



The Baptist Church

Early Midlanders worshipped in their homes

Religion - an integral part of the community life

In Midland's early days, people worshipped in each others' homes. The Presbyterians met in the home of Mr. Jabez Dobson - a fine frame dwelling at the corner of Dominion and Third Streets, Reverend Alex Gilray was sent out from Toronto as a student missionary to the Penetanguishene area and Midland was one of his five preaching stations.

In 1887, the Presbyterians moved into a brick building which was later pulled down and replaced with the present Knox Presbyterian church in 1902. A new Sunday School was opened in 1926. The Anglicans held their first service in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Fraser and later in Henry Hark's home. A frame church, Trinity Anglican, was built in 1884 at the corner of Elizabeth and Queen

Streets. St. Mark's was built in 1884 and the first regular incumbent was Reverend J.A. Hanna, (1885 - 1917). With a new facade, that building still serves Midland's Anglican congregation. Early Roman Catholics met at the home of Midland's second merchant, Mr. Courtemanche. In 1879, Father Laboureau gained the use of the local Orange Hall for worship. In 1881, a frame church was built on

Hugel Avenue. Historical sources differ on whether the land for the present magnificent church was donated by Adolphe Hugel, or by his wife Margaret, but in any case, the new church was dedicated to St. Margaret of Scotland. Built during the incumbency of Reverend L.A. Barcello, the church still serves. Extensive alterations and renovations have been undertaken in the church sanctuary in the past few years.

The Alliance Church was formed from a group of disaffiliated Baptists who gathered in 1922 and formed the New Testament Baptist Church. They held services in the Free Methodist Church, and then in the Orange Hall, and finally in 1925 they moved to the present building at the corner of First and Elizabeth Streets.

In 1875, Midland's Methodists worshipped in the upper room of the old jail on Dominion Avenue. In 1901, a new church was built on the West side of King Street Church Union in 1925 brought together some Presbyterians, Methodists and Congregational Churches, and the King Street building became St. Paul's United Church.

The Salvation Army came to Midland in 1887, and for a time they met on the top floor of the Grise Block on the main street. In 1909 they bought their present Citadel from the local Baptists. There have been Jehovah's Witnesses for fifty years in Midland. Until the recently, they met in private homes or in rented halls. During World War II, when the Watch Tower Society was banned in Canada, the Witnesses met in constantly changing locations to avoid interference. Today they meet in their recently built Kingdom Hall.

Forty One Years in Business has to Prove Something!



This is how it started :

Ed Walker had this 1929 truck. Working from the truck he started, in the year 1935, to convert the Midland area farm homes from kerosene lamps to electricity.

Walker's Electric is still doing Electrical Modernization but kerosene lamps are rather scarce today - for that matter, so are 1929 trucks!

Then came World War II :

How many readers know that Fairmiles like this, as well as minesweepers were built at Midland Shipyards? As Ed Walker - he did the electrical work.

Walker's Electric still does service work on steamboats and private cruisers, but that is another story. Today they would rather stay with the Marinas and Docks the boats tie up to.



A first for Electric Heat :

In 1959 this was the first home North of Toronto to have a complete electrical heating system. Yes, you guessed it - it was built by, and for, Ed Walker. At that time he had four sons to help him, so the work went quickly.

Today, the father and all four sons have electrically heated homes and they would not have it any other way.



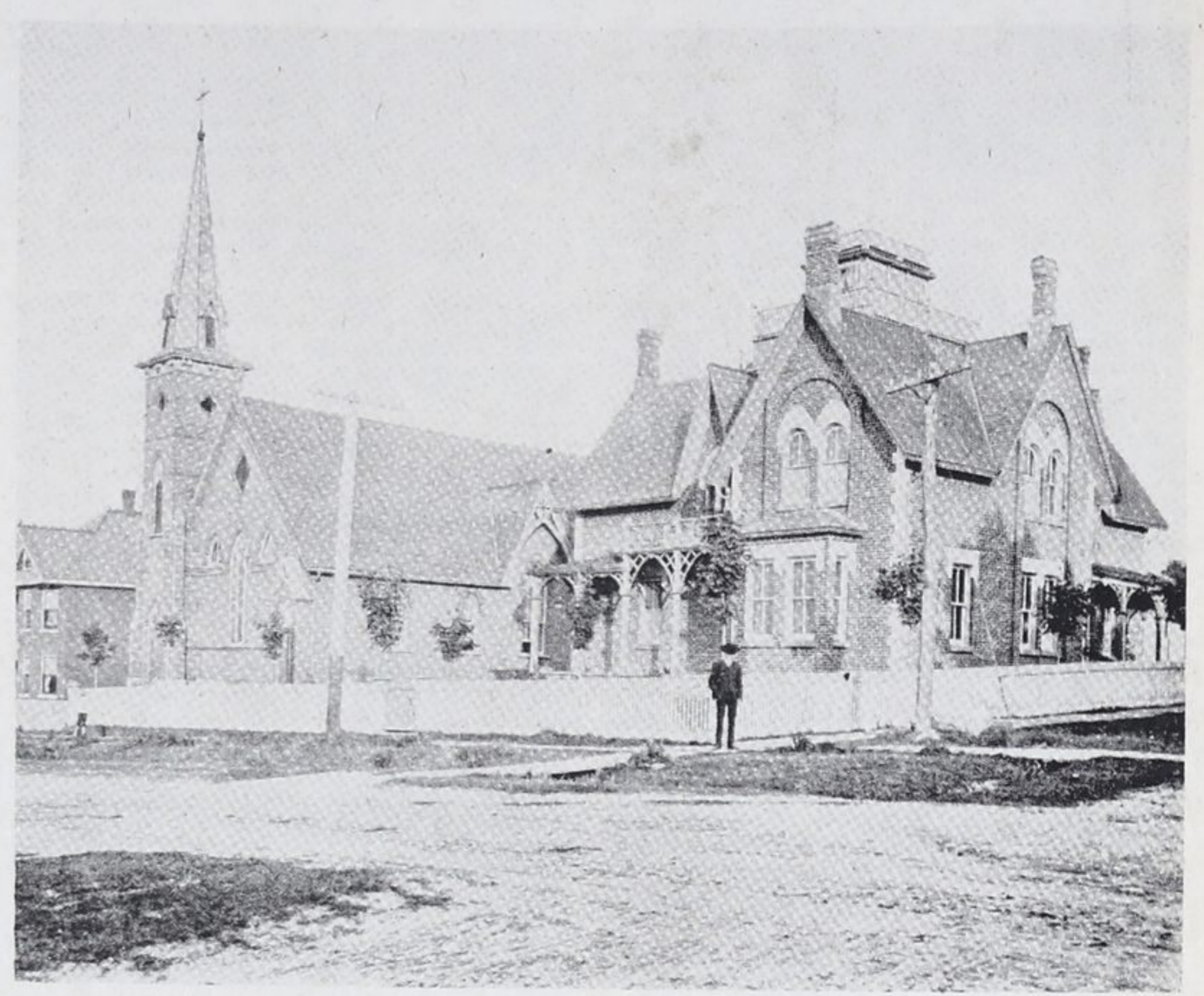
Now a New Truck :

The newest addition to the fleet - radio controlled, sporting the new logo, stocked with material and staffed by qualified electricians. A lot has happened in 41 years - and it is all for the best.



Today Ed Walker's Electric Ltd. is a complete electrical service. They do electrical modernization and new construction for homes, farms, marinas, commercial and industrial. They are always available for service and the design and installation of electric heat is a very important part of the business.

889 KING ST. MIDLAND



Midland's Catholic Church



The Presbyterian Church then

... and now

