

# Scots cared for their Acton 'kirk'

Once financially-troubled, Knox Presbyterian used to charge for pew seats

Continued from page A4

By March, 1880, a choir was formed by 18-year old Alexander Mann, who continued in the role of choirmaster of the church for more than 30 years. The formation of the choir was followed with the purchase in 1882 of an organ for use in the Sunday School. The purchase met with hostile opposition, however, on the part of some of the older church members. Several left the church and didn't return, claiming the grace of God had left Knox Church with the introduction of an organ.

**TOO BIG**  
The innovation was considered too big a move for the sanctuary, and when finally allowed by the majority to be used during the church service, the organ had to be carried continuously from the church to the class room.

The present manse on Willow Street was erected in 1889 through the guidance of Rev. J. W. Rae, the fourth minister of Knox Church. Almost a century old, it is regarded as one of the finest manses in Guelph Presbytery. It is a large, handsome building with spacious rooms and large windows.

The 1885 church building also features large windows and rooms off the sanctuary. Made of polished oak, the pews installed in Knox Church at the turn of the century are still being used. They are arranged in a semicircular form around the central pulpit which is elevated two and a half feet and backed by the organ pipes. Fully carpeted, the church building also features leaded cathedral glass windows. After the First World War, one of the long windows was replaced by a stately one of fine stained glass, rich in coloring, bearing the inscription: "To the glory of God and



Built in 1884, the Knox Presbyterian Church building on Acton's Main Street at Knox Avenue is the second church building for the congregation that organized itself in 1845. Veneered with pressed brick, the building rests upon a stone foundation. Semi-circular arches, front and side gables, an ornamental turret and slated roofs distinguish the almost 90 year old building. The very

first church was a large frame building completed in 1847. It was several lots to the right of the site of the present building and after being used for 50 years was turned sideways on the lot and converted into a triple dwelling which still stands today.

(Herald photo by Anl Pederian)

In loving memory of: Rev. T. A. Arthurs, Arthur Anderson, Fred Elkington, Fred Willis, Joseph Fryer, Thomas Irving, George McLeod, who fell in the great war." It was given by the Ladies' Aid in memory of the men who fought and died in WWI.

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11:00 a.m.  
Church of the Lutheran Hour.

## Sally Ann buys land for Acton church

**Herald Special**  
For the first time in 96 years, the Salvation Army will have a permanent home in Halton Hills.

Salvation Army Lt. Lorne Pritchett closed a deal last Wednesday that gives enough land in downtown Acton for a 120-seat Citadel.

There were also no objections to a committee of adjustment relaxation of some restrictions on the new property, said Lt. Pritchett. The local citadel is to repay part of the \$63,000 loans from the national headquarters.

The Church Street East property abuts some previously bought Mill Street land. A building of its own means the Salvation Army can put all its meetings and services under one roof. Meetings are scattered across town.

The congregation, for example meets Sunday evenings in a local church. The singing group practices in the Thrift Store. Also a women's group, Bible study class and junior soldiers group meet in members' homes while Sunday School is held in the YMCA.

"It's now absolutely necessary that we have our own facility," Lt. Pritchett said.

From one building such things as family services can be better co-ordinated and be more effective because of the localized activity, said Lt. Pritchett.

There are no definite plans for the building, though, Lt. Pritchett sees the congregation members parking off Church Street and walking to the front of the building on Mill Street.

"We've been a very long time in finalizing plans, he said. Guelph architect J.M. Jerrett has been hired to work with the congregation on design, according to Lt. Pritchett.

The Acton-based congregation, numbering about 40, takes in the communities of Georgetown, Stewarttown, Glen Williams, Rockwood and Eden Mills.

Lt. Pritchett praised members of the congregation, which is about 2½-years old for waiting for its own building.

"We're grateful to Trinity United Church for their unreserved kindness as they've lent us their church every Sunday," said Lt. Pritchett.

The Salvation Army had a church, not a citadel here in 1885, however Lt. Pritchett said he doesn't know what became of it.

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