

Extensive church restoration has been a labour of love

BY MELYSSA GLOUDE

Queensborough – The extensive restoration of an historic church here has been a labour of love for a local family.

In 1846, an early Madoc Township settler named Joseph Hazzard provided a one-acre plot of land that was to become the site of Hazzard's Corners Church in Queensborough. There already was a log schoolhouse on the plot that was being used for worship. This first building was referred to as the "Hazzard's Chapel." That structure, thanks to some extensive renovation, still stands today.

Grant Ketcheson, whose family has been involved with the Hastings staple for about five generations, says even though the church hasn't hosted a regular service in 50 years, the history of the property is important to the community.

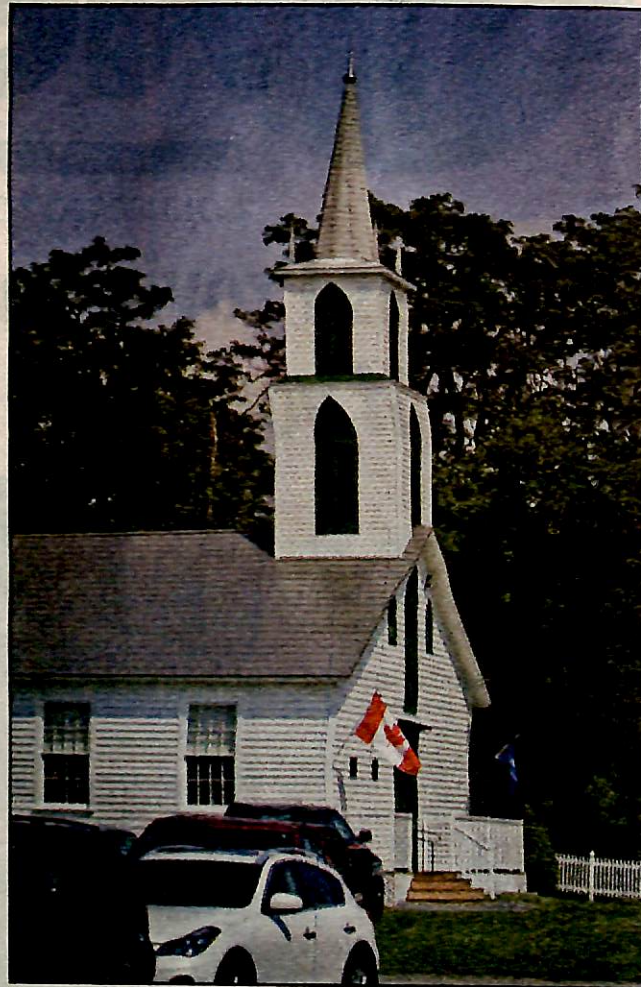
"We continued with two services a year, Christmas and summer service, and then, through the efforts of a few people, it became a designated historic site," says Ketcheson.

"We've been working to preserve it. Three years ago, at the 2015 service, we indicated to people that it would take nearly \$70,000 to do what needed to be done."

Through hard work and dedication, a seven-member volunteer board continues to maintain the church and grounds, including care of the cemetery.

"It needed a new roof, a total paint job a new ceiling ... so we began bugging people for money. In 2016 we applied to the Parrot Foundation in Belleville for a grant to preserve this historic place," he said.

"We received \$30,000 for the outside work. We spent about \$38,000, but we spent a bit extra because we didn't want just a plain steel roof. We couldn't afford ce-



After a total of \$67,000 being spent, Hazzard's Corner Church has been restored. The church stands as one of two designated historical sites in the area.

Photo by Melyssa Gloude

dar shingles, so we put the first steel shingle roof on that Home Hardware Timber Mart in Madoc has ever sold."

After the exterior renovations went off without a hitch, Ketcheson says it was time to move the work inside.

"We re-applied this January and we received \$20,000 for work on the inside. We decided on our application to suggest that we're going to make it wheelchair accessible, which is quite a feat in a 160-year-old building," says Ketcheson.

"So, this year we spent a total of \$29,000 and we have a new ceiling, total painting inside, a new pre-

finished pine ceiling, a deck covering the old steps and a wheelchair ramp."

The renovations were completed in time for Hazzard's Corners 160th anniversary and Ketcheson said that the property is a labour of love – and history.

"Four generations of my family are buried in that cemetery," he says.

"So, I have very warm feelings, close feelings, that was our home community and I, along with a whole lot of other people, had a feeling that historic places like that should be preserved for generations to come. Even though we never stop working at it."

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