

Remember the Corman House

Stoney Creek Historical Society

PO Box 66637, Stoney Creek, ON. L8G 5E6

NEWSLETTER

March 2017

Edition # 69

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TWO HUNDRED AND 25 YEARS IN THE LIFE OF STONEY CREEK UNITED CHURCH

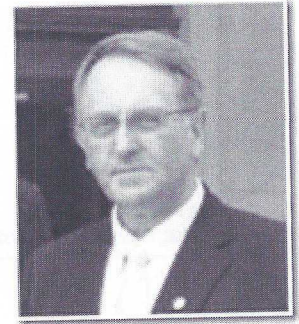


The Church as it appeared in 2016

The following information is gleaned from several different places. But the main source for written data and sketches is the church's booklet on the 200 year anniversary written by Reverend Roy Hicks and illustrated by Joan Sturch.

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President's Corner March 2017



The Stoney Creek Historical Society (SCHS) continues to evolve and grow. Our monthly meetings, especially February's Annual General Meeting (AGM), have been well attended. Our thanks to **Mike Pearson** of the Stoney Creek News, **Too Good to Miss** at the Hamilton Spectator. **Terrance Smith** for our web site updates and support, **Peter Kennedy** for the emails to our members and corporate sponsors promoting our meeting, **Denise Wachnuik** for updating SCHS on **Facebook**, and our members for their networking through friends and family. As a result of their commitment, our Society is increasingly more well known throughout the Stoney Creek area and beyond.

We welcome the following new members: The **Innsville**, Winona; M.P. **Bob Bratina**, and **Sharon Holman**. As President, I welcome **Gary Strong** to our Board of Directors. Membership dues for 2017 are now payable. Our Newsletter is distributed only to those members in good standing. Again, my thanks to everyone for their participation and support of SCHS.

Judy Green has been a very active, loyal, and dedicated member of SCHS for some time, including sixteen (16) years as a member of our Board of Directors. Judy decided not to extend her term as a Board member, but will continue to devote her time and talents at our Reference Library and Archive. On behalf of the Board and all SCHS members, may I extend to Judy our appreciation for her years of service, and her contributions.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of our friend **Ross Garry** on February 6th. Ross was a long term Stoney Creek resident and made many donations, both material and time, to our Reference Library and Archive. Our condolences to Ross' family.

As you appreciate, SCHS depends on the generosity of our volunteers. We could not exist without them. This year offers a significant achievement, as it marks thirty (30) years of service to SCHS by **Mary Lewis**. Well done Mary! You are an exceptional example to everyone. Thank you so much.

Many grandparents have expressed to me their disappointment in discovering that their grandchildren have little or no interest in items that they wished to pass on. They believed that these items had historic value and should be kept. I share their concern. Our **Reference Library and Archive** always welcomes donations to help us preserve local history. Documents and photos are carefully scanned and returned to the owner if requested. Many individuals may find themselves wondering what to do with family items. Please consider our SCHS Genealogical Will, on our web site

www.stoneycreekhistorical.ca

Last year, the **Stoney Creek BIA** promoted Saturday in the Creek. SCHS was a participant and we look forward to the revised strategy developed by the BIA for 2017.

Canada is 150 this year. The role that SCHS plays is to capture the history of Stoney Creek for current and future generations. We will be preserving details of local events and exhibits developed for this special event. As the year progresses, you are invited to submit details on how your group or organization celebrated Canada's 150th. Happy Birthday Canada!

Greg Armstrong
President SCHS.

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... the church was erected in a clearing in 1792 ...

The Stoney Creek church is very close to becoming the first organized Methodist community in Upper Canada. The Methodists built their Church at Hay Bay in 1792, near Belleville, a few weeks earlier than ours here.

From 1786 – 1792, our pioneer worshippers met in log homes or in warmer weather outside in some clearing. Some were gathering for class meetings up on the escarpment, near Mud Street. Some others were meeting down below the mountain.

The predominant saddle-bag preacher in these parts was a Major George Neal, a veteran soldier from Georgia. He travelled the many miles by horseback all over the area from Niagara Falls to the west of the Province.

By 1792 our pioneers were ready and organized to build a church. Slab logs were hauled by teams of oxen from John Green's Sawmill at "the Forty" (Grimsby) and from the new mill, built by his brother Adam Green in Stoney Creek.

There was a large stone fireplace along one side of the church which rose to the Chapel peak of the roof, resembling a spire. (This stone fireplace was finally demolished by the Nash family about 1872)

The church was erected in a clearing in the forest near the corner of what we call King and Centennial (# 20) where the cemetery stands. From 1792 to the early 1800's, this chapel church drew people from Grimsby, the Fifty (Winona), Ancaster and far up on the escarpment. Peter Jones (son of Augustus) and Egerton Ryerson, often preached here.

On the night of the Battle of Stoney Creek June 6, 1813, the American forces lodged in and around the chapel. The chapel was of course badly riddled with cannon balls and musket shots. In 1821 it was refurbished and refinished.

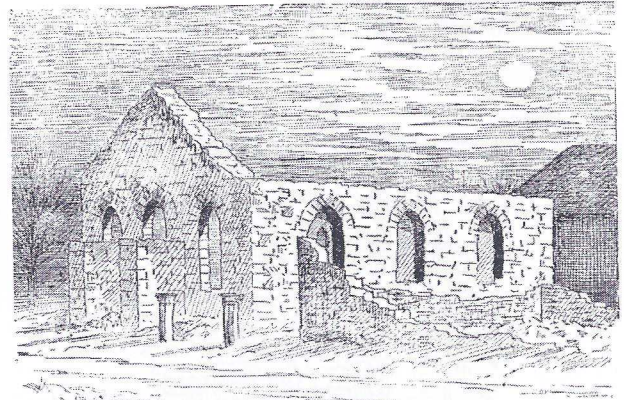
Records were scantily kept in those days but in the historical records, we come upon this gem, Richard Springer, a Pennsylvania German and a Loyalist, had settled on land in the village of Hamilton in the year 1798. He cared about the spiritual welfare of his family and so he would walk the six miles to the Methodist service in Stoney Creek. He felt the need of religious companionship and advice.

Following these visits to our established and growing church he began services in his own home and later they became so well attended they were moved out to the barn. There is a plaque in his honour in the First United Church in downtown Hamilton.

Another record states that in 1817 *"there were 34 preaching appointments in the Niagara circuit and Stoney Creek Church was the third oldest in all of Canada."*



... little stone church built in 1835 ...



RUINS OF THE OLD CHURCH AT STONY CREEK.

This the **Second Church** was built in 1835

2 Sketches of the little Episcopal Methodist Stone Church constructed close to 26 Lake Ave. North by the ABC school shown in the last edition of our newsletter.

The sketch on the left was drawn by Joan Sturch in 1992 for the church 200th anniversary of the church. The sketch on the right side was done by J.R. Seavy in 1896-97 by which time the church had been long abandoned and was falling into ruin. This sketch appeared in *Wentworth Landmarks*.

According to Milton Watson's 1991 article in the *SC News*, after 1884 the stone church was used as a parish hall for Christmas concerts and other meetings. He cites memories of Archie Springstead and Ed Spera describing an evangelical meeting run by a Mr. Hitchcock.

From Peter Van Wagner's diary I've come across at least a dozen different times Peter talks about this stone church. Following are a few as they appear in the diary.

Monday January 18th 1875 "Gave Wm A Lottridge \$2 towards paying for Organ in Brick Church – Gave AG Jones \$1 towards buying coal stoves for Stone Church"

Friday January 12th 1877

"Snowing and blowing all day – The greatest storm so far this winter – This positive winter. Only one team passed today – an unfortunate with wood – Reverend Spiers was to lecture this evening at Redeemer Church but the storm – How has it been ? - And the Grand Tea Meeting at the Stone Chapel at which I was to preside as chairman – But time and tide and storms have no respect for persons. 5 or 6 above zero in the evening."

Sunday February 4th 1877 "The day soft & smiling – Jane Van & I have been at "The Stone Chapel" - At 5 Oc pm heard Hopkins at the Beach School House and in the evening heard Reverend Robinson again at the Stone Chapel – making three sermons for this day. The sleighing is pretty well used up. Freezing nights thawing days."

Friday November 23rd 1883

"At 11 Oc Jane Van and I drove to Mrs JW Hopkins to attend Mrs Van Norman's funeral. Jane Van drove Old Vic and the buggy, I met her at Sutherland's. I rode with the pall bearers H. Lutz, H Spera, A Corman, W Lottridge, Mr Randall, Rev'd Bell did the praying. Rev'd Mooney the preaching at the old stone church. The burial at the Burlington Cemetery."

Tuesday December 14th 1886

“Henry & George put up apples in the pm. And in the evening went to Awrey's political meeting at the Stone Church Stoney Creek. Henry acting as chairman. Belle represented the Tories : Alvah G Jones put himself in the being well threshed by Awrey. Served him right.”

Third Church

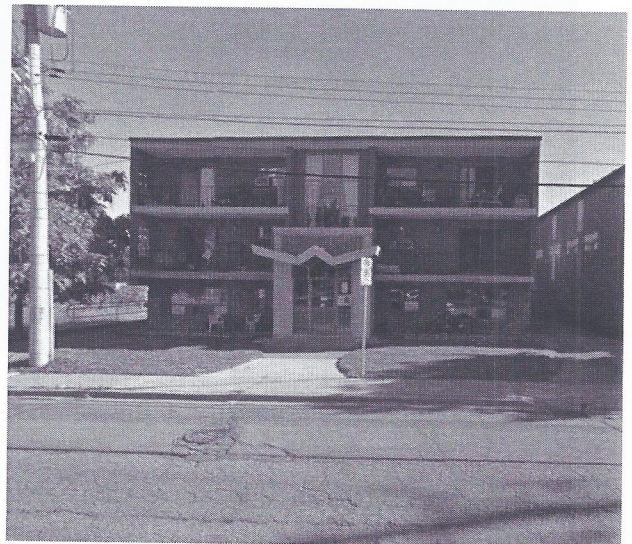


sketch again by Joan Sturch



The **Third Church** was the **red Brick** built in 1869 on King St the north side opposite the end of First Street. It was shown in an earlier edition of the newsletter. After it was abandoned for the new church built in 1903 on the corner of King and Lake Ave. this church was converted to a house for holding at least 2 families that I know of (*the Davis' & the McFarlane's*)

This building was later torn down completely and replaced by the existing small apartment building



By the beginning of 1900 it was obvious that a new Church would have to be erected to contain the increasing crowds of people. The Sunday school was also expanding and in need of more accommodations.

From Mrs Chester Nash's account:

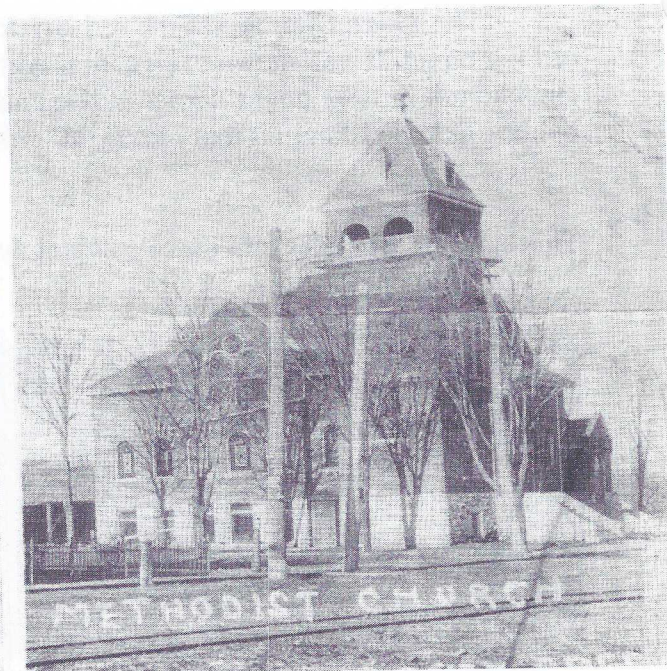
“On January 30th, 1903 John B Smith made a motion which was seconded by John Gage Nash, that a new church be built. This the members approved unanimously. Property was bought from Mrs Boden on the South-West corner of Lake Avenue and King Street, the site of an old toll-gate, and one or two homes were relocated to the east side of Lake Avenue South to provide space for the sheds.

The records indicate that the cost was about \$15,000.00 and \$11,500.00 was subscribed in the first appeal. When it was completed it was a beautiful, well constructed build, and completely paid for by 1909. A finished basement, partly below street level, comprised a central meeting room and six Sunday School classrooms, a furnace room containing a hot air furnace which proved to be a comfort much appreciated. The classrooms were fitted with sliding, folding glazed doors, opening into the common room.”

The Sanctuary above was completely and newly furnished with oak pews placed in a curved position facing the pulpit, communion table and the screen in front of the suitably placed choir loft. The aisles, entrance halls, etc. were covered with a dark red wool carpet and the seats were cushioned in the same colour. The most attractive highlights were the large windows patterned in coloured glass panes. High above were arched beams of walnut, from which hung the lighting fixtures. The Church was dedicated on June 5th, 1904.



Picture during construction



Shown shortly after completion with no houses to the west side of church



Picture above taken before early 1920's as the Electric Rail Car tracks are still on King Street.



STONEY CREEK UNITED CHURCH

Picture above taken in the late 1950's with the auditorium added to the south end.



This picture of the Choir is taken about 1940.

Upcoming Speakers at Stoney Creek Historical

Wednesday, March 1st, at 7:00 pm

Speaker: Mark Osbaldeston
Topic: Unbuilt Hamilton

Wednesday, April 5th, at 7:00 pm

Speaker: Cheryl Cooper
Topic: 1812 and the Age of Sail

Wednesday, May 3rd, at 7:00 pm

Speaker: Jayne Douglas
Topic: Ridge Road Winery History of the Site

Committee Chairs / Co-ordinators

Archives: Nancy Capstick, Judy Green,
Sue Heatherley archives@stoneycreekhistorical.ca

Telephone: June Guzar
Membership: Dan Lee

Social: Bev Gray, Carolyn Briggs
Programming: Kathy Wakeman

Website: Terrance Smith
Newsletter: Doug Green

Please contact *Doug Green* by telephone at (905) (662-4065) or by email at newsletter@stoneycreekhistorical.ca or dgreen136@cogeco.ca
If you have questions or answers regarding our newsletter content or contributions or if you wish to receive your copy of the newsletter via e-mail. Help us reduce mailing & printing costs.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: Sharron Holman, Bob Bratina MP, Vicky Polak,
Bill & Jane Dalziel, Colleen & Peter Germann,
The Innsville, Briarwood Animal Hospital, Marel Real Estate

The Stoney Creek Historical Society's Archives and Reference Library is located at 605 Highway 8. We are generally open on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1pm - 4pm. Visitors and researchers are always welcome. Please come and join us.

The Friends of Battlefield House Museum & Park 2nd Tuesday of the month 7:30 pm Nash-Jackson Building

March 14th, 2017 Topic ----- Ireland House in Burlington
April 11th, 2017 Topic ----- Between Bartonville & Stoney Creek
History of Glen Manor & Its Neighbours
May 9th, 2017 Topic ----- Erland Lee Home Museum
June 13th, 2017 Picnic in the Park

Stoney Creek Historical Society Board of Directors

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Member Business Directory

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Comic 1 Books	Casey Parsons	67 King St. E.	(905) 664-3777
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Dr. Keith Millar		304 – 15 Mountain Ave S	(905) 662-2312
Flowers by Dianne	Dianne Black	9 King St. West	(905) 664-6621
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Royal Canadian Legion Br. 622	Joyce Brown	12 King St. East	(905) 662-4171
Scotia Bank	Ryan Kinsella	Green Rd & # 8	(905) 664-5176 x4300
S.W. Plumbing		49 Upper Lake Ave	(905) 741-2552
Swiss Chalet # 1105	Zeb Ponte	735 Queenston Rd	(905) 561-1414
The Innsville	Bob Hemberger	1143 Hwy. 8	(905) 643-1244

STONEY CREEK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE HISTORY OF STONEY CREEK

I WOULD LIKE TO ACQUIRE/RENEW MEMBERSHIP IN THE S.C.H.S. **2016 RENEWAL**

NAME (S) _____ MONTH _____ DAY _____ YEAR _____
ADDRESS _____
PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

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PLEASE ACCEPT MY ADDITIONAL TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION OF \$ _____ TO ASSIST THE WORK OF
THE STONEY CREEK HISTORICAL SOCIETY. RECEIPTS WILL BE ISSUED FOR DONATIONS OF \$25 OR MORE.

PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU WISH TO RECEIVE OUR NEWS LETTER BY EMAIL OR CANADA POST.

PLEASE SEND TO : STONEY CREEK HISTORICAL SOCIETY,P.O. BOX 66637,STONEY CREEK, ONTARIO, L8G 5E6

WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT AND LOOK FORWARD TO YOU ATTENDING OUR MEETINGS.

PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SPONSORING OUR NEWSLETTER FOR A \$35.00 DONATION

MEMBERSHIPS CAN ALSO BE RENEWED ONLINE USING PAYPAL.

Historical Society Research Queries

Please contact via email:
archives@stoneycreekhistorical.ca

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