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Part Lot 6I, Con. B.
DUNCHURCH METHODIST CHURCH

The Dunchurch Wesleyan Methodist Church was built in Dunchurch, in 1889, having been started in December, 1888, and completed the following July. The Dedication service was conducted by Rev. J.A. Chapman of Parry Sound.

Mr. J.T. Wilson wrote a glowing report of the opening of this church, giving great credit to Mr. A. Lodge for his untiring work to fill the needs of the people. The lot was donated to the church by Mr. John Croswell, who also donated the Ahmic Harbour lot for their church.

A manse was built in Dunchurch in 1891, which W.W. Walker describes in a follow up story herein.

Before the church was built, regular services were held in a log school, which was situated on the adjoining lot in the village. The preachers also visited the logging camps and sang hymns and had prayer and a short service with the labouring forces in the back woods.

In 1884, Rev. Burton R. Strangways was the first regular minister to be appointed at Dunchurch. He states, "We have now completed the second year of services, and there is a great need for a better building. This will be shortly overcome by purchasing a building, erected last summer for an English Church, but left unfinished. When completed it will cost about \$700.00".

Members received on trial this year, 41 by change of circuit, ten dropped and two withdrawn. We have great hope for the future.

In 1885, a report on Dunchurch states: "42 were received on probation and a great deal of credit goes to one, Miss McDonald." The report was made by Rev. Joseph Oliver, who has replaced Rev. Strangeways. Missionary services were also held at Balsam, Maple Island and Fairholme, with great success.

Rev. John Robson followed Rev. Oliver and reported in 1888, that "a new church has been erected, which is filled every Sabbath evening."

In 1890, Rev. Robson was succeeded by a lay minister, (no name given). However, Rev. Nocon, minister at Magnetawan at that time, reported that a small manse had been built in Dunchurch and a church at Ahmic Harbour. At that time Presbytery boundaries were changed, with Magnetawan taken out of Bracebridge Presbytery and aligned with Dunchurch in Parry Sound District.

Rev. A.W. Kemp became the minister for Magnetawan and Dunchurch in 1891. However, the mode of travel and the great distances between the points made it impossible to hold two Sabbath services and week day services were not well attended. Rev. W.W. Walker was appointed to Dunchurch before the end of 1891. He tells the story in his book, "By Northern Lakes," which he had published in 1896. A copy may be found in the Parry Sound Public Library.