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VICTORIA CHURCH

Victoria Church was built in 1897. Church services had been held for many years previous to this in the school house. The land for the church was donated by David Calnan and Jacob Sager; and the church was built on the line between the two farms. It is on a lot 100 feet along the road by 150 feet deep, half on lot 87 and half on lot 88. Miss Audra Brickman has the original deeds. Mr. George Maidens was the head carpenter, and all the men helped when they could. The church cost \$1,200.00, about half of which was raised in advance. It is a frame building, painted white, with a stone basement the whole size of the church. Up until that time the neighbourhood and school had been known as Bushes. But 1897 was the Diamond Jubilee year of Queen Victoria, so when the church was dedicated in October, 1897 it was named Victoria Church in her honor; and soon the neighbourhood too became known by that name. It was opened for divine service on Thursday, October 14. The Rev. W.J. Jolliffe, B.C.L., chairman of the Picton District, preached an eloquent sermon at 11 a.m. to a large congregation. The day was all that could be desired, bright and warm. A dinner was served in the basement to about 400. A platform meeting was held in the auditorium, presided over by W.H. Berkinshaw, Esq. of Trenton. Many ministers from adjoining circuits participated in addresses, and also in liquidating all encumbrances as to cost, etc. By 5 p.m. all debts were cleared off, and the chairman, assisted by several brethren, dedicated the church to the worship of God. On Sunday, October 17th, the Reverend S.A. Duprau of Consecon preached at 10.30 to a full house, and in the evening the Reverend A.J.H. Strike, a former pastor. Many expressed themselves as highly pleased with the services. At that time Victoria was on the Consecon-Carrying Place charge of the Methodist Church, with Consecon, Hillier, Salem, Carrying Place, Young's and Victoria all on that circuit. The parsonage was then in Carrying Place.

The first wedding to be solemnized in Victoria Church was that of Minnie Calnan and Lieuvernier Drummond on September 4, 1901. The church congregation presented them with a large, red, leatherbound Bible. School was let out for the day to celebrate the event. The Reverend Adams performed the ceremony. Mr. and Mrs. Drummond went to Buffalo on their honeymoon to visit the Exposition, and while they were there the U.S. President McKinley was assassinated.

In 1902 the trustees of the church were W.H. Glenn, Fred Bonter, Richard Calnan, Charles Adams, Peter Isaiah Delong, W. Alyea and Albert Pymer. In 1902, 3 and 4 Richard Calnan was Secretary and W.H. Glenn Treasurer of the Victoria Church board. In 1903 the records state "For the sum of twenty-five dollars Jacob Sager is to heat and light the church, sweep it, dust it and furnish the wood and coal oil". In 1904 a wire fence was built around the church yard. Fred Bonter furnished the cedar posts at 10¢ each with 10 posts to be thrown in free. Revival services were held in the autumn of 1904. In 1905 and 6 Jacob Sager did the care-taking, furnished wood and coal oil for \$34.00 per annum. In 1905 and 6 James Glenn was Secretary.

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