

KNOX UNITED CHURCH ---- DUNCHURCH, ONTARIO

This church was built by the Presbyterian Congregation about the year 1895 or 1896. The builder was a Mr. John Burns who at that time had a large home at the top of the Grange Hill. He and his son built many of the houses and barns in the township at that time.

The church was originally brick veneer, the brick being made by the Croswells who had a brick kiln there. The inside finishing of No. 1 birch tongue-and-grove with bead came from either Knight Bros. in Burk's Falls or a factory in Ahmic Harbour that was running at about that time. The lumber for the frames would have been sawn in Dunchurch, of locally grown timber, by either Mr. Kelcey or Mr. Craig.

In 1958 the bricks were getting loose and starting to fall off, also the steeple was leaking. A committee was formed to raise money for the repairs. Enough was donated to pay for removing the bricks (which were sold to various interested persons) and to replace it with white asbestos siding, to rebuild the steeple, and to make some other minor repairs. This work was done under the supervision of Mr. Amos North.

About 1900 a minister by the name of Mr. Sebright canvassed for funds to buy a church bell and to cut the steeple and raise it high enough to make room for it. How they got it up there I don't know. When occasion arose, the bell was rung to alert the settlement of fire in house, shop, mill or other location, as well as calling the faithful to worship.

The congregation at the time of building would be comprised of the following families: Raes, Browns, Farquhars, Ramsays, Clellands, Wm. Robertsons, McQuhaes, Cannings, Baynes and Macfies.

The last Presbyterian minister was a Mr. Walker. The Methodists and Presbyterians joined on their own in 1917 and used Knox Church. In 1925 Church union became official over the whole of Canada. The Methodist church building became a schoolhouse until it burned, and a new one was built.

It should be noted that many contributed to the initial expense of building, though no list is at hand of whom nor how much. It seems that Mr. F. N. Macfie, on a visit to his homeland, was entrusted with the generous amount of Five Hundred Dollars for the purpose. This was in the nature of a memorial to a Mr. Thomas Kirkpatrick, and was given by his widow, Agnes Kirkpatrick. On the rear wall of the church, between the upper and lower rows of windows, the congregation placed a plaque in expression of thanks.