

McGeon (McGinn?) families, and two McGinnis families. The names of single Catholic families were Murray, Mulvena, Black, Crow or Crowe (John Crowe, the stone mason), Costello, Danby, Saunders, Trudell, Calahan, McGratton, Amell, Beaubien, Dunn, Gordon, Carey, McAlister, McCormack, Little, McLeutic, Roberts, Emnion, Christy, McTaggart, Neily and Cantell.

The church community on Amherst Island had grown to the point where it needed a church building. During the pastorate of the Reverend John Quirk, St Bartholemew's Church was built in 1860 on land donated by John McCormack. Subsequent priests who served the mission were the Reverend T. C. McMahon 1862-68, M. D. O'Donahue 1869-74, and Charles McWilliams 1874-97. From 1897 to 1910, St. Patrick's Church and its missions of Odessa, Bath and Amherst Island, were served by a congregation of French missionary priests, Sociates Marie de Montfort, commonly called the Marist Fathers. Through these years the priests made their rounds on horseback or with a horse and buggy. After 1910 St. Bartholemew and St. Linus missions became the responsibility of St. Mary's Cathedral for many years. Modernity began to affect missionary work; now the priest could come by train. According to Flynn's book this is how the Reverend J. V. Meagher carried out his ministry:

"He would take the train to Ernestown Station on Saturday afternoon, stay overnight...offer mass at St. Linus on Sunday morning then take either the ferry or a motor boat from Millhaven and offer Mass at St. Bartholemew's Church on Amherst Island. He would then return by train from Ernestown Station on Monday morning."

My husband, Robert McMullen, spent his first summer on Amherst Island when he was 6 years old. His family stayed on Lot 2 with his Uncle John McMullen. He has vivid memories of going to Church at St.

Bartholemew's. He and his mother would drive with his Uncle John but some of his sisters begged to ride with the Drumgooles. As they approached the church, horses and buggies seemed to be converging from all directions. There were a series of long, low, carriage sheds and horse stalls at the rear right of the church but not enough for all the horses and buggies. While awaiting the arrival of the priest, children in their Sunday-best played about the yard while the adults socialized together.

With the arrival of the priest, everyone came into the church and it was full to overflowing.

After services, people lingered on sharing news and enjoying each other's company and laughing and talking with the priest like old friends.

Robert says that it was this sense of belonging to a close group that impressed him more than the liturgy or the sermon. For him, the experience made a very powerful impression which he has remembered vividly all of his life.

Other priests, who served St Bartholemew's from St. Mary's Cathedral were the Reverend E. M. Leacy, R. C. Pickett, T. J. Larkin and G. T. Martin. Father Pickett celebrated the first and only Midnight Mass on Amherst Island at Christmas, 1946.

Serving Amherst Island was not only time consuming and effortful, it was often downright perilous. In 1947, Father Larkin was crossing to Amherst Island on the ferry when he lost the St. Mary's Parish Plymouth car when it slid into the water from the boat deck, but he saved himself.

I first started attending Mass at St. Bartholemew's in the 1950's. I found it charming to sit in church and look out the windows at trees, water, wildflowers and cattle grazing in the distance. The church was always neat and clean; I don't know who kept it that way but I did notice. There was the ominous pres-