

At Crewsons Corners

Century-old Orange Lodge building was once thriving Methodist Church

by Jennifer Barr
In Crewsons Corners is a small white clapboard building now owned and used by the Orange Lodge.

It wasn't always an Orange Hall. That building once housed the Crewsons Corners Methodist congregation. In its early days it was called Bethesda Church.

In the second half of the 1800s many corner Methodist churches sprang up usually as a result of enthusiastic revival meetings. Methodism appealed to farm folk and many were converted by the spirit of Methodism sweeping the continent.

Because of the nature of Methodist worship, small congregations gathered with circuit preachers. A minister was put on a horse and sent on his rounds with a blessing.

Crewsons Corners Church was part of the Rockwood, Eden Mills, Siloam circuit for most of its existence, although it became part of the Acton circuit in later years.

Built in 1860 The Corners Church as it was familiarly called, was built in 1860, just two years earlier than Siloam Methodist on the Town Line and Second Line north of Acton. It must have been a particularly successful revival meeting that sparked the existence of two churches in two years.

Unfortunately there is little on record about the Corners Church. As it ceased to exist as a church in 1919, the few local residents left who were members were small children at the time of its demise.

Frank Day's book "Here and There in Eramosa" is a



CREWSONS CORNERS church, founded in 1860, was the worship home for many area Methodists. Since 1919 the building has been a community centre and an Orange Lodge.

valuable source of what information there is.

So is a 60 year old copy of H.P. Moore's column "The Old Man" in the Acton Free Press, courtesy of Herb Brown of Crewsons Corners.

According to Mr. Day, the church was built by local Methodists in 1860 and abandoned in 1919. The building was used by local residents through the kindness of Charles W. Lambert who bought it.

H. R. Wansbrough, Mr. Day's brother-in-law, purchased the building from Mr. Lambert. The building was then used by the Salvation Army and other evangelical

bodies. Sold to an Acton fraternal society as a club room, the building is now in the hands of the Orange Lodge.

Mr. Day remarks in his book the late Dr. T. Albert Moore, secretary and later moderator of the United Church, preached his first sermon there.

Later preachers in Frank Day's memory included W.H. Garnham, Rev. Loundes, Rev. D. H. Taylor, W. H. Douglas, Thomas R. Clark, George Smitherman and W. E. S. James.

He also remembers, when the Day family came to church in their 1912 Ford

motor. They agreed to park it well away from the horse sheds and not to crank it until the horses were on their way after church. Horses were still fearful of cars in those days, (writer's note: they still are!).

According to George Day, his father Frank had good reason to be particularly fond of the Corners Church. He joined the church in 1907 after he came from England and married the organist, Leola Wansbrough, in 1909. In fact, it was George's Uncle Roy

who bought the church building from Charles Lambert.

Many preachers Mr. Moore writes his reminiscence of the church on the occasion of its sale to Lambert. He recalls the old Crewsons Corners tannery owned by William Hemstreet employed "quite a staff of workmen". As these people had no church closer than Acton, Rockwood or Everton it was deemed necessary to build their own. Mr. Moore adds the small church was so popular, an addition was required within two or three years.

His recollection of early pastors included Rev. Robert Phillips, Rev. John C. Stephenson, Rev. Richard Hobbs, and Rev. J. S. Colling. According to H. P. Moore, Rev. T. A. Moore preached his first sermon there in the year 1878.

Local preachers at the church included Lewis Cann, William Jago, Daniel Barbee, H. P. Moore (himself), John S. Coleman, and J. P. Scarrow.

Leading members of the early church were Robert Brown Sr., William Hemstreet, James and David Moore, W.H. Jago, Charles Taylor, David McKeown, and Walter Lamb.

Perhaps these men could be considered among the founding fathers, but no zone is saying.

Editor Moore lists even more preachers and finishes his article with personal sentiments about the social and spiritual functions of the little church so dear to his heart.

Locals remember Some local people who remember attending the Corners Church as very small children are Mansell Nellis and his cousins, Cecil Nellis and Art Diamond. Mansell's parents belonged to the church and he vaguely remembers being taken along as a small boy. His cousin, Art, would attend the church when he came to visit. Other members included

the Lambert family, the Orrie Lamb family, Miss Bella Kitching later mother of Ross Gordon, Herb Brown, and Morgan Crewson.

Memories of Crewsons Corners Church and other crossroads Methodist churches are always dear yet recorded information seems very hard to come by. These memories should be written down before it's too late.

Anyone with further information, stories, or memories of these early abandoned churches and who wishes to share them, please feel free to call the Free Press Office or Jennifer Barr, 853-1409.

Local pair named to library board

Halton Board of Education brought the manpower on the Halton Hills Library Board up to the mark with two appointments during the board's Thursday meeting at Burlington.

Grant Pattullo, R.R. 1, Limehouse, was appointed to a full three-year term while Carol McMurray, 55 Jocelyn Cr., Georgetown, was named to a two-year interim seat. Mrs. McMurray replaces Betty Fisher who won election as a school board trustee

last month. Mrs. Fisher resigned the library board seat. Pattullo worked with The People's Food Commission earlier this year.

Mrs. McMurray is a member of the steering committee of the Halton Hills Recreation Department's "Project Action".

The local appointments were part of a slate for the board's library seats in the region. The appointments are effective in January.

New Year Greetings

A New Year is about to chime in! Let's live it up and celebrate! Make it a year worth remembering!

Huisman
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Happy New Year

A toast to the brand New Year! May it hold many good things for you. Thank you for your loyalty.

FROM ELSIE AT THE
BLUE SPRINGS FLOWER SHOP
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Board names trustees to its 21 committees

Halton Board of Education adopted a slate of trustees for the board's 21 committees during the board's regular meeting at Burlington Thursday.

"We tried to give everyone a fair opportunity to share responsibility," board chairman Bill Hord told the 21 trustees.

The north has representation on most of the major committees including salary, finance and library relations.

Halton Hills Ward One and Two trustee Betty Fisher, Milton Ward Two member Bill Lawson and Ivan Armstrong, Milton Ward One and Three are all on the salary committee. Burlington's Bill Priestner chairs the salary committee which includes Elaine Richm, Len Auger, Len Crosier and Helen Howard-Lock.

Halton Hills Ward Three and Four trustee Barry Shepherd heads the library relations committee. Its members include Cam Jackson, Milton and Halton Hills separate school trustee John Bradley and Anne Fairfield.

Until negotiations are completed Lawson will remain on the finance committee under the chairmanship of Garry Morton. When the talks are finished, Bill Priestner will replace Lawson. Other trustees on the finance committee are: Shepherd, Jackie Cutmore, Elsie Hillson, Florence Meares and Fred Armitage.

The French language ad-

visory committee members are Auger, Fairfield, and Elaine Richm. Shepherd is on the trainable retarded children advisory committee with Crosier and Morton.

Jackson heads the advisory committee on early school leaving. It includes Lawson and Hilson. Lawson, of Milton, is also on the director's performance review group with board chairman Hord, Morton, Edna Robinson and Noel Cooper. Lawson and Hord also team up on the appointment of architects committee. Joining them are Auger and Bradley.

Halton Hills Fisher is a member of the staff-board ad hoc committee with Crosier, Fairfield, Hilson and Robinson. The committee is chaired by Armitage. Cooper and Armitage are on the professional development committee.

Milton's Armstrong is on the review kindergarten entrance requirements committee with Jackson and Howard-Lock. Trustee Auger is the sole member of the teacher evaluation task force.

The Human Resources group includes Bradley, Howard-Lock and Meares. Single member committees include the summer school group with Armstrong and the modified school year with Cooper. Fisher is also on the community schools administration committee with Fairfield, Bradley and Priestner.

Cooper was appointed to

the HETA P.A. group. School health committee is made up of Meares and Richm. Cutmore was appointed to the safety council while Shepherd is on the conservation authority.

The Home and School Council appointments were Cutmore and Howard-Lock.

NEC meets

The next meetings of the Niagara Escarpment Commission will be held on Thursday, Jan. 4 at 10 a.m., and Friday, Jan. 5 at 9:30 a.m., in the conference room of the NEC's main office, 232 Guelph St., Georgetown. Limited seating is available for any members of the public who may wish to attend and observe the sessions.

GOOD WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR

May all your fondest hopes come true this New Year. We have enjoyed serving you and knowing you. With sincere appreciation, "thanks".

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TUFFY 11oz. PARTY SIZE Nuts & Bolts 1.49	PLANTERS CASHews 175g. 1.89	FRENCH Mustard 16 FL. OZ. 55¢
MAPLE LEAF Mince-meat 28 FL. OZ. 1.59	CLOVER LEAF LIGHT Chunk Tuna 6.2oz. 89¢	OCEAN SPRAY WHOLE OR JELLY Cranberry Sauce 14 FL. OZ. 53¢
Wm. Wain OR SWEET MIX Bicks Pickles 24 FL. OZ. 1.19	BICK'S 12 FL. OZ. Sweet Gherkins 89¢	BORDENO Egg Nog Crystals 20oz. 1.29
STOKELY 14 FL. OZ. Fancy Peas 39¢		

Management and Staff wish everyone a Happy and Prosperous New Year