

“St. John’s Anglican Church  
— Welcome — Enter, Rest  
and Pray.”

Those words of welcome appear in neat block letters on the large shield shaped plaque at the entrance to the beautifully designed “Church of God” in a secluded grove at the summer resort of Rose-dale on the east shore of Balsame Lake.

It is truly a quaint church in the wildwood, one which has stood the strain and stress of time through two World Wars. It is a church that has been a distinct sacred adjunct to the community, and is still open every summer to the residents and summer visitors from many parts of the country. Many of these people now have summer cottages and palatial summer residences on Balsam Lake with its Grand Island and many small islands.

Recently we visited the church, found the door unlocked, and entered. It is roomy, well furnished, well lighted, and a strong beam of sunlight streamed in through a row of stained glass windows on the west side.

What actually caught the eye was the large and beautiful stained glass window with its multitude of colours which forms the background for the pulpit, lecturn, the organ and a number of memorial articles which included the Flag of the Empire, the Union Jack.

It was this artistically designed leaded stained glass window that brought out the following story about the man, F. H. Goodman, who donated the land on which the building stands.

Mr. Goodman was the designer, the architect, the contractor and founder of the church who laboured long and late and as the saying goes, he built better than he knew. The story of St. John’s Church is the oft repeated story of love’s labours lost.

The talented and adventurous Fred Goodman left an engineering and architectural position in Toronto to throw in his lot with Sir William McKenzie. The latter had a successful career as a railway magnate while he lived at Kirkfield. Young Goodman's skill as an architect and builder advanced to the fore.

One summer day Fred Goodman piloted the first motor boat on Balsam Lake. He liked what he saw along the east

shore and purchased two acres of land south of the old government bridge. For many years the county road ran along the east shoreline. Here he erected Sylvan Lodge.

It was in the year 1907 that he put his skill and effort to work and built the church and the old deed records the fact that once the Church ceases to function as such, the property will be delegated to the Sick Children's Hospital in Toronto, in which he was interested. This reveals another interesting phase of the gentleman's character.

The church has a resemblance of old country churches. It is of rough-cast exterior with brown trim and both sides are lined with leaded windows.

The church and congregation in the pioneer days had the blessing and leadership of Rev. Chaffee, a beloved character and gentleman who was stationed at Coboconk. Other clergymen from Coboconk followed and in 1927 the charge was under the leadership of Rev. C. Palmer, who was the beloved incumbent for many years.

St. John's Church was well represented in two world wars by sons of worshipping members from the district and from Toronto, and families who lived in other districts who once worshipped at Rosedale Church.

### **BENEFACTORS**

The Church with its comparatively limited membership has been blessed with a number of benefactors and the memorial furnishings include the Holy Bible donated by Mrs. Peace and family in memory of W. A. Peace who was a warden in St. John's Church for more than 20 years; a communion table in memory of Rev. R. C. Palmer who was Rector of St. John's from 1927 to 1933; a credence table in memory of Fred James Goodman, founder and builder of the church and warden from 1907 to 1931; a Union Jack donated in the memory of Mervyn H. Long, warden from 1932 to 1960, and trustee from 1948 to 1960; an altar rail in memory of Mervyn

Long; Communion kneeling benches in memory of Ruby Evelyn Goodman; and an electric organ donated in 1965 in memory of Edward Bickford.

A beautiful memorial window was also dedicated to the memory of Isobel Hardcastle Goodman, and a number of

emblems of the church and all the church furniture was built and donated by Fred Goodman along with the land for the site. Among the furnishings is a baptismal font donated in the memory of Fred Goodman's father.

The writer had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Goodman who was the former Miss Arkwright, a family whose name is well known in Rosedale and district. Mrs. Goodman has in her possession a copy of the original deed. Much of the Goodman property has been sold to ready buyers looking for locations on Balsam Lake.

Mrs. Goodman now resides in Toronto, but never misses a summer at her cottage located not far from the church which her husband erected to the Glory of God.

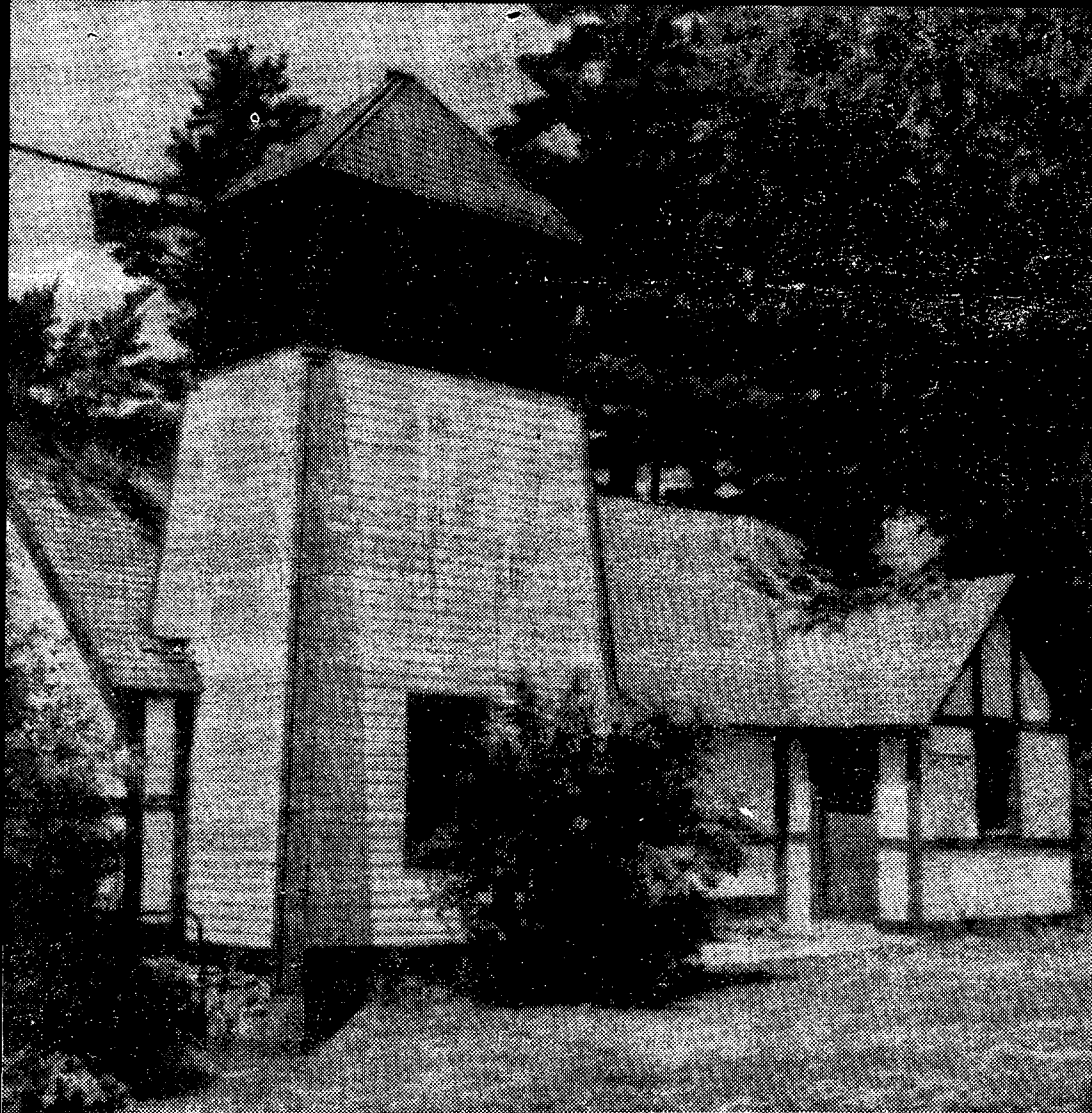
Some of the pioneer families at this popular resort included H. J. Lytle, the Reynolds, Perdues, Gales, Delameres, Bickfords, Daniels, Arkwrights, Horns, Cruess, Dr. J. W. White, Frank Shannon and others.

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An example of how changes come about in this day of progress and fast living came to light a few days ago.

Some 36 years ago a gentleman named Alfred Robson lived on the north side of Colborne Street near the Angeling Street corner. His property was purchased and a wide sweeping curve was built for the accommodation of the motorists in those days and since who wished to turn north on Angeline. Motorists, it was announced, would make the rounded curve with a wider sweep and less chance of accident.

The change in the contour in the same road can be seen now to have reverted to the "T" intersection similar to the one that originally existed. The present trend is to eliminate merging of traffic at right angles to eliminate the cars coming into the intersection from the blind corner of a driver's vision.



St. John's Anglican Church on the shores of Balsam Lake at Rosedale.  
—"Post" staff photo.