

LOCAL NEWS

Castleton PS School Council has many projects on the go

COLBORNE CHRONICLE
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The school yard is now equipped with new basketball uprights. Anyone visiting the school during lunch would have seen plenty of action on the courts as the children enjoy this "new" activity.

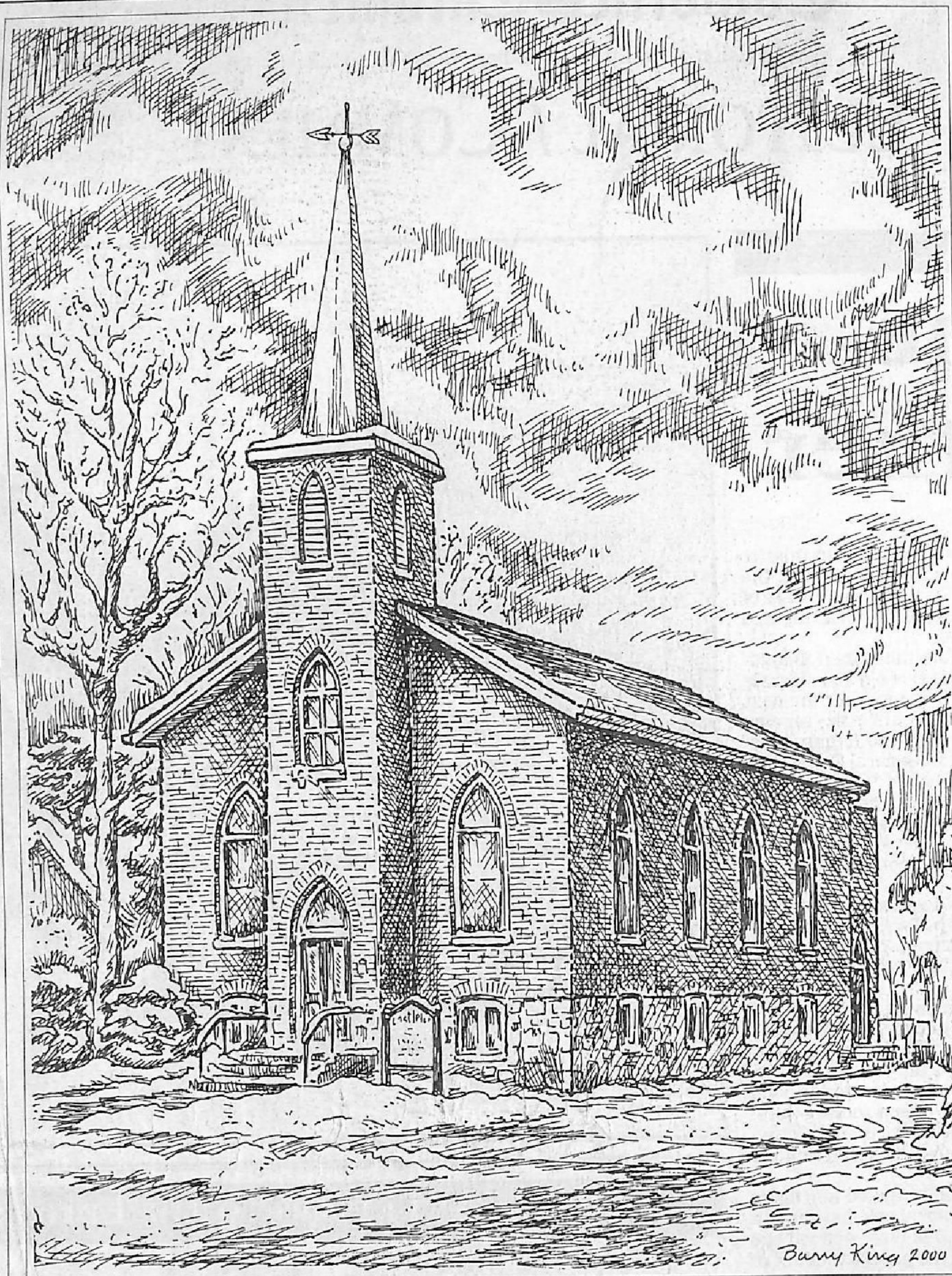
The cost of the equipment was \$3,300 with the Student Council paying \$2,200, the remainder being paid for by a generous donation from Cramahe Township. Also donating money for playground improvements is the local Firefighters' association which gave \$500 to be used to install a volleyball court in the spring. The next project will be a sun and rain shelter which will also serve as an outdoor venue for classes.

In the school survey results of last year, parents expressed a desire that children receive more exposure to the arts and/or music. After consulting with staff, the School Council sponsored a school-wide field trip (excluding the Kindergarten kids) to see *Beauty and the Beast* at Victoria Hall in Cobourg. Later in the week, the Kindergarten classes visited a Christmas tree farm with transportation provided by the council. From all accounts, both trips were much enjoyed by the children.

The School Council provided \$100 per classroom to allow teachers to purchase resources for their classrooms. Our teacher representative related that often teachers purchase items for the classrooms out of their own pocket. Council felt this to be an unreasonable expectation of the teachers and to show our support and appreciation, voted to provide this funding.

Other council expenditures include \$300 for the construction and installation of benches round the skating rink and some new picnic tables. A donation was also made to the school library-resource centre. The \$750 enabled teacher librarian Heidi Buchegger to purchase much-needed curriculum-based materials to fill the newly automated library.

The next School Council meeting will be the Castleton P.S. library 7 p.m. January 18. All parents and community members are always welcome to provide input, volunteer for a committee or just listen to find out what's



Castleton United Church

Drawing and description by Barry King

Though the present brick church was dedicated in 1865 after an extensive remodelling, its origins date from 30 years earlier in its original frame structure. With the elevating of the building, the addition of a basement, new choir loft and brick exterior, a dedication ceremony for the "new" church was required. A special Sabbath service was held on December 3, 1865 during which "three plain practical Methodist sermons" were given. The first was by the Rev. D. Jones at 10:30 a.m., the second by Dr. Nelles at 2:30 p.m. and Dr. Alyswoth concluded the day with a sermon beginning at 6:30 p.m. By the end of the day, the remaining \$200 of the total \$1,600 costs was raised.

Prior to the reconstruction, a Missionary Society had

been organized in 1853, with the founders Mrs. J. Pennock, Mrs. G. Weller, Mrs. Jay, Nelson Ingersoll, Morgan Sellar, T.H. Black, Henry Blakely, Elisher Alfer, John Jones, Mr. Williams, Philander Williams, Alex Palmer, Carney Burr, Peter Hart, Mr. Watson, Mr. Whiten, Vincent Coleman, and F.B. Strong with the Rev. D.C. Clappison as the pastor.

The duties of the caretaker were many: to light, heat and keep the church clean for all occasions. In addition to the \$65 annual payment, an extra \$1 a week was given whenever extra special revival meetings were held.

A part of the United Church since 1925, the red brick church continues in its ministry on Percy Road in the Township of Cramahe.

- Sources: *How Firm a Foundation*, Eileen Argyris;