, Virginia Kavanaugh.

Girls standing, front row: Ella Mae Belleau, Mary Austin, Helen Hayes, Frannie Tousignant, Rose John, Anna Marie McCarthy.

Children seated, left row: Gordon Cahill, Mary Agnes Collins, Angela Hayes, Mary Hergott, Catherine McCarthy, Clifford Garant, Gladys Tousignant, Dorothy Jobin.

Second row: Bernard Hayes, Michael Palencar, Doris McCarthy, Marie Tousignant, Madeline Jobin, Theodore Garant, Mary Ann Hayes, Donald Borrowman, Ernest Bondy.

Third row: Ursula Hayes, Clarence Garant, Robert Hergott, Irene Garant, Rosemary Brandenburg, Mary Weston.

Fourth row: Steve Santo, Louis Trepanier, Kathleen O'Brien, Mary O'Brien, Agnes Tousignant, Dorothy Trepanier, Louis Collins.

Fifth row: Violet Teron, Margaret Palencar, Helen McCarthy, Rosemary Beahan, Donna Hayes, Eva Garant, Helen Cahill.

Sixth row: Thomas Kavanaugh, George Heinz, Theodore Girdler, Eileen Austin, Adelaide Kavanaugh, Leona Burke.

## Don Borrowman Remembers

*St. Mary's Separate School No. 7, in 1937 was a typical rural school located on the northeast corner of Highway 3 and Sexton Side Road. The school had two rooms with one (east) for the high school and the other for the lower grades. The high school was gradually phased out by 1945, with only two students in grade nine and two in grade ten. The chemistry laboratory fascinated me; it consisted of an ornate china cabinet in one corner with the necessary equipment including an alcohol lamp instead of a Bunsen burner. Heating the school was a traditional pot-bellied stove with wood storage in a shed outside. Older boys flexed their muscles chopping kindling and stove lengths. Pupils pumped sulphur water from a pump in the schoolyard. Until the 1940s toilet facilities were also outdoors. The students maintained the flower beds and yard while a local farmer mowed the lawn with a hay mower. Living close to the school, the Beahan family did the janitorial work.*

*The physical setup of the school was common to its time, yet this primitive system produced many honour students who scored well on the entrance exams written at Essex High School. Two Sisters of St. Joseph from the convent at Maidstone were chauffeured to school daily in a shiny black car; one young driver was Joe John. At this time Sr. Mary Fidelis was the principal and high school teacher. Religion was taught daily and prayers were recited at regular intervals, sometimes while kneeling on the wooden floor.*

*Most materials and text books were provided by the students. When I began school the straight pen had replaced the quill for some time. The straight pens which needed to be dipped in inkwells frequently were replaced by fountain pens that could be filled at intervals. Both procedures were often very messy for young children.*

*Girls were treated differently in some areas in these days. They were allowed to play baseball, but not encouraged to play with the boys. Girls wore dresses with skirts midway between ankle and knee. Don recalls one young lady who would raise her skirt so that the waistband was just under her armpits; the nun would regularly take her to the cloakroom for a discussion and a readjustment.*

*Transportation to school was not provided; depending on the weather, a student might walk, ride a bicycle or be driven by car. In winter when the road was sometimes impassable, I drove a pony and sleigh. Don recalls gratefully stabling his pony at the Emmett McCarthy farm.*

*Although by the standards of today, the environment would have been inadequate, the excellent education received in this rural farming community certainly provided the basis for each student to have a most rewarding future*

**Louis H. Collins** wrote a salute to St. Mary's School:

*Today my thoughts are turning  
To the schoolhouse I once knew;  
It seems a hundred years ago...*

*It's a special kind of feeling  
That this school of mine evokes,  
With its woodstove and its blackboards,  
And the pranksters with their jokes.*

## S. S. No. 5 & 8, 1936-37



### Grades 6 to 10

Left row, front to back: Harold Allen, John McPharlin, Harold Mahon, Deane Allen, Margaret Cutting, John McLean, Mike Collins.

Second row: Jenny Kotow, Clare McLean, Rita McGuire, Catherine Mullins, Ella Mae Belleau, Rose John.

Third row: Robert Sexton, Donald McCann, Wilfred Brockman, Clifford McGuire, Jack McCann, Marietta Godin, Anna Doyle, Annie Melnik.

Fourth row: Lucretia McCloskey, Vera Deehan, Bill Godin, Lawrence Garant, Stanley McGuire, Bill Barry, Jack Doyle.



### Grades 1 to 5

Right row: Andy Kotow, Mary Melnik, Aurelia Belleau, Wilfred Belleau, Catherine Deehan, Alexandra Melnik.

Second row: Mildred Sexton, Virginia Vidican, Lillian Garant, Christine McLean, Agnes Brockman, Helen John.

Third row: Mike John, Norman Kane, Charlie Sexton Jr., Jimmy Barry, Sylvester McGuire Jr., Stanley Deehan.

Fourth row: Theodore Garant, Danny McLean, William Zackara.

Fifth row: Delores John, Patricia McCann, Everett McGuire, Rollo Boy, Eddie Barry, Charlie Grace.

Sixth row: Odella Deehan, Mary Margaret Kane, Charles (Bud) McCloskey, Paul Sexton, James Markham Jr.

Seventh row: Raymond Belleau, Lawrence Campeau, Johnny Vidican, Theresa Garant. Insert: Mrs. Thomas Barry (teacher).

S. S. No. 5 & 8, 1948

Teachers:  
Sister St. Omer  
Sister Benedicta



Front row, sitting: Mary Lou Markham, Cecile Dahl, Doreen Sylvester, Mary Lavin, Marian Sexton, Dolores Sylvester, Shirley Walker, Mary John, Carol Cloutier, Eleanor Kosokowsky, Loretta Quinlan, Mary Dahl.

Second row: Pat McCann, Jay Walker, Pearl Lavin, Agnes Sexton, Kay Collins, Kathleen Lavin, Chris Quinlan, Bob Flood, Martin McCann, Terry Collins.

Third row: Mac McCann, Joe Desjardin, Bob Lincoln, Leo Kosokowsky, Billie McCarthy, Clem Fortowsky, Frank Melnik, Bernard Belleau, Norman Desjardin.

Back row: Theodore Robinet, Lawrence Campeau, George Stone, Thomas McCloskey, Pat Stone, Pat Flood, Norbert Kosokowsky, Garnet Jobin.

Photo taken September, 1947

Teachers: Sister St. Omer, Sister Benedicta.

# S. S. 7, Grades 4-8, Spring 1954



Back row: Carol Kettles, Carol McGregor, Carolyn Wellwood, Nancy Turton, Maureen McCarthy, Judy Johnson, Maureen Lyons, Annette Barrette, Joan McLean.

Middle row: Roger Barrette, Patsy Lepain, Jane Lyons, Mary Anne Turton, Bob McCarthy, Jim McAuliffe, Francis Flood, Leonard Adams, Dick McCarthy, Eddy Tremblay, Jack McAuliffe.

Front row: Pete Halford, John Lyons, Ken McCarthy, Leonard Turton, Martin McGregor, Dan Hebert, Tom Halford, Gary Deehan, Jim Flood.

Absent: Wayne Robinson and Josephine Trimmer.



## St. Mary's School 1961



Front row: Wayne Clement, Rickie Giroux, Danny Belleau, Ronnie Giroux, Ronnie Mullin, Francis Dunn

Second row: Linda Pike, Annette Parent, Maureen Mullin, LouAnn Gracie, Kathy Bellaire, Marilyn Clement, Diane Dunn, Parent and Parent

Third row: Ronnie Holland, Tim Flood, Ed Vanderaa, Nina Apanasiewicz, Margaret McAuliffe, Ed Flood, Ron Barette, Billy Gould.

Back row: Keith Johnston, Randy Sexton, Len Collins, Randy Flood, Kenny Johnston, Gunther Haas, John Apanasiewicz, Tim Beaudette, Mary Lou Kavanagh (teacher).

St. Mary's School, Room 2, January 1964



Front row: Ronnie Ouellette, Mike Deehan, Pat Turton, Ronnie Jobin, Larry Lepain, Stephen Palencar.

Second row: Maureen Mullins, Linda Pike, Jacinta Revenberg, Mary Ellen Milligan, Nina Apanasiewicz, Linda Grondin, Frances St. Louis, Kathy Belaire, Jackie Wellwood.

Third row: Carolyn McGuire, Ruth Ann Chittle, Marriette Revenberg, Margaret McAuliffe, Mary Jane Allard, Doris St. Louis, Veronica Mogyrody, Patricia Molnar.

Top row: Len Collins, Bill McCarthy, Tom McCarthy, Ed Vanderaa, Tim Flood, Ed Milligan, Chris Halford, Kelly Woltz, Craig Jobin, Ron Croft.

Teachers: Grade 7, Sister St. Michael, Grade 8, Sister Alexandrine.

## Ground Breaking Ceremony of St. Mary's School



Left to right: Earl Cahill, James T. Markham, Ed Byrne, Tom Mullins, Fr. J. P. Gleeson. The groundbreaking ceremony was in 1960, but the school was not occupied until January 1961. There were two rooms: Mary Lou (Kavanagh) Hossack taught grades 1-5 and Mr. McIvor taught 6, 7, and 8. Below, St. Mary's School in 1996.



## World War 1 Veterans

Frank A. Belleau  
Patrick Brazill  
Thomas Chittle  
Milford Dawson  
Patrick Donovan

William Donovan  
William Durocher  
Frank Grondin†  
Russell Jones  
Frank Lepain

Joseph McCarthy  
Dr. W. Nesbitt  
Homer O'Neil  
Edward Sexton  
Raymond Sullivan

## World War 2 Veterans

A. Deane Allen†  
William J. Allen  
George Bachmeier  
Orville J. Bellaire  
Frederick H. Belleau  
Wilfred Brockman  
John Brown  
Donald J. Burke  
Bernard W. Chittle  
L. J. Chittle  
Albert J. Collins  
Charles V. Collins  
Michael C. Collins  
Wilfrid J. Collins

Agnes M. Conroy  
T. N. Conroy  
William Derby  
Gerald Doyle  
John Doyle  
Henry Drouillard†  
Harold B. Felix  
M. E. Huneau  
Joseph G. John  
M. George John  
Peter M. John  
Harold D. Kavanagh  
Oswald Kavanagh  
George J. Markham

Timothy J. Markham  
James R. McAuliffe  
John M. McAuliffe Jr.  
Elmer M. McCann  
William C. McCann  
Francis A. McCarthy  
John W. McCarthy  
Edward J. McCloskey†  
Gerald J. McCloskey  
John C. McLean  
John Joseph McLean  
John McPharlin  
Del J. Quinlan

†Those who gave their lives.



**Henry Drouillard**

son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Drouillard  
died in action overseas



**Frank Grondin**

son of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Grondin  
died November 1918

## Veterans from the Parish



In 1943, at the age of 26, **Edward J. McCloskey** joined the Air Force and became a navigator of Lancaster bombers, the same airplane preserved in Jackson Park. On July 5th, 1944, eyewitnesses saw Ed's plane shot down over France. He was listed as Missing In Action for one year. His death was later confirmed along with his burial at St. Cyr en Val, France.

His sister, Mary McCarthy, recalls that the last time she saw her brother, he was waving good-bye from a troop train leaving the old Canadian National Station on Riverside Drive at the foot of Goyeau Street in Windsor. To many people, this is a nostalgic scene from movie, but to the family of Ed McCloskey it is a sad reality.

Lance Corporal **Alexander Deehan (Deane) Allen**, the son of Alexander Allen and Ada Belle Deehan, was drafted soon after his eighteenth birthday into the Lincoln and Welland Regiment, and left for overseas on Christmas Day, 1944.

He was killed in action in Germany April 10, 1945 and is buried in the Canadian war graves cemetery in Holton, Germany. Deane's sister, Dora (Allen) Tourangeau, recalls that her parents received the telegram with the news of his death from Essex Station on April 21, 1945.

Frank McCloskey used to request that the Mass on November 11 be in memory of his brother Ed, Deane Allen and Henry Drouillard.





## Memoir of the War Years 1939-45

Many of you have heard the saying "War is Hell!" For those of us directly involved in it, it was close to that. Courage, loneliness and sometimes fear walked hand in hand for our young men, husbands, sons and brothers, while sadness, frustration and heartache were all too familiar to loved ones left behind. We wives, especially, who were left to keep the home fires burning, being both father and mother to our children, trying to be hopeful and cheerful and always encouraging to them was difficult. When husbands and sons arrived home on leave, the joy was boundless and our hearts were filled with love and excitement; but all too soon it was over and the reality of departure, once again, set in.

Sometimes, when a family we knew received word that it had lost a loved one, we all felt the loss. Maidstone is a close knit community and our prayers and condolences immediately went out to those in sorrow. Thankfully family and friends were a God-send and their support was essential all through these trying times. When the boys were overseas sometimes a letter wouldn't arrive for a month or so and then the thought of a loved one dying or being wounded, maimed or captured would come to mind. Our prayers would escalate and many a tearful night was spent. Then suddenly eight or ten letters or more would arrive and a sigh of relief would be heard along with a prayer of thanksgiving.

At war's end our men came home changed and more grown up. We, at home, had changed and become more independent also. Adjustments had to be made - especially between husbands and wives. However, love prevailed, and with endless communication and understanding most of us were able to return to a happy normal life together.

Thanks be to God!

*Ella Mae Markham*

*Ella Mae Belleau Markham*

In this 1943 photo George Markham is shown with his wife Ella Mae, daughter of Frank Belleau and Millie Eyraud.





**Fred H. Belleau**, son of Frank and Millie (Eyraud) Belleau, served in the Canadian Army as a tank driver in Holland and Belgium for two and a half years; he was part of the Thirtieth RECCE (Reconnaissance Unit).

Fred was a brother of Ella Mae Markham and Wilfred Belleau and families.

**Agnes Conroy**, daughter of Stephen and Loretta (Collins) Conroy, worked in London, Ontario as a registered nurse before joining the army and going overseas. She became part of Number 10 Canadian General Hospital in 1942 and served in England and northwest Europe. She returned to Canada in 1945 and continued her nursing career at Westminster Hospital in London until her retirement in 1976.



### **The Collins Brothers**

(Sons of Anne Kavanaugh and Maurice Collins)

**Albert J. and Charles V. Collins** were both veterans of the U. S. army; Albert is deceased and Charles lives in Detroit. Another brother **Louis** resides in Maidstone and Jerome, who lives in Leamington, has many ties to Maidstone.

## **The Kavanagh Brothers**

(sons of Allbert and Margaret (Fields) Kavanagh)

**Oswald Kavanagh** served in the Canadian Forces from 1944 to 1946; he was stationed at Woodstock and at Ipperwash, Ontario.

**Harold Kavanagh** was the first person from the parish of St. Mary's to enlist in the Armed Services. He served with the Royal Canadian Regiment from 1939 to 1945, mainly in Surrey County, England.

One Sunday morning while walking to Mass at the local church, Harold met an English couple who invited him to dinner. These people provided Harold with a "home away from home" all the time that he was in England. In 1973 Harold and his wife returned to England to visit the couple who were then in their eighties.

## **The Collins Brothers**

(Sons of Jeremiah and Kitty (Kerby) Collins)

**Michael Collins** was a member of the Royal Canadian Air Force who served two years in Canada and one year overseas. He returned home on Victory in Japan Day, August 15 1945. While training as a bombardier in Manitoba, Mike recalls a low level training mission: upon their return to home base, the underside of the plane was covered with cornstalks. Certainly a low level flight! Mike is still an active parishioner of St. Mary's.

**Willie (Wilfrid) Collins** served in the Canadian Army in the R.C.E.M.E. as a machinist; he still resides in Windsor.

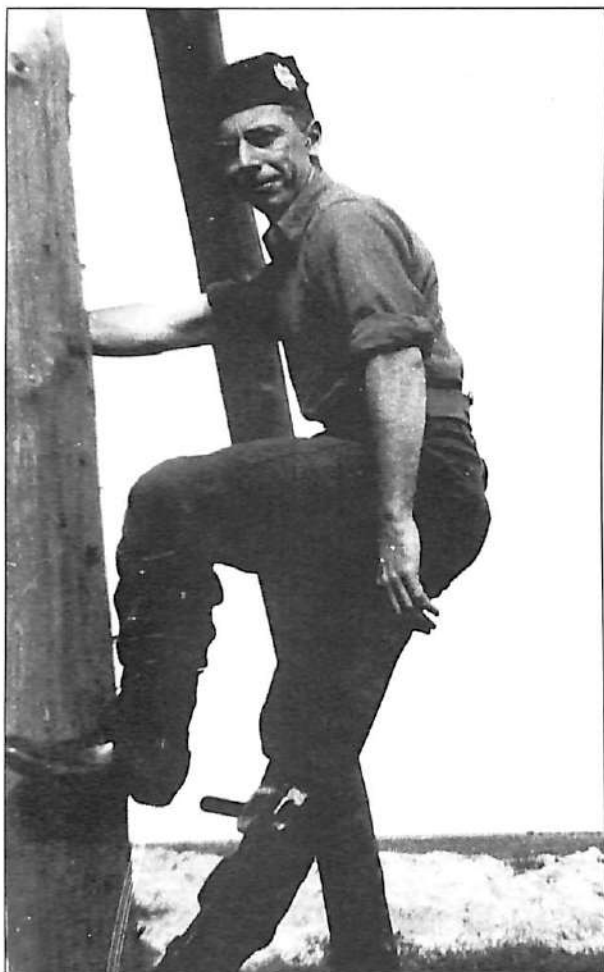


**Wilfrid Collins and Michael Collins**

## The McAuliffe Brothers

**John M. McAuliffe Jr.**, youngest son of John and Margaret (Hennesy) served in the Canadian Army as part of the Highland Light Infantry. He worked in a signal platoon as a cable layer in France and Belgium from June 1943 until July 1946. Jack recalls sailing to England on a cruise ship converted for military use; among the servicemen on the same ship was Mike Collins from Maidstone.

**James Albert McAuliffe**, Jack's eldest brother, was considered to be too old for duty when war broke out. Nevertheless, he volunteered and served with the Royal Canadian Engineers from 1939 to 1945. At war's end, he had four sons, Clifford, Earl, Leonard and Lyle, also serving in the military.



**Jack McAuliffe** working as a cable layer in Europe during the Second World War.

Jack remembers returning to Canada and having the daughter born while he was overseas most upset that he - a stranger to her - was sleeping in her mother's bed!

## The Markham Brothers

**George Markham**, son of Annie McGuire and George Markham, served in the Royal Canadian Air Force as a radar technician.

**Ted (Timothy) Markham**, his brother served in the army; while overseas he married and brought home Rhea, his Dutch war bride.



## The John Brothers

**Peter John** was a radar technician with the Royal Canadian Air Force, trained at the Universities of Toronto and of Guelph. Overseas he served in Lincolnshire, England for two and a half years. He returned to Canada in December 1945.



**George John** joined the army in 1941 and trained in Chatham. He is now deceased.



**Joseph John** now lives in Chatham; he served in the Canadian army.

**Don Borrowman** remembers...

*During the war years convoys travelling east along Highway 3 would disrupt the classroom much to the annoyance of the teacher. The convoys, sometimes more than a mile in length, consisted of amphibious landing craft, army trucks, sometimes tanks with rubber cleats and/or bren gun carriers built in Windsor. In the skies, single engine biplanes used for training from Windsor Airport were another attraction, especially when in manoeuvres and/or in formation.*

*Near the war's end there was consideration of the manufacture of a rubber substitute for tires etc. out of milkweed. We were encouraged to collect as many milkweed plants as possible. We made quite an effort at our school, and as I recall, our efforts were welcomed by the farmers, but unfortunately our collection became mouldy and was never picked up.*



## The McCann Brothers

Michael and Theresa (McCarthy) McCann had three sons in the armed forces. **William C. McCann** served in the United States Army at Fort McClellan, Alabama while his brother **Peter L. McCann**, also with the U. S. army, was in San Francisco, California.

Private **Elmer Michael McCann** was part of the Essex Scottish from August of 1942 until February of 1946. He married Jeanette DeBlois in 1946; they resided on 46 Highway until Elmer's death in 1979 and Jeanette's death in 1991. They have five daughters, all of whom live in the surrounding area: Margaret Ann Dufour, Rose Marie Duquette, Mary Jane Jenner, Therese Lecuyer and Bernice Krauter



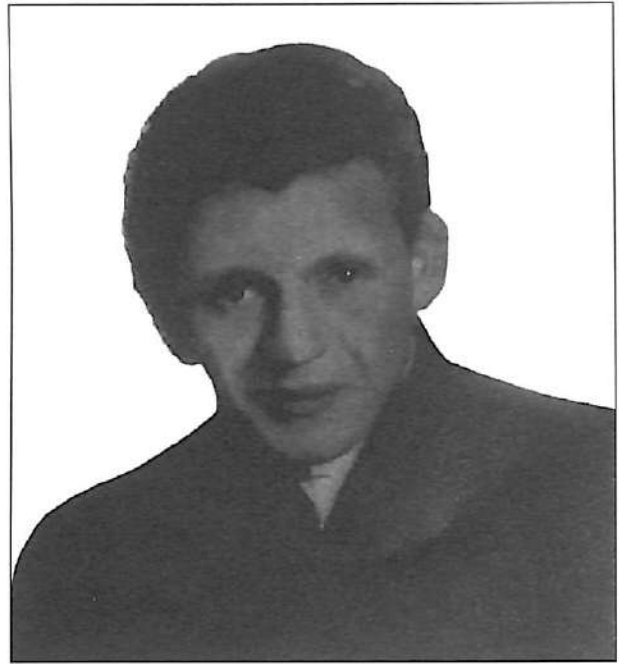
**Elmer Michael McCann**

**Peter McCann**



## The Frank Hayes Family

During World War 2 Frank Hayes' son Leo served with the Merchant Marine because of polio-related disabilities. His mother was Dorothy Stowe.



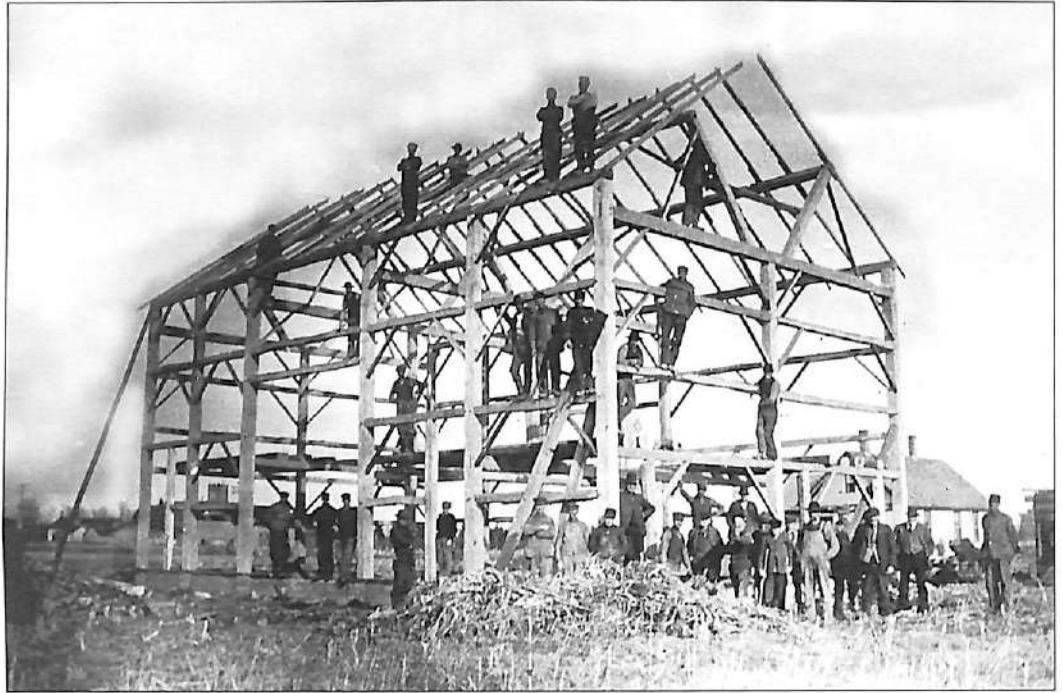
Frank's sons-in-law Jack McCoy (married to Nancy Hayes) and Robert Else (married to Eleanor Hayes) also served their country: Jack for twenty years in the Air Force and Robert in the Navy.

Frank's grandsons Bob and Ron Else both served in the Navy; the former was a twenty year man serving on nuclear submarines.

His great-grandson, Timothy Whiten, presently serves in the Canadian Armed Forces Reserves.

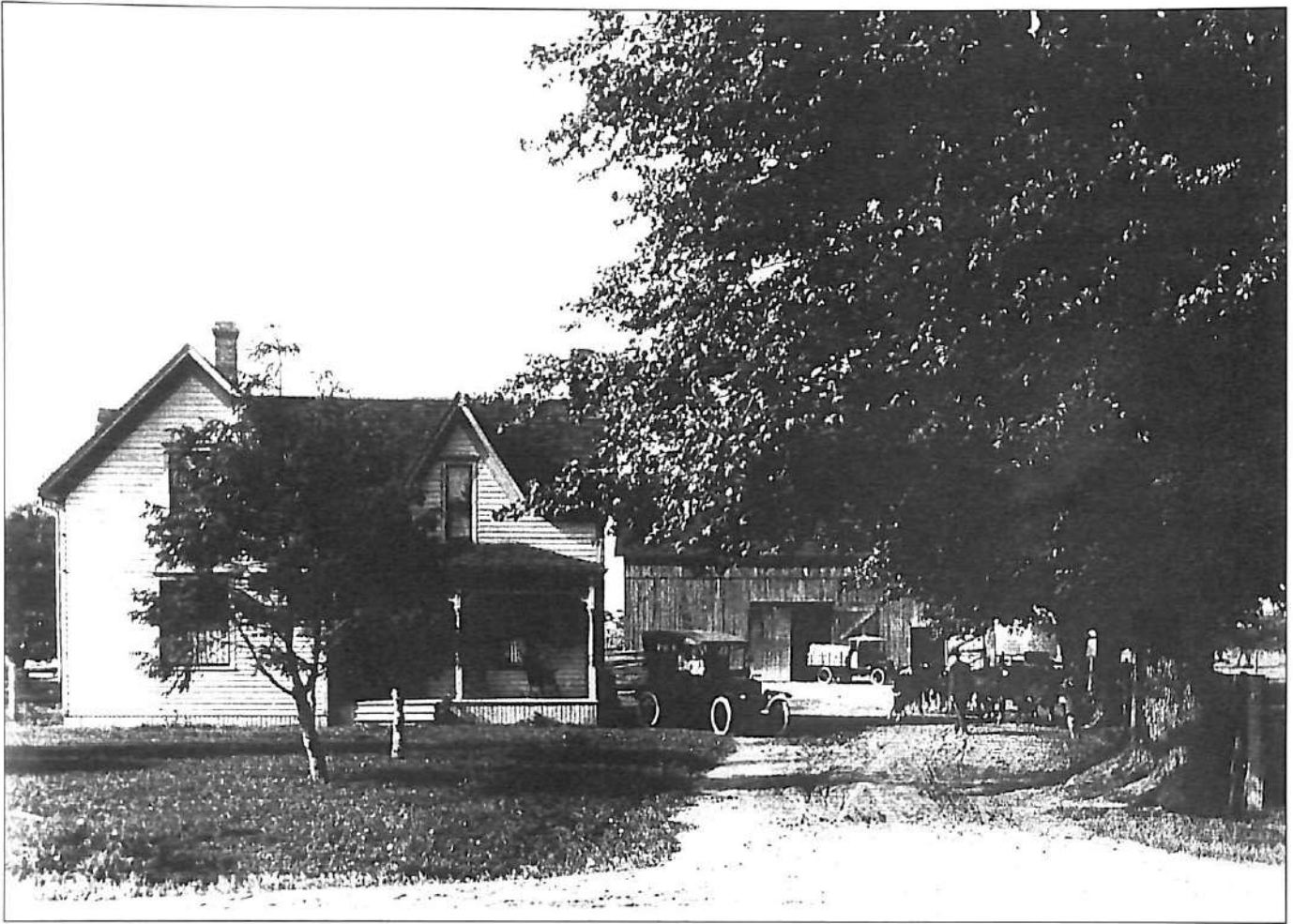
## Life in a Farm Community

Barn Raising  
circa 1890



Ralph and Stan Sexton, Phil O'Mara, Harold Robinson

## John and Ann Sexton Farm



The Sexton farm on Talbot Road near Sexton Side Road was one of the original farms deeded through Colonel Thomas Talbot and the Canada Land Corporation. At the time of this photo, it was owned by John and Ann (Cox) Sexton whose children were Ed, Elmer, Warren, Ralph and Stan, Florence, Eileen and Helen.

Even into the 1950s traffic on Highway 3 would be stopped to allow the cattle to move from the barn to the pasture across the road and vice versa at milking time. Judy (Sexton) Jobin, a granddaughter, remembers that when this was taking place, her grandmother would herd the children onto the porch for fear the cattle would trample them.

Although the barn burned in 1956 and house in 1962, some of the trees visible in the picture still survive along the line fence between this farm and Beahan farm next to it. Rosemary (Halford) Sexton and Suzanne (Sexton) Rau and family, still live on the original farm.

Ralph and Stan Sexton  
with a load of tomatoes for  
Heinz in the 1950s.



Grace (Sexton) McCarthy feeding  
chickens; the photo is probably from  
1916.

Kate (Cole) Austin harvesting sugar beets.





## **Jerry Vanhoorne Remembers**

Over the years of this century, one of the most visible changes in the farming community of Maidstone is the one from horses to tractors. Jerry Vanhoorne has an interest in old farm machinery, particularly early steam vehicles. He notes that through the 1920s horses were still used both for transportation and for power on the farm. Although cars and bikes were available, the primary means of power remained the horse into the 1930s and 40s. Steam engines were used for threshing and for steaming hotbeds for tobacco. Even after small tractors became more widely available in the 40s, horses were still used when planting and husking corn, tasks where the patience of the animal was an asset.

A common change on the farm in the early 40s was the selling off of a team of horses and replacing the team with a small tractor. Most of the early tractors from the late 30s and early 40s had steel wheels although a few had rubber tires; these were prized but difficult to obtain as rubber was a priority for the war effort. In towns, horse-drawn vehicles still dominated in the delivery of milk, bread and ice while in the country, the Fuller Brush man, the Raleigh and the Watkins salesmen made their rounds by car.

By the early 50s tractors were larger and some were powered by diesel engines. Horses started to disappear although farmers often kept one team more for nostalgia than actual work. Nevertheless the team would be used occasionally for work, for example to pull tobacco sleds. Usually the horses were mixed breeds with Percherons and Belgians being favoured. Their wide back made them uncomfortable to ride for any distance, but they did provide faster transportation than walking. Many children were more used to horses than to bicycles.

The size of equipment grew substantially: while the norm in the 40s was a two furrow plough, today ploughs are up to ten or twelve furrows.

Women as well as men worked hard in a farm community. At threshing, women prepared substantial meals twice a day for the workers, often a group of thirty or more. Combines changed the need for full course meals for large groups; nevertheless, seasonal work like baling straw often meant extra mouths to feed. And people who worked hard in the fields had an appetite! Women were also often responsible for substantial gardens that produced most of the family's winter vegetables. After the fall harvest, these were stored in a root cellar or a trench lined with straw to protect the vegetables from freezing. Fruit, often from trees on the farm, was preserved for the winter by canning.

Children often assisted with the daily chores, weeding and hoeing the gardens, working in family orchards, caring for cows and horses, or following horse-drawn equipment. Many people of different ages were glad when weed control became by means of herbicide spray rather than the tiring work of hoeing.

Jerry Vanhoorne recalls that by the time he was ten or eleven he was driving a team of work horses as they harrowed an oat field. As well, he notes that during these years a farmer could raise a family on the fruits of a fifty acre farm; such is certainly not the case today!

These pictures from the farm of Gerard and Elizabeth McCarthy give an idea of life in a farming community.



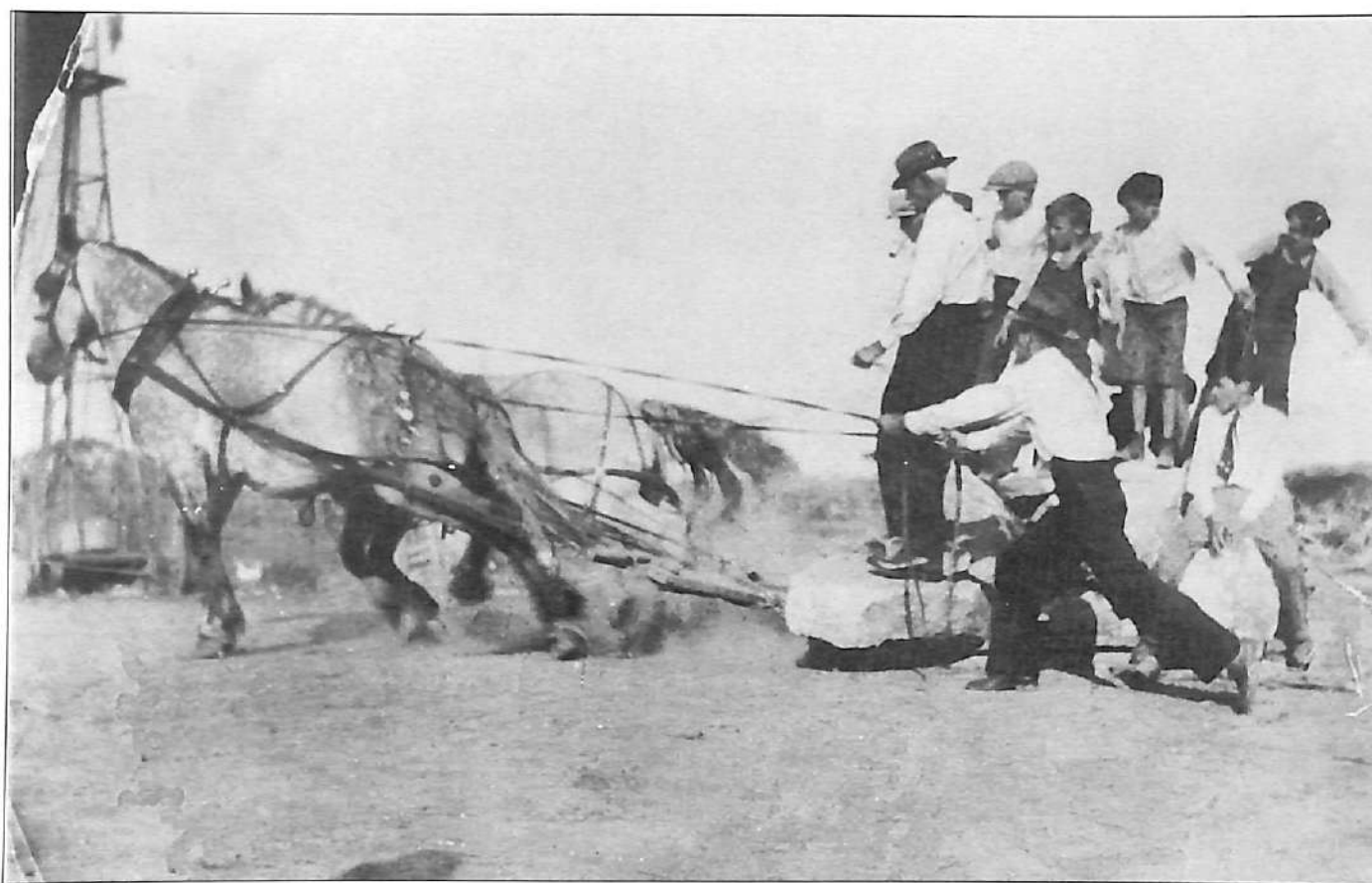
Gerard McCarthy ready to take tomatoes to Heinz, 1935

Work horses,  
mare with a three day  
old colt, 1933



Dairy cows, 1957

Ursula Sexton and Monica VanderAa  
having lunch in Rita and Ted Deehan's  
tomato field.



In 1931 Sylvester McGuire's Team of Greys won the Open Drawing Match at Essex County Fair. In the picture are Sylvester McGuire handling his team; on the stone boat are Phil Quinlan, John Renaud, Frank McGuire; the young people are Emmett McGuire, Tommy Shanahan, Cliff McGuire, Charlie Daniher and John Shanahan. Sylvester McGuire also won the \$5 prize donated by Essex Farmers for the Best Teamster.

Eugene Sullivan



Cornelius Beahan checking the barns

Wilfred McCarthy binding grain  
with son Ken on the back



## A Glimpse of the Life of a Hired Hand in Maidstone in 1861

Recently an old note book about 4 inches by 6 inches was found; it provides a glimpse into the life of a hired hand in Maidstone in 1861 and demonstrates the great power that employers had over employees in pre-union days. Over the years the notebook was used by a number of people for different purposes; unfortunately one person even used it as an ashtray. Nevertheless, it indicates that recycling was in style in Maidstone long before the blue box programme.

Inside the front cover is *Visitors Report Book January 1853, School Section Number 8*. The first three pages record the visits of school trustees Jeremiah McCarthy, Dennis Collins, Abraham Halford, Owen Sullivan, Jerry McCarthy, John Halford, Patrick McCann and Thomas Ferry. An interesting signature of a visitor is Fr. Jean Jaffré, who not only served the parish as a missionary based at Assumption Parish in Sandwich or in Chatham, but also came to inspect the school.

On page four, different writing begins with the heading *Boys Account*; the first date entered is March 6, 1855. The book was used by the Maidstone storekeeper Thomas Moran to record purchases and gifts for his two sons, Thomas and Nicholas. For example, in May of 1855 two light hats for the boys cost fifty cents while in November of the same year two caps, presumably winter weight, cost a dollar. The next year two pair of boots cost \$5.50 and mitts \$1.00.

James McShane, a hired hand or itinerant worker, appears to have been the next person to make use of this little notebook. He was employed by a Mr. McCarthy beginning January 30, 1860 at the rate of six dollars per month. It is clear that McShane lost time at St. Patrick's Day because of over-exuberant celebration and inability to work. Perhaps for this reason the next employer was very stringent:

*January 12, 1861*

*James McShane hired to  
serve for 12 months at the  
rate of six dollars per month  
with one dollar increase of wages for three months in harvest  
Making in all seventy-five  
dollars per year until 12 January 1862.  
He has agreed also to require  
no money until his time is complete  
unless what clothes I am pleased  
to buy for him during his tenure and  
above all to keep sober and drink  
only what I am pleased to hand  
him, and if he gets drunk  
to forfeit all.*

*Jerry O'Connor present January 12th, 1861.*



## The Parish Hall



Built around the turn of the century, the parish hall was moved and improved in 1961 and finally demolished in April 1989. The demolition crew included parishioners Gerald Gemus, Vince Gemus and Vince Dufour.



## New Hall Construction



Members of the hall committee, Marlene St. Louis, Ella Mae Markham, Evelyn Markham and Emmett McGuire, also known as "the inspectors," are shown here in consultation with the builder.



Finally! Fr. Bill Kornacker  
handing over the keys to hall  
manager Evelyn Markham.



The official blessing by  
Bishop Fred Henry in October  
1989.



Landscaping was also done by parishioners and assistants; these included Vic Bellaire, Don Bissonnette, Joe McLeod, Mark Dowdy, Mary Beth Vanhoorne, Martin McCarthy and Sam Kovac.



Burning the hall mortgage was an occasion for celebration. On April 4, 1993, Mario Vadori, chair of the Parish Council, was helped by Marie Kane, one of the oldest parishioners at the time.



At the same celebration, the hall managers, Evelyn Markham and Sal Gignac, were honoured for their continuing efforts which keep the hall running smoothly.





The Parish Hall is a meeting place where people of the community come together to celebrate parish occasions as well as family celebrations like weddings and showers. Local young people facilitate dinners by working as wait staff.

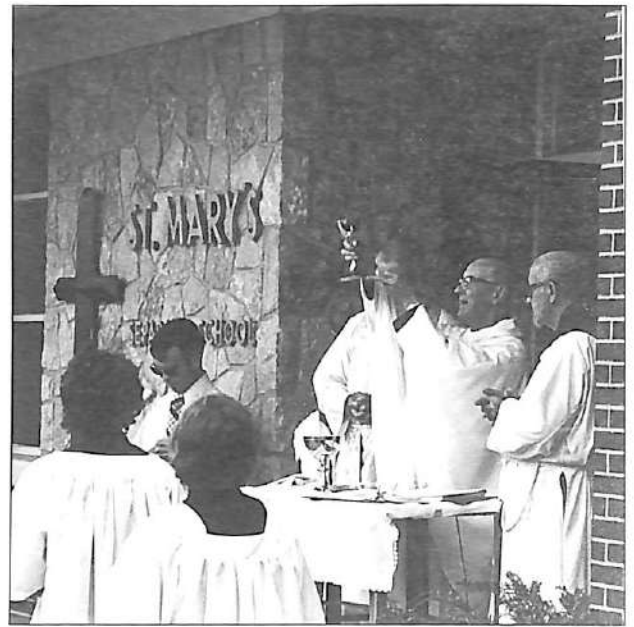
Pictured above are the workers at the 1993 Mortgage Burning Party: seated: Stephen Blais, Dan Hebert; front row: Karen Hebert, Kelly Czerwieniec, Michelle Cloutier, Renee Hebert, back row: Kelly Hebert, Jamie Croft and Wes Fuerth. The original caption for this picture includes comments about who didn't really work very hard that day.

As well, the parish hall is a place where families can regroup and mingle with relatives and friends after a funeral. These gatherings are arranged by the Funeral Committee: front row: Rita McGuire, Wilma Bissonnette, Ella Mae Markham. Back row: Theresa Clermont, Nancy Cook, Evelyn Markham, Sal Gignac.



## Parish Activities

### 1874-1974 Centennial of the Church



In 1974, an outdoor Mass was held to mark the one hundredth anniversary of the building of the present church. Fr. Marentette concelebrated the Mass with Fr. Chris Quinlan and Fr. Tim Kavanagh; former altar boys Mike Collins and Frank McCloskey served; the reader was Leo Shanahan. Irene Mullin and Tim Hebert provided the music.



Pictured here are the organizers of the 1994 Country Hoe-down. From left to right in the back are Fran Rauth, Gerry and Liz Vanhoorne, Linda Halford and Theresa Tetzlaff. Seated are Tom Halford and Gerry Tetzlaff.



One of the first activities in the new parish hall was a fashion show in November 1989. Some of the models were, from left to right, Don Bissonnette, Fr. Bill Kornacker, Hugh Hebert, Roger Lemmon, Terry Argent and Joe McCarthy.

## Parish Picnics



Pam McLean, Paul and Pat Quinlan try to put some order in chaos.





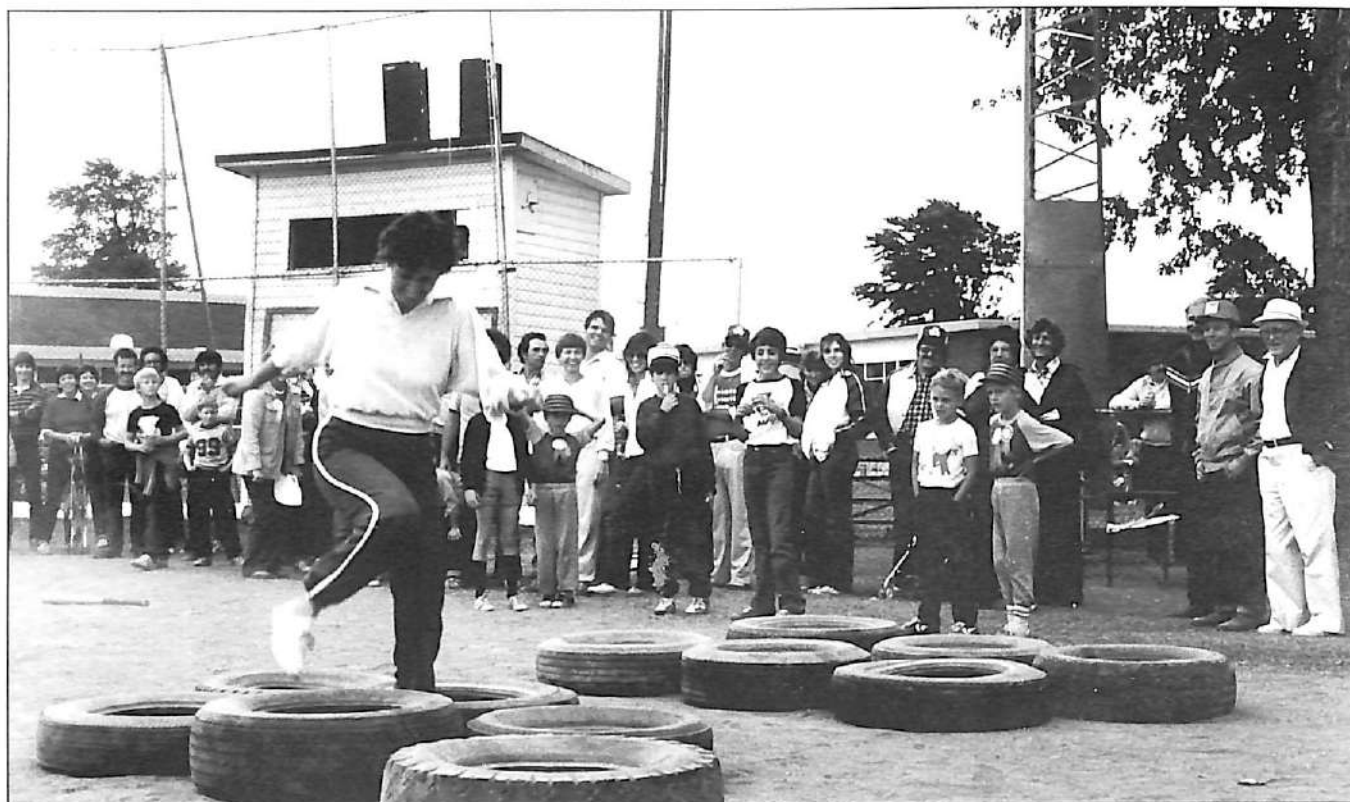
1982 Watermelon Eating Contest



1992 Face Painting - Katie Moore Clowns Around







It is not just the children who enjoy themselves at parish picnics as Jane Cloutier and those watching her clearly show.

Even the cooks need to eat! Ken and Maria Gignac take a break and a bite.



## Low Sawing Contests

1982 Champions Emmett and Everett McGuire



Bob McCarthy and Richard Lafreniere

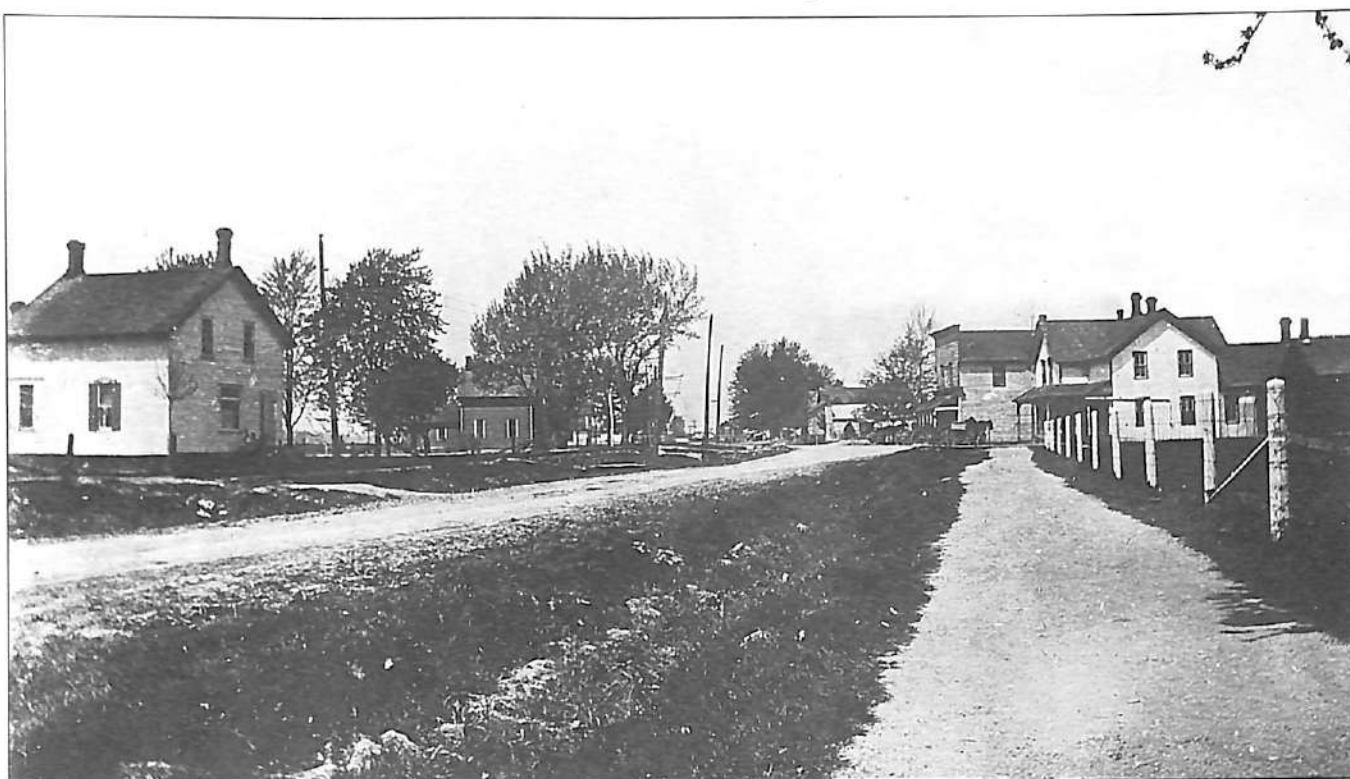


Suzanne (Sexton) Rau and Elizabeth Sexton

Louis Benoit and Norm Jobin



## Views of the Village



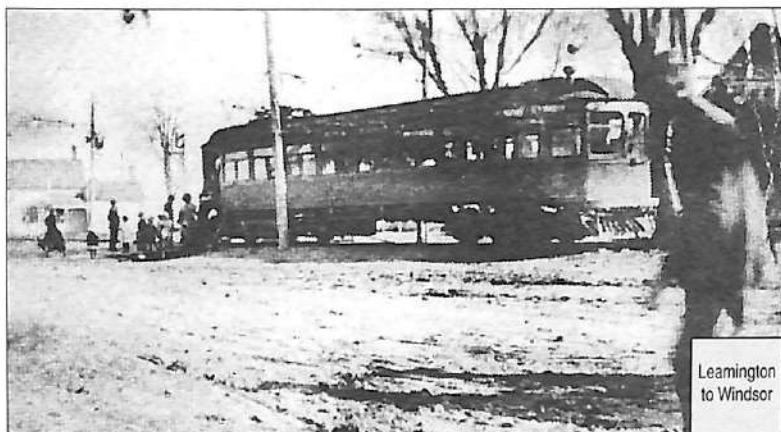
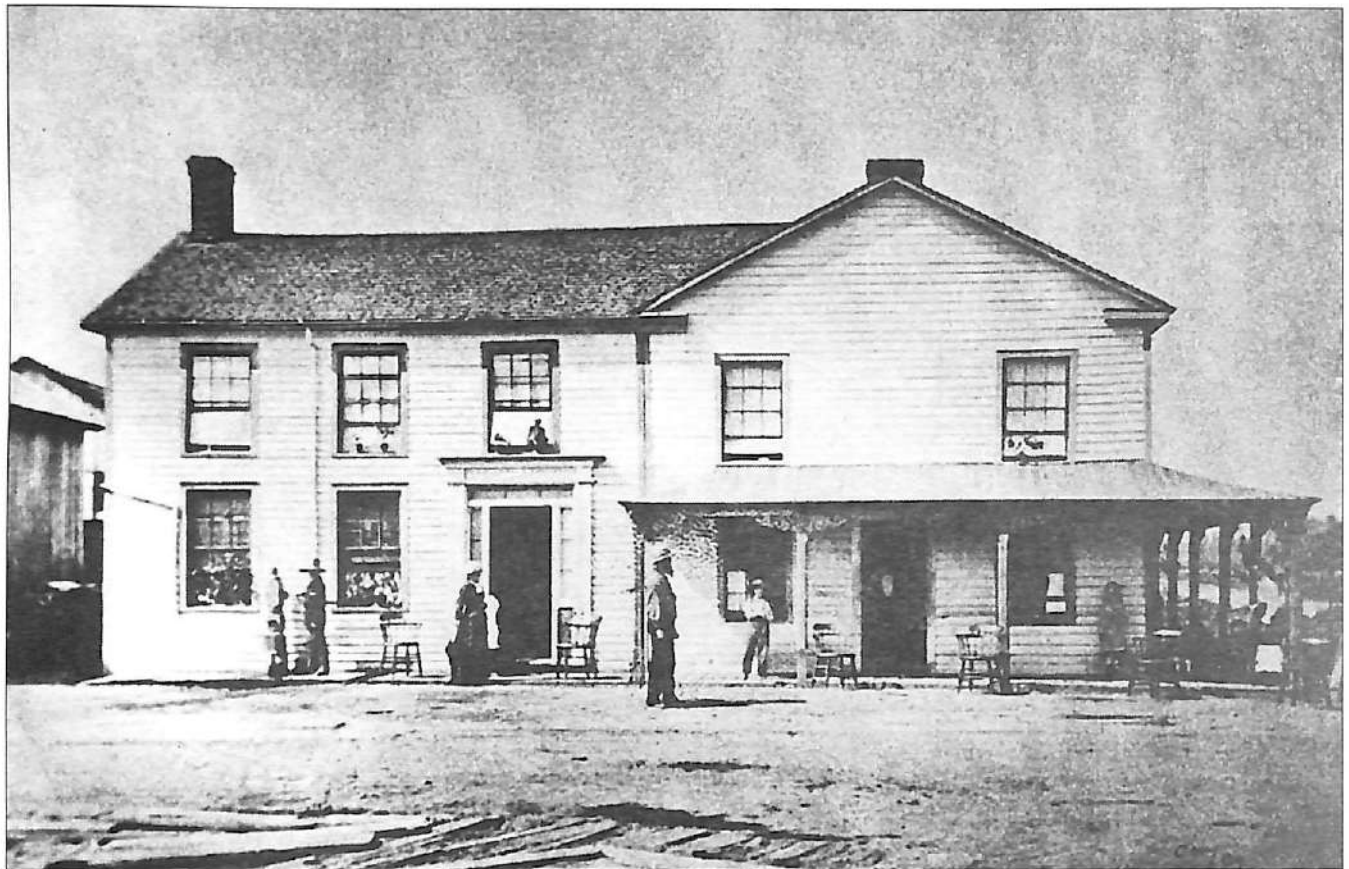
Talbot Street about 1900



The Maidstone Post Office



The Jeremiah Collins Sr. Hotel about 1880-90



About the turn of the century the electric railway connected Leamington and Windsor. It expanded both commercial and educational opportunities for Maidstone area residents.



## Nace Halford's Store



This photo from late in the 19th century records an unknown event at Nace Halford's store. Nace, in a derby hat, is seated on a nailkeg at the far right of the porch; we believe that his wife, Christine (Rourke) is the lady in the black dress, seated between the centre posts, looking towards Nace. The other members of the group remain unidentified.

An interesting detail in this photograph is the partial view, between the right corner of the store and the horse, of the first brick church in Maidstone which, after the construction of the present building in 1874, was bought by Charles Kavanagh and was used as a carriage shop and home for his family.

It is clear that this store underwent renovations as well; it was later only one storey high.

## Wedding and Anniversary Celebrations



**Jeremiah and Kitty (Kerby) Collins** had one daughter who died young and seven sons: Bernard (Bus), Russell, Harry, Gregory, Wilfred, Michael and Daniel. Jeremiah was the son of Jeremiah and the grandson of Dennis who was granted the original 100 acre family farm on Talbot Road. Present descendants still residing on the original land include Len Collins, Terry and Carolynn Collins, Bernard and Brenda Collins and family. Residing nearby are John and Cara (Collins) Andary and children.

**Timothy and Sarah (McHugh) McGuire** married in 1877; their family was Annie (Markham), Frank, Mary (Mahon), Tim, Alice (Shanahan), Sylvester and Philip.



**Frank and Mary (McGuire) Mahon** celebrated their Golden Anniversary in 1961. Their family is Kathleen, Francis, Jeanette, Charles, Edmond, Harold and Mary (Lauzon).



On January 25, 1898 **Louis and Anne (Bondy) Deslippe** were married at St. Mary's. Their children were Sylvia (O'Neil), Clifford, Goldenia (Libby), Lillian (Braustein), Geraldine (Durocher), Gertrude (Anderson), Bernard and Roy.

**Regeana Madeline German and Joseph Bernard Fortowsky** married at Immaculate Conception Church, Carmel, Saskatchewan, on October 27, 1931.

Fifty-four years ago they moved to Maidstone where they raised their four children: Clem, Wilfred, Marcella and recently deceased Phyllis.

As far as we know, they are the longest married couple of St. Mary's parish family.





**Fred and Catherine (Cole) Austin**  
celebrated their 50th Wedding  
Anniversary, September 14, 1970.

**Elizabeth Robinson  
and Cornelius Beahan**

were married in July 1909. Their family  
is Julia (Campbell), Elizabeth, Francis,  
Albert, Monica (St. Louis), Lyola and  
Rosemary.

The youngest two family members still  
live on the family farm and are active  
parishioners of St. Mary's.



## 60th Anniversaries



**Maurice and Mary Mullins**



**Frank and Ellen Ferry**



**Robert and Mary Katherine Schwertner**



**Thomas and Alice (McGuire) Shanahan** were married November 7, 1911. Their children are Leo, Gerald, Raymond, John, Helen, Sarah (Sadie), Rita, Vincent, Thomas Jr., James, Dorothy, Mildred, Norman, Rose and Donald.



**Medric and Amanda Belleperche**



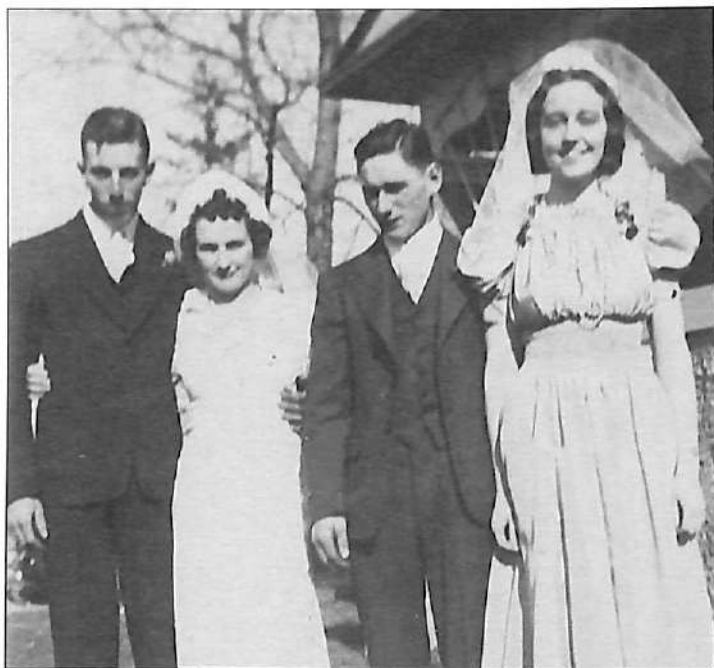
**Roy and Lillie (Chittle) Hayes**



Roy and Lillie Hayes were married in 1918; their attendants (seated) were Patrick Hayes and Mary (Chittle) Byrne. Their children are Kathleen (Reaume), Rita (Mullins), John, Edward, Patricia (Maitre), William, Ursula (Tracey), Bernard, Leo and Harvey.

On October 29, 1938, Fr. Gleeson officiated at the wedding of **Wilfred and Loretta (Jobin) McCarthy**. Their son Ken and grandchildren and great-grandchildren still live in the parish.

Attendants, on the right, were Mary Broderick and Gordon Jobin



The wedding of **John and Julia (Quinlan) Mullins** in 1956; their parents are Joseph and Ellen (Allen) Mullins, and Emmett and Marjorie (McAuliffe) Quinlan.

Wedding picture of **Henry and Grace (Quick) Battersby**, (seated); their attendants (standing) are John and Sarah (McCarthy) Battersby. They were married August 26, 1884 at St. Mary's.



Below they are shown with their family, about 1910 or 12, Florence, Margaret, Carmen, James, Gordon and Hazel (between her parents).





**Emmett and Rita (Maitre) McGuire** were married on November 27, 1943 at Ste Anne's Church in Tecumseh. They are shown here celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary with their six children, Ron, Tim, Jane (Cloutier), Sal (Rohrer), Dan and Mark; and nineteen grandchildren.



**Gerald and Violet (Eyraud) Shanahan** celebrated 50 years of marriage on November 18, 1994. They have five children, Leo, Larry, Donna (Harris), Joan (Hebert), and Susan (Vadori); and eleven grandchildren.







**Wilfrid and Evelyn (Battersby) O'Neil**, both lifelong residents of St. Mary's, were married June 17, 1944. They now have eleven children, twenty-three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



**Don and Aileen (McCloskey) Flood** are shown here admiring the quilt embroidered for them by their daughter Marilyn Scratch to honour their sixtieth anniversary. The quilt has the names of their children and grandchildren; several great-grandchildren have been born since this celebration. They were married at St. Mary's on July 2, 1934; a number of their children, grandchildren and great grand-children reside in our parish.







**John and Rosemary (McCarthy) Hebert** are shown here in 1943 and 1981 photos. On November 6, 1993 they celebrated fifty years of marriage. They had six children: Dan, Carol Anne (Zechner), John, Hugh, Tim and Gerry; and now have nineteen grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



**Cesidio and Antonietta (Colaluca) Accione** were married in Settefrati, Italy.

They celebrated their Golden Anniversary June 17, 1994 at St. Mary's and at the Ciociaro Club.

They have four children, six grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.



**Emmett and Mary (McCloskey) McCarthy** were married at St. Mary's on August 27, 1938. Their maid of honour was Rosemary McCarthy, best man was Ed McCloskey and flower girl was Barb Schihl. Below they celebrate with their nine children: front row, Dick and Maurene, back row, Chris, Dez, Elaine (Deehan), Carrie (Kovac), Marg (McGuire), Tom and Bob; they have twenty-eight grandchildren and one great-grandson.





**Ken and Verlie (Dubé)**

**Borrowman** celebrated their 50th anniversary at St. Mary's on November 27, 1973. They had two sons and a daughter.

Verlie Borrowman is our oldest parishioner. Her focus has always been her family which now includes her son and daughter-in-law, **Donald and Pat (Hill)**

**Borrowman** of our parish, two grand children and two great-grandchildren.

**Marjorie and Emmett Quinlan's**  
Golden Wedding Anniversary picture





**Gladys Hayes and Emmett McLean** were married June 16, 1942 at St. Mary's.

Their children are Ken, Patricia, Jim, Charles, Len, Ralph and Mary (Sauve).

Here they are celebrating their 35th wedding anniversary with Fr. Chris Quinlan who said a Mass in their home for the occasion.



## The Family of Fr. Chris Quinlan Celebrating His 25th Anniversary of Ordination



Vera Quinlan, Grace Maitre, Jean Maitre, Helen Oleck, Marge Fuerth, Larry Quinlan, Mrs. Anne (McCann) Quinlan, Fr. Chris, Paul Quinlan, Rita McIntyre, Pat Zimmer, Ruth Quinlan, Trudy Davidson.

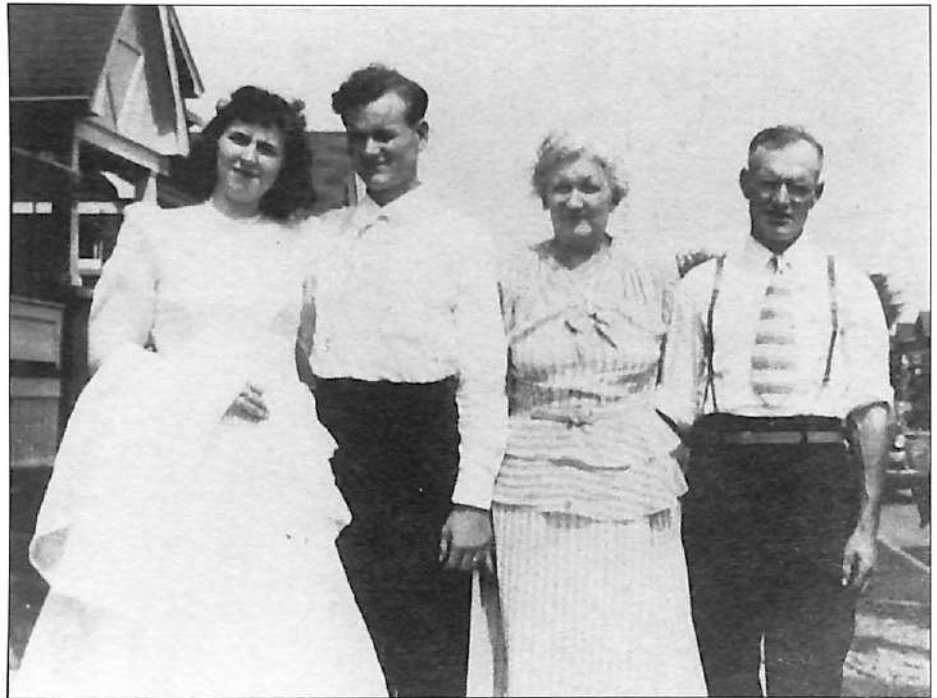
**Jim and Pauline (Halford) Quinlan** were married September 19, 1938. They are shown here celebrating their fortieth wedding anniversary.





In this 1948 photo  
**Charles and Maxine  
(Krotesch) Quinlan** are  
with Charlie's parents,  
Edward and Anne  
(McCann) Quinlan.

Their family is Doreen,  
Charlene, Christine, Kelly  
and Carmen.



**Ursula and Charles Sexton** were married in  
1923 and had celebrated fifty-seven years of marriage  
at the time of Charles' death in 1981.

They are shown here at their Silver Wedding  
Anniversary celebration in 1948.

## Parishioners Through the Years

### Stephen and Loretta (Collins) Conroy



Loretta Rose Conroy, daughter of Jeremiah Collins and Anne Kavanaugh, died in 1953 at the age of 72. She was noted for her musical talent and for many years she was the organist and choir director of St. Mary's.

Steve Conroy (1868-1960) farmed at Maidstone Cross until his retirement in 1943. He played an active part in community and parish affairs, serving as councillor, assessor, tax collector, school trustee and road superintendent for the Township of Maidstone for more than thirty years. He also contributed to the growth and development of St. Mary's Parish. He was a charter member of the Catholic Order of Foresters and received a 50 year pin for continuous service as secretary of the organization.

Stephen and Loretta Conroy had six children: Sister Claire Marie O.S.U., Norbert, Charles, Agnes (R.N.); Letitia Paquette and Margaret. Terry-Lynn (Gagnon) Therrien of our parish is a great-granddaughter of this couple.

Mr. and Mrs. Loftus Lepain  
(Catherine Downing)



Bridget McCann and son Andrew

Bridget (O'Donoghue) and Michael McCann came to the new world in 1866; their son Andrew was a small child. Tradition has it that the family of three was only here for an hour when Mr. McCann died.



Maggie (Kane) McCann, wife of Andrew,  
Agnes Kane, later Deehan, Theresa Kane  
Donovan



Mr. and Mrs. Ed Deehan



Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Dufoe



On the left, a portrait of **Charles Kavanagh**, 1852-1939, taken about 1900. The son of Michael Kavanagh and Anne Halford, he married Elizabeth Dixon (1858-1911) and had seven children, Arthur, Albert, Nicholas, Mary, Anne, Elizabeth and Harold.

On the right, Charles Kavanagh holds their eldest child, Arthur, born in 1880. Arthur later married Margaret Fields and had a family of ten: Clarence, Bernard, Harold, Edmund, Oswald, Thomas, Ray, Rita, Norene and Margaret.

**Joseph Lepain** and his daughters Catherine and Anna Mae. Catherine is now Mrs. Harold Wellwood.



## Francis McCloskey Family



Standing left to right: John, William, Kate Hines, Charles, Frank,  
Sitting: Tom, Mary McKeon, Francis and Mary (Sheridan) McCloskey,  
Lower: Margaret Welsh and Elizabeth Halford

Elizabeth McCloskey (1872-1949) married Robert Halford (son of John Halford II and Ellen Barrett); they were both active in parish life and community politics for many years.

Descendants of three of their fifteen children, Robert, Peter L. and Rosemary (Sexton), still live in the parish.





## Thomas P. McCloskey Reminiscences

### *"My life since March 15, 1875"*

*The first job I had was tending the switch lamps on the Michigan Central Railway, taking them into the station in the morning, filling them with oil, cleaning them and putting them out before dark. There was one semaphore about opposite the church, and another the same distance from the station west. These were operated from the station with a cable. My wages were \$8.00 a month.*

*My next job was working at the church and going to school. I had a horse and cow to look after and four stoves in the church, of which three of them were not used on weekdays, except for funerals and holy days. There were three stoves in the house, one upstairs (all wood stoves) and I had to get enough wood in at night to last the next day.*

*When my father died he had \$2,000 life insurance in the C.M.B.A., so my mother gave me enough money to start a store in the present building where Mrs. Mike John keeps a store. I had groceries, dry goods (mostly prints) which I sold for 10¢ and 12¢ a yard; work shoes for adults and children. The first order of groceries I bought, peas and corn sold for 5¢ a can and the best of tea sold at 25¢ a pound, 25 lbs. of sugar for \$1.00 and everything else was cheap.*

*Before starting the store I worked on the M.C.R. section for \$1.00 a day, for 10 hours work. People lived on those wages then. Now it just means you are handling more money.*

Aileen Flood, Mary McCarthy and the late Frank McCloskey were children of Tom and Sarah (McHugh) McCloskey.

—725553—

## Tom and Anne Halford

Children of Abraham and Ellen (Flynn) Halford, Tom (a widower) and Anne Halford went to Washington State to homestead. They were accompanied by Tom's three sons and by a cousin, Thomas Barrett.

Anne wrote home to Maidstone on July 1, 1900 that *"the two Toms are quite enthusiastic, but I would rather see Jerry's Moynahan's line fence than all their beautiful hills."*





This 1899 photo shows the family of **William and Catherine (Driscoll) Cole**: Nellie (Turton), Catherine, Catherine (Austin), William; standing, Alice (Perrin), Margaret Cole Dunn, Mary Frances Lepain and, foreground, Josephine (Robinson).

Below, the family of **Fred and Catherine (Cole) Austin**: front row, Fred, Kate, Helen Morkin, Eileen and Jane; second row: Anne Ruddy, Rita Brousseau, Catherine, Mary Jessop, David (Bud); back row, Jim.





Florence Battersby, later Mrs. Earl Wismer,  
in 1910.



Laurentia (St. Louis) Battersby,  
mother of Evelyn O'Neil.



**Adolph and Rose Anne (St. Amour) St. Louis** (about 1910) holding their youngest daughter Evelyn and also their oldest grandchild Emmett DeGuvera. The couple had twelve children and are the grandparents of Evelyn O'Neil, Orville Bellaire and Lucretia Kettels, and the great-grandparents of Jim McAuliffe and many other descendants.

### Gordon and Sylvia O'Neil



This photo celebrates the engagement of Gordon O'Neil and Sylvia Deslippe who were married at St. Mary's June 18, 1918. Their children are Everett, Wilfred, Glenn, Doris (Chittle), Harvey, Jean, Donna (Molnar) and Donald.

## Shanahan Family Reunion, 1985



Tom Shanahan was the youngest of ten children of John Shanahan and Rose Smythe. He married Alice McGuire in 1911 and they had fifteen children: Leo, Gerald, Raymond, Helen, Sarah, Rita, John III, Vincent, James, Thomas II, Mildred, Dorothy, Norman, Donald and Rose Mary.

The Shanahan family was noted for their focus on family, their activity in the farming community and their interest in horses; however, their ongoing passion was their support of the Liberal party. Alice worked to give the right to vote to women and in many election campaigns.

Tom was 99 years old when this picture was taken in 1985; he died in 1988 at the age of 103. Many of his descendants are still active participants in St. Mary's parish community.





John and Rose Shanahan (1913) - Family of 4 generations

**Andrew McCarthy** died Christmas Eve 1949 at the age of seventy-eight; he is still remembered by people from Maidstone for his many kindnesses. When he followed his daily milk route he often delivered children to school or to church.



His wife, **Grace (Sexton) McCarthy**, 1883-1979) served for many years on the Cemetery Board. Their family was Monica, Catherine, Richard, Leonard, Mary, Emmett and Rosemary (Hebert). She is shown here as a young woman, about 1910, and in a photo taken for the 1974 history book.



Elmer Sexton, John and Joe Sullivan, Leonard McCarthy; in the car are Mary and Rosemary McCarthy and Kay Noonan.



Playing cards at the Halford "Four Gate Farm" at the shower before the marriage of Pauline Halford and Jim Quinlan in 1938.

#### **Abraham & Ellen (Flynn) Halford**

Their family was Mary (Higgins), John, a bachelor, Maurice who married Mary O'Brien, Catherine, (Sister Laurentia), Annie, Thomas, Ellen (Sister St. Ferdinand) and Abraham.

Maurice and Mary were the parents of Nell, Maurice, Dan, Joe, James, Catherine and Mary (McGavin).

Annie went to Republic Washington with her widowed brother Tom, his three sons and a cousin Thomas Barrett. Abraham was an engineer, surveyor of the Point Pelee area and a consultant when the toll-gates were burned on Talbot Road at the turn of the century.



## Taidy and Sarah (McHugh) McGuire



About one hundred and fifty years ago, Timothy and Bridget (McHugh) Maguire came to Canada with their four daughters and one son; they settled on the Tiernan farm on the Middle Road (County Road 46 across from where Elmer and Shirley Quinlan now live).

Elizabeth, the eldest daughter, married John Quinlan. They are the ancestors of Quinlan, Mooney, O'Connell, Gilbert and Allen descendants. Bridget married Francis McKeon and had one son before her husband's premature death; she next married Patrick McHugh. Annie married Thomas Butler. Mary married John Renaud, ancestor of Frank Renaud and Rose (Renaud) Jobin of the parish. It is not known what happened to the son who was born in Ireland.

The first son of Bridget and Timothy to be born in Canada was Timothy, usually known as Taidy. He married Sarah McHugh and their family was Annie, who married George Markham, Frank who married Maggie Allen, Mary who married Frank Mahon, Tim who remained a bachelor, Alice who married Tom Shanahan, Sylvester (Vesty) who married Jane McCann, and Philip who married Margaret Wood.



### **The Emmett Quinlan Family**

Front row: Clifford Quinlan, Loretta (Quinlan) Campeau, Donna (Quinlan) Zablocki, Elmer Quinlan,  
 Back row: Donald Quinlan, Irene (Quinlan) Hewitt, Julia (Quinlan) Mullins, Mary Kay (Quinlan)  
 Strong, Ella Mae (Quinlan) Ruggaber and Gerald Quinlan.  
 Absent: Shirley (Hunt), Bob and Tom Quinlan.



### **The McLean Family**

Harry, Helen, Julia (Kelly) McLean, Bill, Emmett, John and Ford in the front.

**Patrick and Olive (Langlois) Hayes,**  
parents of Gladys McLean



Michael Kavanagh married Ann Halford, daughter of John Halford and Mary O'Brien, at Assumption Parish in 1833; they raised a family of twelve children. Among this couple's descendants are several Kavanagh families and the Milligan family; Kate (Milligan) Bryant, a great-great-granddaughter supplied the pictures.



Monica,  
Rosemary and  
Lyola Beahan  
about 1930.



Standing: Nell (Robinson) Hurley, Jo and Mame Robinson  
Seated: Elizabeth (Robinson) Beahan holding Julia (Campbell), and Rose (Hergott) Robinson

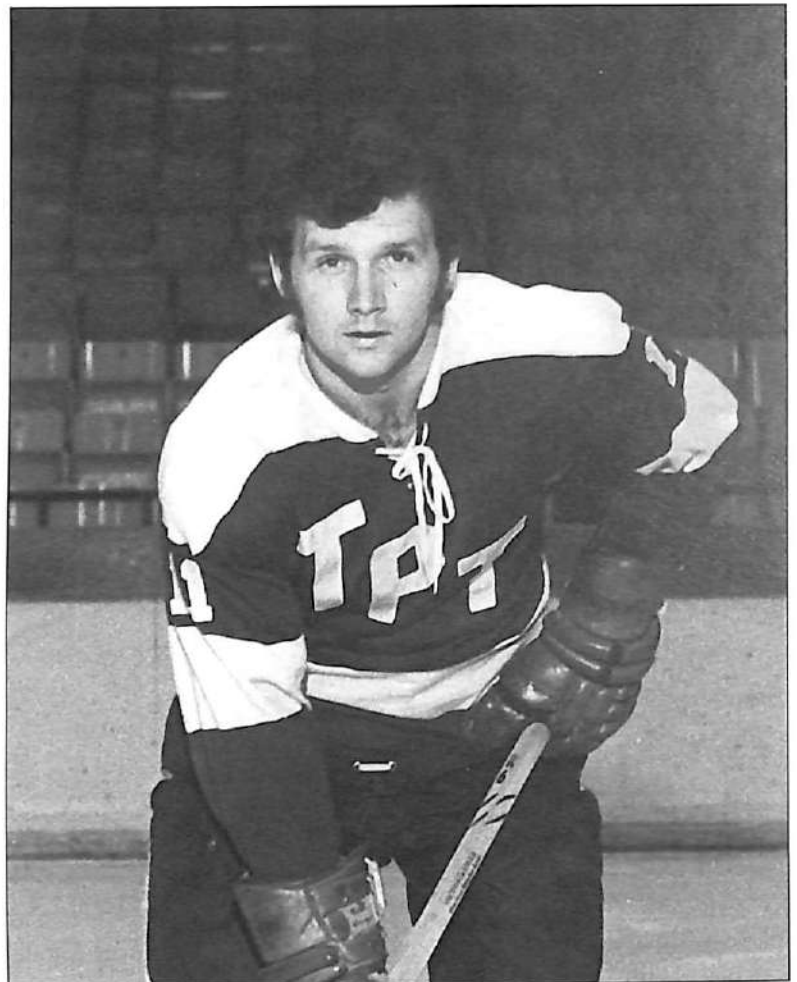


These are the children of Marius and Ella (Stouffe) Eyraud in the late 1950s.

Back row: Millie Belleau, Corinne Morand and Mary Dunn

Front row: Inez Chittle, Florent Eyraud and Frances Eyraud

In 1971, **Jim Mahon**, son of Ed and Maxine (Hayes) Mahon, died in an electrical accident at age nineteen. At the time of his death he played for the Peterborough Petes and was likely to play in the National Hockey League.



## The Frank Hayes Family

Frank Hayes married Dorothy Stowe in 1923; she died in childbirth in 1931. He then married Dorothy Quimby and had a family of eleven children. The first six children of this second marriage are shown in this circa 1947 photo. Peter, Nancy and Jim are in the back and Dorothy, Pat and Tom in the front. The four children on the right still live in the parish.



Below, the family in June 1981. Front row: Nancy, Julia, Fran; second row, Marilyn, Eleanore, Dorothy (Quimby) the mother, Dot; third row: Ron, Gloria, Bill; fourth row: John, Jim, Peter, Tom, Pat and Harold. Missing, Leo and Maxine; deceased, Bob.



Frank and Dorothy (Quimby) Hayes in 1970



Front row: Daniel McLean and Arthur McPharlin who married sisters, Bernadette and Agnes Halford, daughters of Nace and Christine (Rourke) Halford.

Back row: Peter Clarke who was raised by Fr. Peter McCabe and Charles Sexton who was a carpenter and installed the tabernacle in the church in 1939.

## 150th Anniversary Celebrations

Tom and Linda (Kessler) Halford ring the bells signaling the beginning of the Anniversary Celebrations on June 9, 1996. At the time Tom was chairman of the Parish Council and the Anniversary Committee.



Frs. Mark Barron, Bill Kornacker, Chris Quinlan, seminarian Raymond Lawhead and Bishop John Sherlock congratulate Fr. Larry for his instigation of and work toward organizing the anniversary celebrations.





Luke McCarthy is congratulated by Bishop Sherlock for his help with putting the time capsule in place.



During the week of anniversary celebrations, many people enjoyed the historical display organized by Penny (Turton) Esping with the assistance of Rosemary (Fortier) Halford.

## Strawberry Social, June 1 and 2, 1996



Above, hardworking volunteers prepare for the Strawberry Social: Wendy Halford, Colleen Pandolfo, Sarah McCarthy, Joan Hebert, Ella Mae Markham, Suzanne Rau, Tim Halford, Linda Halford, and Penny Esping. Below, Fr. Mousseau, Emmett McCarthy, Pat and Don Borrowman, Mary McCarthy and Verlie Borrowman enjoy the cake and berries.





### **Anniversary Committee**

Front row: Suzanne (Sexton) Rau, Evelyn (Chevalier) Markham, Ella Mae (Belleau) Markham, Kolleen (Hudak) Fuerth, Wendy (Pulleyblank) Halford, Tim Halford, Tom Halford.

Back row: Rosemary (Fortier) Halford, Sal (Deehan) Gignac, Fr. Larry Mousseau, Penny (Turton) Esping, Shaun Fuerth, Linda (Kessler) Halford. Absent, Carolynn (Simpson) Collins.



Shaun Fuerth's work of videotaping the Anniversary Mass with Bishop Sherlock permitted the overflow crowd in the hall to participate.

## Old-timers Baseball Game



After a well-played game the score was tied at the end of seven innings; the Shamrocks prevailed in the extra inning. **Shamrocks** - Back Row: Jim Dunn, Tom Fuerth, Bob Croft, Ron McGuire. Front Row: Evan Wright, Roy Deehan, Hank Czerwieniec, Gary Deehan, Don Fields.



**Former Altar Boys** - Back Row: Phil Jobin, Joe McLeod, Wes Fuerth, Shaun Fuerth, Terry Collins Jr., Mark Johnson, Ryan Fuerth. Front Row: Kirk Hayes, Bob McCarthy, Bill Deehan, Matthew Halford.





Rene Plamondon, Lucretia Kettels, Bob Kettels, Pauline Eyraud, Marge McGuire, Ralph Dube.



Lucille McGuire, Stan McGuire, Ev McGuire, Madeline McGuire, Helen Trepanier, Charles Trepanier, Julia McCann, Charles McCann.



Don Borrowman, Pat Borrowman, Theresa Clermont, Verlie Borrowman, Shirley Dupuis, Phil Dupuis, Irene Fevreau, Ida Taiariol.





Orville Bellaire, Jack McAuliffe, Kay McAuliffe, Rita Bellaire, Helen McGuire, Mary Maitre, Clifford McGuire.



JoAnn Hayes, Isabel Hayes, Bill Gould, Rose Gould, Jim Hayes, Joe John, Bert (Cloutier) Ulch, Peter John.



Ruth Allen, Lucille Allen, Earl Allen, Brother George Starmer, Jerry Allen, Harold Allen.



Marie Markham, Carol Strong, Evelyn Markham, Jim Markham, Fr. Bob Charbonneau, Betty Kotow, Irene Fitzpatrick, Jean Kwiatkowski, Mary Lou Kwaitkowski.



Sadie O'Connor, Dorothy St. Louis, Ray Shanahan, Grant "Oscar" Garrod, John Shanahan, Iris Shanahan, Mildred Roberts.



Sister Adelaide McAuliffe, Mary McCarthy, Clare McCarthy, Chris Arpin, Rosemary Hebert, Rosemary Levaque, Rose Sexton.



Loretta McCarthy, Mary Hergott, Yvonne and Bob Hergott, Gerry and Elizabeth Vanhoorne.



Patrick and Irene Bellaire, Theresa Nussio, Eleanor Johnson and Theresa Paré



These "honorary seniors" provided music at the Mass for Seniors: Jean Slater (organist), Rose Claire Hayes, Carol Ann Duronio, Christine Dula, and Diane Lawhead.



**Parishioners in Centennial Costumes**



**Tree Planting Ceremony**

Fr. Larry Mousseau, Wendy Halford and Kolleen Fuerth are assisted by altar servers Dan Fraser, Shane Kovacs, Joseph Dula, Dylan Kehoe, Thomas Dula and Nicole Brouyette.



## The Children's Mass



A three generation family bring up the gifts in the offertory procession of the children's Mass: Ella Mae Markham, daughter and son-in-law Margie and Mark Johnson and granddaughters Katrina, Brittany and Rebecca.





After the Children's Mass the children went searching for ancestors in the parish cemetery. Robert McCarthy is beside the grave marker of his paternal great-grandparents, Andrew and Grace (Sexton) McCarthy.



Tim Halford arranged for entertainment: the Kerry Dancers of Windsor, The Music Makers with Kevin Masterson, and our parish's own Paddy McGuire.



The Parish anniversary celebrations were the occasion for some family get-togethers as well.



Elizabeth Sexton and her sisters Judy Jobin and Suzanne Rau.

Marie Markham with her son Jim, grandson Greg and great-granddaughter Nicole.



The Cloutier and McGuire Cousins



## The Future of the Parish



Michelle Hebert  
admiring Laura Fuerth,  
daughter of Kolleen  
(Hudak) and Shaun  
Fuerth.

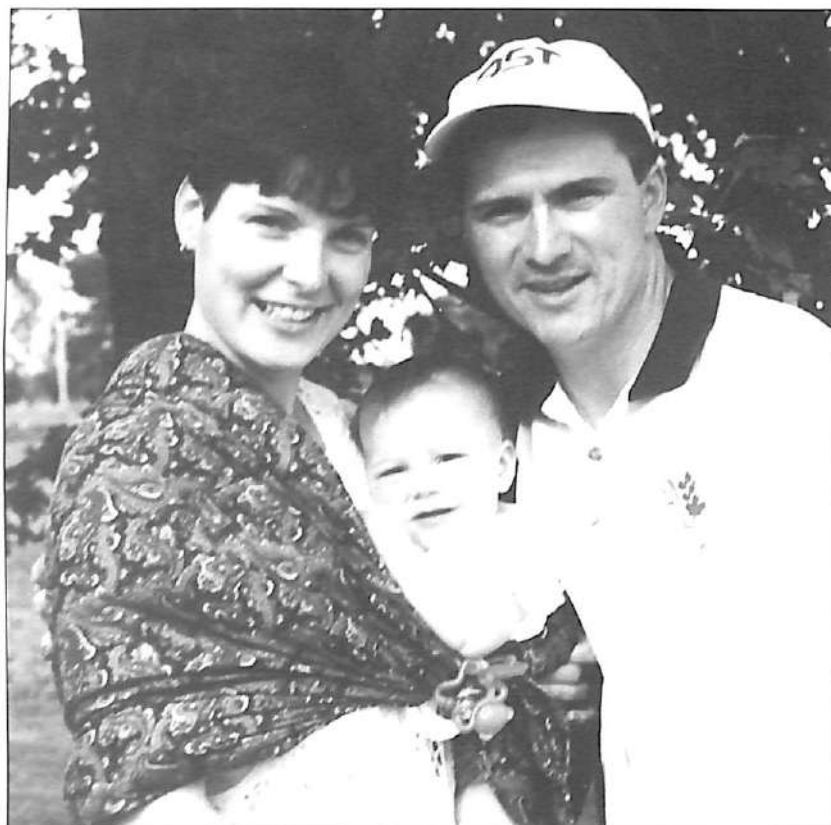


Roger Bastien holding Grace

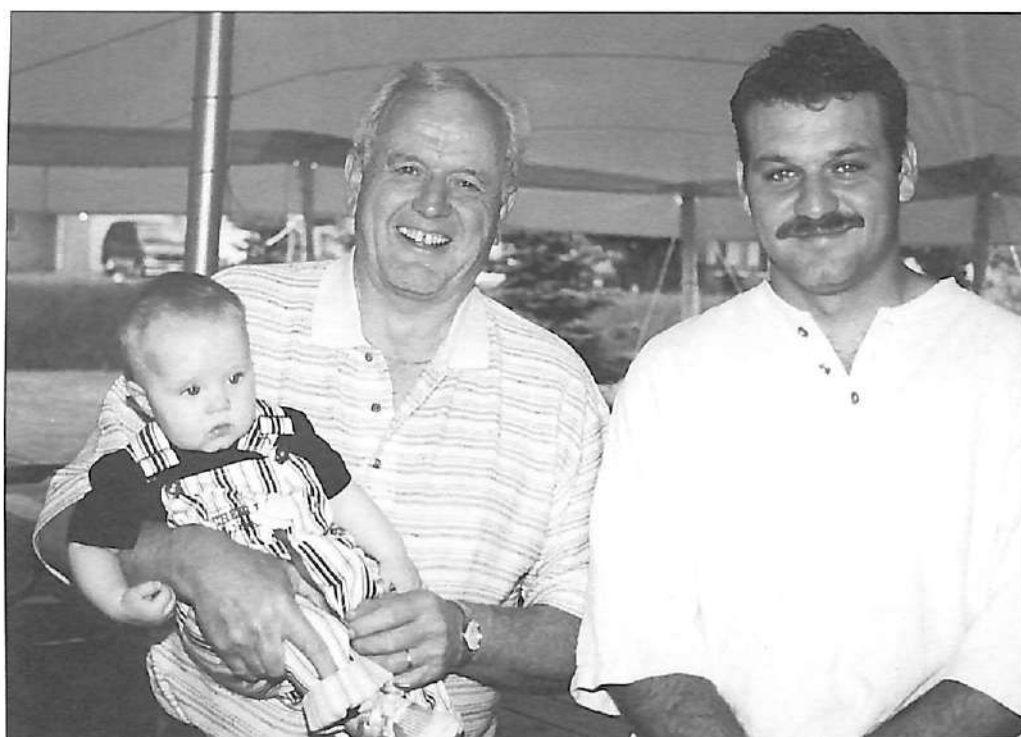


Olivia Andary with her grandparents,  
Terry and Carolynn Collins





Mark and Karen (Turville) McGuire and Riley



Paul Quinlan with his son Patrick and grandson Quinn, son of Tony and LouAnn (Quinlan) Perfetto



Kathy (Markham) Petro and daughter Hannah with her sister Judy Markham holding their nephew, Noah Markham.



Dan and Cheryl (Quinlan) Mahon with Mackenzie



Mario and Sue (Shanahan) Vadori with Angela

## As the Parish Changes

Although the Parish is referred to as "The Irish Settlement" from the very first days of its existence, the central group of Irish Catholic settlers has been constantly augmented by members of other nations and of other confessions. One has only to examine the extremely succinct records on the parish tombstones to have one's curiosity piqued: what is the story behind Nancy Starrs, born in Martinique, West Indies on Christmas Day 1803? How did she come to be the wife of W. Cavanaugh of Maidstone Cross? When she died January 21, 1865 here in Maidstone, did she still have ties to her native land?

As a result of the Irish potato famines on the late 1840s, a second wave of settlers came to the parish. As well, many French Catholic people married parish members and then maintained ties with both Catholic communities. Not all newcomers were Roman Catholic. William van der Linder, for example, was a Dutch Protestant whose descendants include members of the Vanhoorne and Eyraud families.

At the present time the parish has members who come from such diverse regions as Italy, France, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Ecuador, the Ukraine and Poland, as well as members who settled here after starting spiritual life in a different parish or another faith.

Of course, not everyone stayed in Maidstone; people sought opportunities elsewhere and very often made new lives in the United States. During the Depression, a number of young men and women found work in "the States" and many stayed on to marry and raise a family there. There are few of the old families still in Maidstone who don't have cousins "across the river."

In the mid-1800s one of the sons of Jeremiah Collins Sr. decided to pursue his fortunes in the U.S.; after arriving in Michigan, he eventually travelled to Texas and finally settled in Oklahoma. Approximately twelve years ago, Aurelia and "Dusty" Rhodes, a retired couple from Memphis Tennessee who were doing family research, were greatly surprised by what they discovered in Maidstone. Aurelia had inquired about the existence of any Collins' families in the area who would have been related to her grandfather, a son of Jeremiah Collins Sr. She and her husband not only met several families who were cousins, but they have kept in contact with Monica, Terry and Carolynn Collins over the years. Though Dusty has died, Aurelia still feels a special link to her roots at Maidstone Cross.

Another early example: in the late 1890s the north half of the Colville Indian Reservation in Washington State was opened to settlers. Thomas Barrett and his cousin Thomas Halford left Maidstone to homestead there; since the latter was a widower, his sister Annie Halford also went to keep house for her cousin, brother and three nephews. She wrote home to Maidstone on July 1, 1900 that "*the two Toms were quite enthusiastic, but I would rather see Jerry's Moynahan's line fence than all their beautiful hills.*"

Not everyone was happy to leave 'God's country' here in Maidstone; we only hope that all those who have come to the parish feel welcomed - because they truly are! As well, we hope that former parishioners who have moved elsewhere will continue to value their roots here.

## Acknowledgments

We thank all the parishioners who generously lent pictures, supplied information, shared memories and assisted our work in so many ways. Many contributions to this document are noted as being the contribution of an individual but there are also references to "oral history" and "family tradition." It is these memories which truly preserve our communal history. We especially appreciate the trust of parishioners who lent photos for reproduction because these family treasures really do help put a "human face" on historical text.

Thanks to Mark and Jane (McGuire) Cloutier the parish has a photographic record of our growth over the past years; their commitment to recording our celebrations is particularly evident in their coverage of all the 150th anniversary events.

Tom and Shaun Fuerth were a constant support in the often troublesome task of getting raw data into an acceptable form for the computer: their knowledge and assistance with this project are gratefully acknowledged. Peter Steeves overcame a troublesome computer glitch to help get the manuscript to the printer. Jean Ukrainic gave many hours of work inputting material. Maureen Halford Spillane helped with formatting and layout while Mark McGuire gave valued advice on printers.

The editors are especially recognizant of the good counsel and careful workmanship of Susan Yap-Galizio and Bruno Galizio and their staff at J-K Printing. Because of their patient work and technological expertise many of the old photographs are reproduced here with greater clarity than that of the originals, a valued contribution in a book of this type.

The cover art, by Michael Dywelska of Mississauga Ontario, is a watercolour presented to Fr. Mousseau on the occasion of his fortieth anniversary of ordination. Mr. Dywelska was an altar server at the time of Father Larry's first posting to Holy Name of Mary Parish in Windsor. We believe that it is most fitting to reproduce a tribute and gift to Father Mousseau on the cover of this work, a history he so strongly supports.

Finally, we thank all of you, members of a faith community who by your constant participation in and support of St. Mary's have assured the survival of our Parish in this end of the twentieth century and, one hopes, will guarantee its flourishing in the future.

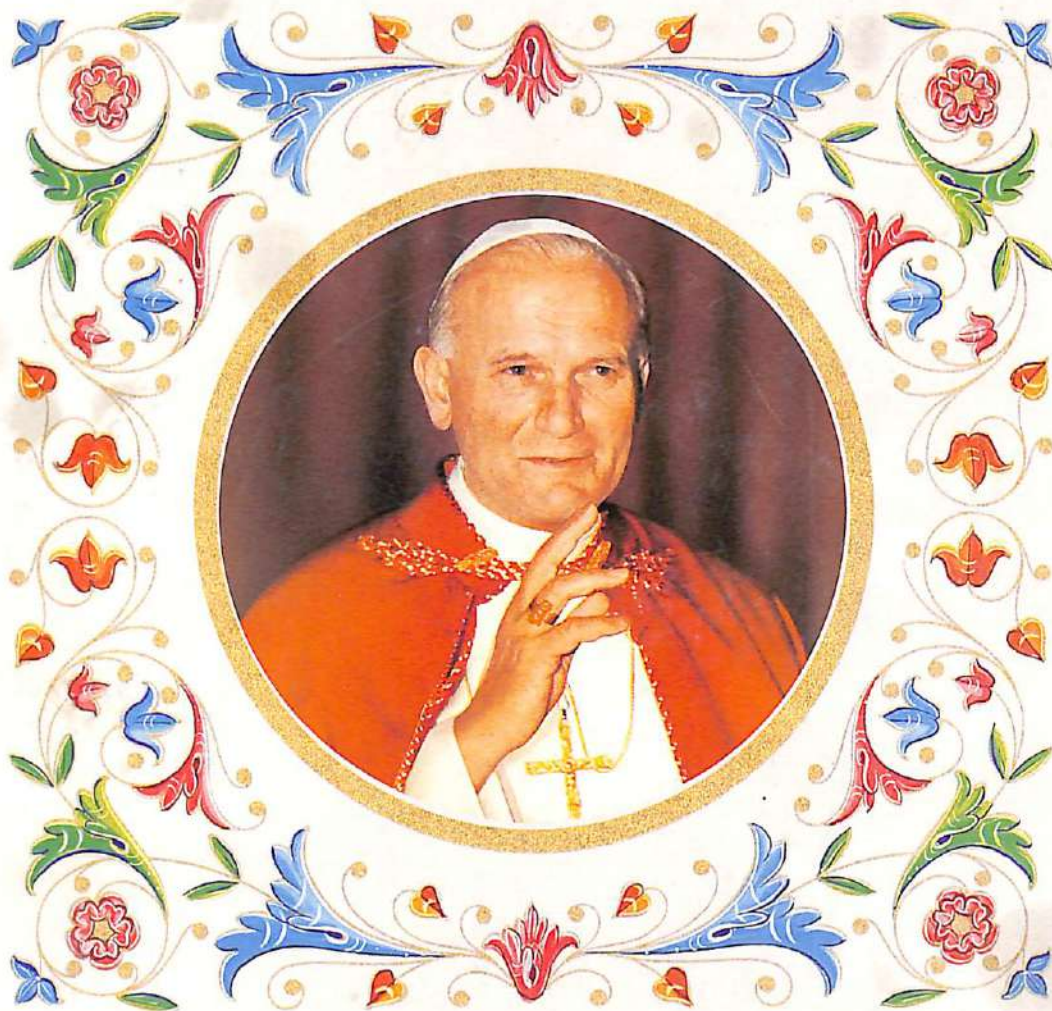
*Rosemary Halford  
Carolynn Collins  
Peter Mousseau*



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*December, 1996*



The Holy Father John Paul II  
 paternally imparts  
 his Apostolic Blessing  
 as a pledge of heavenly favors to  
 St. Mary's Parish Family, Maidstone  
 on the occasion of its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
 June 1996

*Ex Aedibus Palatinis, die 28.3.1996*  
 + Oscar Rizzuto  
 Archiepiscopus  
 Elemosynarius Summi Pontificis