

SUPPLEMENT TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE ADOLPHUSTOWN-FREDERICKSBURGH HERITAGE SOCIETY

Supplement #2

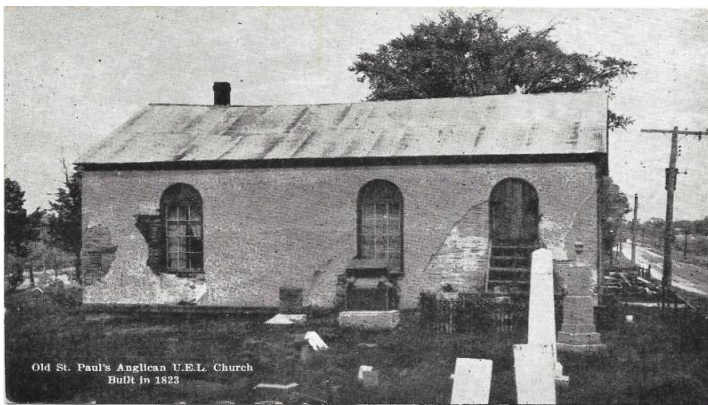
February 2025

Supplements to the AFHS Newsletter

Occasionally the pursuit of a project results in an article too long to be included in a regular issue of *The Neighbourhood Messenger*. These tend to be more detailed pieces, not in keeping with the “light reading” of much of the other material in the newsletter. This second *Supplement to the Neighbourhood Messenger* is the result of such a project.

Discovering St. Paul's

Jane Lovell



The dilapidated structure in this 1940s postcard is identified as “Old St. Paul’s Anglican U.E.L. Church”. The ill-proportioned building with a sagging roof and crumbling stucco was indeed St. Paul’s Church, then in use as the Parish Hall for St. Alban the Martyr U.E.L. Memorial Church, just to the east of the old church along the Loyalist Parkway in Adolphustown.

By the time I first came across the postcard, St. Paul’s no longer stood among the gravestones of the cemetery. When I learned

that the old church had been removed from Adolphustown and re-erected in Prince Edward County, I was intrigued. What possible motive could have driven such an ambitious undertaking and what story of the church could be found under that disintegrating stucco?

The obvious first step in seeking answers was to find the old church in its new location. That was easily done. John and Diane Brisley are well known and indeed celebrated for their love of historic buildings and their commitment to the preservation of these links to our past. Through numerous sources, including a 2006 feature article in *Harrowsmith Country Life*, I learned that the Brisleys had added St. Paul’s to the collection of heritage buildings “rescued” and re-erected on their property near Demorestville in Prince Edward County. I contacted the Brisleys and they graciously agreed to show me the church. And what a revelation that was! The elegant clapboard church with its soaring steeple was almost unrecognizable as being the same building as the old Parish Hall appearing in the 1940s postcard. The church, now in its new rural setting, is a simple one-room structure, well lit through gracefully arched windows along all four walls, and accessed through matching entrance doors sheltered by the spacious porch spanning the entire façade of the building. The simple



2013

symmetry and proportions of the components of the structure lend it an air of weightlessness, despite its generous dimensions. The story of the re-emergence of the lovely form of the church, as it was originally designed and built, is a remarkable tale of discovery.



Photo: Diane Brisley
Ted Davie and Diane Brisley assessing the condition of St. Paul's, then the Parish Hall for St. Alban's Church 1997

John and Diane Brisley first became aware of St. Paul's when it was mentioned in the Fall 1985 issue of *The Acorn*, the newsletter of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario. As part of a tour of Adolphustown that summer, the church was identified as retaining "enough early details to repay careful archaeological investigation and scrupulous restoration". The Brisleys' active involvement with St. Paul's, however, didn't come until more than a decade later when they were approached by Ted Davie, then Treasurer and Chair of the Property Committee for St. Alban's Church, who knew of the Brisleys' interest in heritage buildings. St. Alban's had last used St. Paul's as a parish hall at about the same time as the Architectural Conservancy tour in 1985. By 1996, its advanced state of deterioration had

made the structure a liability, and as the cost required to return it to a usable space was prohibitive, the decision was made to have the structure removed or demolished. In offering St. Paul's to the Brisleys, St. Alban's not only arrived at the most cost-effective method of having the building removed from the site, but also ensured that the old church and its historical significance were preserved.

Beyond the building's "early details" identified by the Architectural Conservancy, it is hard to see what promise the Brisleys perceived in the old parish hall they first inspected in the spring of 1997. What stood before them was a rectangular clapboard structure with only a few windows irregularly spaced along the sides of the building. A simple latched wooden door afforded access to the interior space that was comprised of a small room and stairs to a choir loft or gallery above the entry, followed by the main body of the hall. A false ceiling truncated the arched windows, and a stage occupied the front of the hall. Under the stage, the floor had been removed and the ground beneath excavated to accommodate a kitchen.



Photos: John & Diane Brisley



Left: Back (south) wall of the hall with doors leading to the vestry, entry vestibule, and stairs to the gallery.

Centre: Gallery looking east. Shadows on the wall show two levels of seating. Windows are repurposed sidelights from an original window.

Right: Stage at front (north) of hall, with kitchen hidden below stage.

1997

Undaunted by the existing condition and layout of the old church, Diane and John Brisley detected promise in what they saw, and felt compelled to discover the church's intended form and to restore it to its original configuration.

Discovery began early in the process of dismantling the church. It was evident when stripping the interior that the gallery had been added after the church was first built. Indeed, the gallery itself had undergone a number of structural changes, such as the addition of two levels of seating. At some point a balcony had extended beyond the gallery into the main hall. Stripping away the wallboard and plaster from the wall behind the stage revealed the existence of an arched window flanked by sidelights, known as a palladian window. Also discovered once the clapboard had been removed from the exterior, were the chamfered columns of the original porch. The final piece in the puzzle did not come to light until the framing was being re-erected on its new foundations on the Brisley property. Markings in carpenter's pencil on the upper sill-plate spanning the width of the back of the church were found indicating the location of the supporting studs. The sequence of the notation "*By Door, By Door, By Window, By Window, By Door, By Door*" showed the location of two doors framing a central bank of windows that mirrored the windows at the opposite end of the church. By this point the original configuration of the church was evident; it would take some additional sleuthing to work out the details of the trim and interior and exterior cladding, and of the steeple atop the porch.



The removal of a false wall and wall coverings behind the stage exposed the full palladian window. Removing the false ceiling revealed the arched side windows and the top of the palladian window behind the stage. Also visible is the original expanded wood lath of the side walls. The excavated space housing the kitchen below the stage is just visible, as is its access door to the right.



St. Paul's being re-erected on a new foundation in Prince Edward County. New porch decking and the newly exposed columns supporting the roof of the covered porch provide visual framing for the two entry doors (one re-installed) and the newly discovered central palladian window, mirroring the window at the other end of the church.

Photos: John & Diane Brisley
1997 & 2003



The Windows

The north-west corner of St. Paul's, showing two of the original west-facing windows with their arches boarded over.

A small window to the right is the remnant of one installed when the porch was enclosed. When the porch window was first put in place, it matched the arched windows in size and shape, as seen in the 1940s postcard. A vertical "corner board" and mis-aligned siding marks the extent of the original porch.

Another small window, to the left, provided light and ventilation to the kitchen excavated below the stage. The discontinuity in the siding in the centre of the north wall indicates the location of the north-facing palladian window.



The Porch

This photo, taken in the spring of 1998 just before the framing was dismantled, shows the original chamfered columns of the porch, detail to the left.

The Interior

The newly installed windows were trimmed and painted. The original wainscoting, also newly painted, was re-installed below the cleaned original expanded wooden lath on the walls,



Photos: John & Diane Brisley
1997 – 1998
& circa 2005



The New Old St. Paul's

Dismantled in 1998, St. Paul's was reassembled on the Brisley property between 2003 and 2006. The steeple was added in 2008.

Left: The palladian window over the altar can be seen through the matching window at the centre of the porch, framed by two of the original porch columns.

Right: The semi-vaulted ceiling along with the walls above the wainscoting are plastered and painted. The original wide-plank flooring remains. The two entry doors (one visible) flank the window at the back of the church. Coupled with the palladian windows centred in the front and back walls, the four arched windows, two per left and right side, amply illuminate the interior of the church.

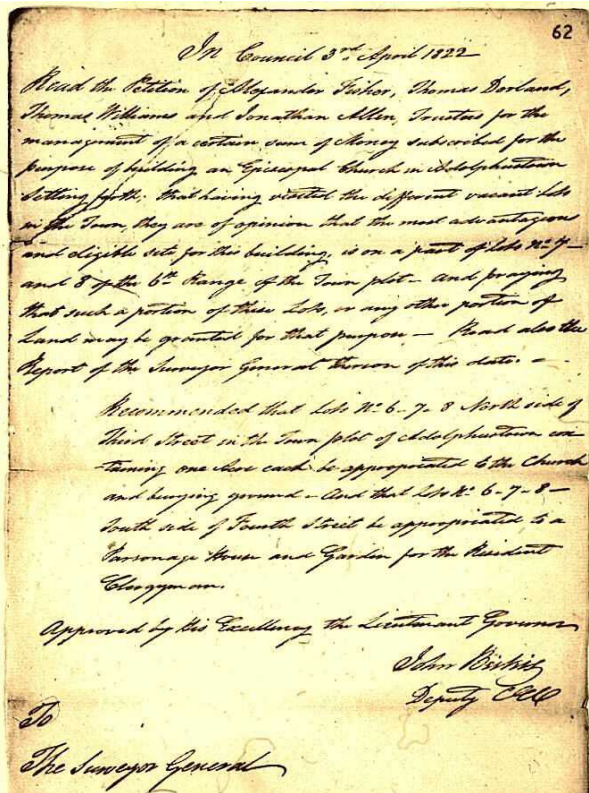
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A Village Church — Getting Started

Diane Brisley undertook an extensive investigation into the history of the St. Paul's when the church came into the Brisley's possession in 1997. More than two decades later I began to retrace her footsteps.

Diane pointed me to the Anglican Archives in Kingston as the repository of early church documents. There I found a copy of the original Crown Grant, dated 1835, and its Endowment of the following year. The grant is an interesting document. King William IV granted six acres in the Adolphustown Town Plot to Charles James Stewart, the Bishop of Quebec; Job Deacon, the "Missionary of Adolphus Town"; and churchwardens Mathew Ruttan and Peter Dorland. The grant was exclusive of any gold or silver that might be found on the tracts of land, and of any white pine that might then or in the future grow there. The Crown's right to the white pine reflects the value of that tree species to the colonizing European powers. Enormous, straight-grained, and rot-resistant, white pine was prized as lumber for buildings, furniture, coffins, and the hulls and masts of ships of all sizes. At times, huge stands of white pine were harvested throughout New England and Upper and Lower Canada for sole use of the Crown in the shipbuilding endeavours of the Royal Navy.

The grant's six acres were composed of three one-acre town lots on the north side of Third Street (present day Loyalist Parkway) and three lots on the south side of Fourth Street (to the north of Third Street but never established). The lots along Third Street were to be used for a church and burial ground and the lots on Fourth Street for the parsonage house and garden for the resident clergyman. In addition to the town lots, 158 acres in Lots 24 and 25 of the First Concession, were allocated as a Glebe "for the support and maintenance of a Protestant Clergy".

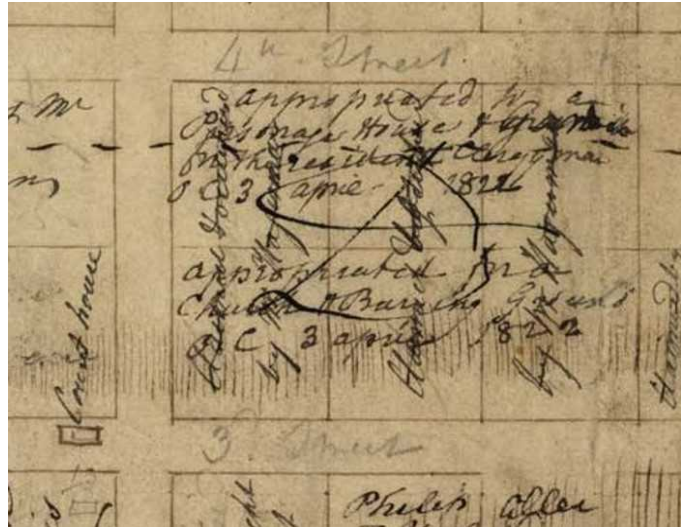


Source: Library & Archives Canada

"In Council 3rd April 1822

Read in Petition of Alexander Fisher, Thomas Dorland, Thomas Williams and Johnathan Allen, Trustees for the management of a certain sum of Money subscribed for the purpose of building an Episcopal Church in Adolphustown setting forth, that having visited the different vacant lots in the Town they are of opinion that the most advantageous and eligible site for this building, is on a part of lots No 7 and 8 of the 6th range of the Town plot"

Interestingly, the Crown Grant does not mark the start of the timeline for St. Paul's. We need to look back a further 12 years to February 1822 when the residents of Adolphustown petitioned the Province of Upper Canada for land on which to build a church. The petition's approval came in April.



Source: Archives of Ontario

Circa 1822 Map of Adolphustown Town Plot showing lots 6, 7, & 8 south of Fourth Street "Appropriated for a Parsonage House + Garden for the resident Clergyman O C [Order of Council] 3 April 1822". The three lots to the south, along Third Street are "Appropriated for a Church + Burying Ground O C 3 April 1822". This has been superimposed over the names of people who had originally been granted the lots, claimed vacant in the petition.

By February of the following year, work had progressed sufficiently for an inaugural service to be held at the new St. Paul's Church.

The February 14, 1823 issue of *The Kingston Chronicle* reported:

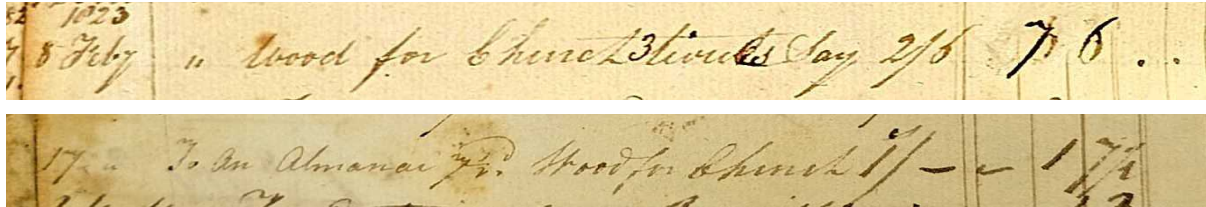
On Sunday the 9th inst. Divine Service was performed for the first time, in the Episcopal Church, recently erected at Adolphustown, by the Rev. Job Deacon, appointed to that cure; when an appropriate and impressive Sermon was delivered by the Venerable and Official Arch-Deacon Stuart, from the 11th verse of the 1st Chapter of the Prophet Malachi; to a numerous congregation.

The Trustees of the Church take this occasion to express their grateful acknowledgements for the many liberal contributions which they have received from different parts of the Province. This assistance has enabled them to carry their designs into no tardy execution; and they have a confidence that such benevolent Donations will be amply repaid by the satisfaction arising from the knowledge of their instrumentality in establishing a place for the Worship and Praise of an Omnipotent and All merciful God.

Adolphustown 12th Feb 1823

The “no tardy execution” in the construction of the church refers to the speed at which funding was secured and design agreed upon in order for St. Paul's to be erected in less than a year after receiving approval to establish a church in Adolphustown.

Lazarus Gilbert is widely believed to have been engaged to build the church. A local carpenter, Gilbert lived in Adolphustown Township from 1817 until his death in 1861. Found in James Watson's 1816-1831 ledger from his Adolphustown general store and post office are entries against Gilbert's account for “wood for Church” purchased February 8 and October 17, 1823. The second of these entries seems to indicate that the church was incomplete when the newly appointed Reverend Deacon gave his first service as Rector of Adolphustown and Fredericksburgh in February of that year.



Source: L&A Museum & Archives A1234.059.001

Entries for February 8 and October 17, 1823 against the account for Lazarus Gilbert from the 1816-1831 Watson Ledger

Gilbert remained involved with St. Paul's and was the first to hold the office of Church Warden, being appointed by the “Town” at “a meeting holden at Adolphustown Court House on the 6th day of January, 1823”. He next held the expanded office of Town and Church Warden, as elected by the “People”, in the following year at the election of town officials on January 5th 1824. In these early years, there were two Church Wardens, one appointed by the Clergy, and one by the residents of the township, each of whom were to serve for one year. It wasn't until the church obtained the status of Rectory as the result the 1835 Crown Grant and obtained its Glebe lands and its attendant self-supporting status in the following year, that the office of Church Warden was dropped from the roll of town officials.

It is interesting to note that at “a Town Meeting held at the Court House at Adolphustown, Jany. 1st, 1827, the following persons were chosen as Town officers for the present year. ... Hugh McDonald, Town and Church Warden, but not present”. Hugh Macdonald was the father of Sir John A. Macdonald. The Macdonald family had moved to Adolphustown Township in 1824 and was living on the shores of Hay Bay near Old Hay Bay Church. Young John Macdonald would most certainly have attended St. Paul's with his family until shortly after his father was named warden, when in 1827 John, then aged 12, was sent to school in Kingston.

We left Kingston on the evening of the 1st September, and on the 2d the Bishop administered the apostolic rite of Confirmation to eleven persons in the church at Bath. On the 3d, he preached to a small congregation at the church of Fredericksburg—through some mistake in giving notice, the majority of the people were not aware of his intention. On the 4th, St. Paul's church at Adolphustown was consecrated, and at the same time several persons were confirmed. We proceeded on the

Episcopal Watchman
Oct 1830

It wasn't until 1830, eight years after the church was built and five years before land was deeded to the parish, that St. Paul's was consecrated.

Thomas W. Casey, in the August 9, 1899 edition of the *Toronto Weekly*, recorded the reminiscences of Parker Allen, a lifelong resident of Adolphustown. Mr. Allen, aged 19 in 1830,

remembers the consecration of the old English church which preceded the present memorial to the pioneers. "A bottle was broken on a stone," he said, "as it was named St. Paul."

St. Paul's – Defining Horizons

Little evidence, other than that discovered by the Brisleys during the dismantling and re-erection of the church, exists of the exterior and interior architectural components of the original structure. However, some indication of changes made to the structure can be gleaned from early newspaper and periodical articles, and from the Vestry Meeting Minutes, now housed in the Anglican Diocese Archives.

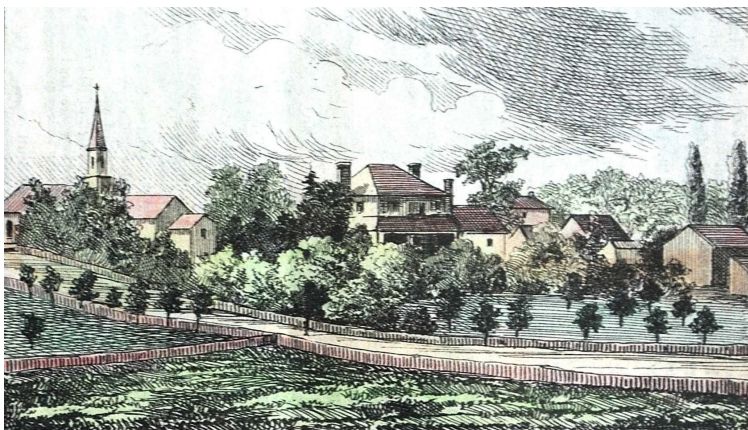
The earliest mention of the church building appears in *Mitchell's General Directory for the City of Kingston and Gazetteer of the Counties of Frontenac, Lennox and Addington for 1865* under the description of the village of Adolphustown.

There are two Churches: the Church of England, erected of frame, at a cost of fifteen hundred dollars, and capable of seating 200 persons. Rev. R. Hardinge [sic], incumbent; and the Wesleyan Methodist Church, built of frame, at a cost of twelve hundred dollars, will accommodate 250 persons. Rev. Messrs. J. W. German and Moses Johnston, ministers.

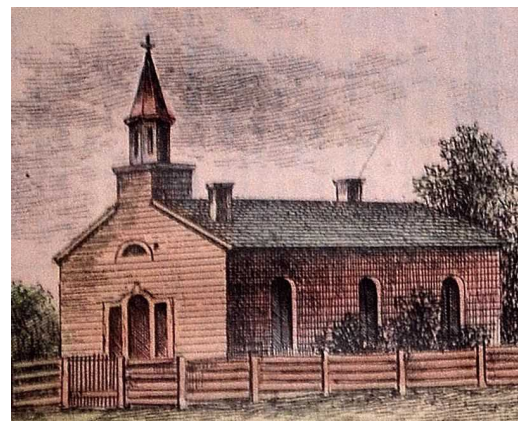
Reverend Robert Harding was the third and longest serving of the four rectors of St. Paul's, leading the congregation for 26 years (1857-1883). It is likely early during Reverend Harding's tenure that the first substantial changes to the church were made. The Vestry Meeting Minutes for April 1864 show expenditures of \$60 for painting the church and \$30 for "cutting down Pews". An expense of \$94 was listed against "Gallery". It is likely that it was at this time that the porch was enclosed to create a vestry and entry vestibule, with a gallery above. There is evidence that a balcony, supported by substantial columns, extended the gallery across the back (south end) of the church. It is unknown when the balcony was installed.

The interior of St. Paul's was briefly described when the church was featured in the October 13, 1877 issue of the *Canadian Illustrated News*.

There is an air of quiet beauty about Adolphustown that is quite captivating. A prominent view as you ascent from the water is "Glenwood," the seat of John J. Watson, Esq., a descendant of the United Empire Loyalists. The old English church, surrounded by numerous monuments of the dead, stands as a memento of the past. It was built about thirty years after the advent of the Loyalists to the Bay of Quinte. It is a quaint edifice, the interior being arranged in the old fashioned English way, and is in keeping with the quiet, peaceful, contented, and prosperous community amid which it is situated.



VIEW IN ADOLPHUSTOWN, GLENWOOD.



Courtesy of Alice Carlson

These sketches were two of five sketches making up a full-page illustration labelled BAY OF QUINTE — ADOLPHUSTOWN. Originally appearing in the October 13, 1877 issue of the *Canadian Illustrated News*, they were in black and white. It is unknown when these colorized versions were produced.

In one of the sketches by A. W. Moore accompanying the article, the steeple of St. Paul's can be seen dominating the skyline as the village is approached from the shore to the south. The sketch of the church itself shows that the porch that originally ran across the entire wall beneath the steeple had been enclosed. The chimney near the steeple likely indicates that a portion of the space had been partitioned for use as a vestry. The palladian window has been moved from its original position and set in the new wall enclosing the porch. A third arched window has been added to each side of the church to admit light into the newly enclosed porch space.



Photo: L&A Museum & Archives A1976.P0682

St. Paul's as Parish Hall for St. Alban's Church

Site of luncheon served by the Women's Institute to the members of the Ontario Historical Society during the tour of the area as part of their annual meeting held in Napanee in June 1912.

The 1912 photograph of St. Paul's shows the palladian window repurposed as the entrance. Above it is a demi-lune fanlight, also appearing in the 1877 sketch. Given its location below the level of the eaves, the fanlight could not have been in the original pediment above the porch, and was probably added when the porch was enclosed and the additional side windows added. By 1912, the west-facing porch window has been mostly boarded over, with only a small window remaining.

A detailed description of the church interior appears in the April 1887 issue of *Our Mission News*.

The parish church in Adolphustown was erected by Rev. Job Deacon about sixty years ago. It is a frame and rough-cast structure of the homely pattern then in vogue. A space railed in on the east side serves for the chancel; a pulpit raised on high faced the gallery running across the west end; the vestibule and vestry are underneath the gallery. For a number of years the pews (which were square) were rented for the sum of one penny a year.

The “east” and “west” appearing in the description are not cardinal directions, but refer to liturgical orientation, where, for symbolic reasons, the altar or pulpit is considered to be on the east side of the church. St. Paul’s was sited perpendicular to Loyalist Parkway which runs generally from west to east. The gallery was created when the porch facing the road was enclosed. The 1887 description confirms that the area below the gallery was partitioned to house the vestibule and vestry. The vestibule, vestry, and gallery would then be on the south wall, or the liturgical “west end”.

Further changes were made to the interior by Reverend Richard Sykes Forneri shortly after his appointment as Rector in late 1883. The 1887 article continues:

The new Rector signalled his coming by several new Departures. The pulpit in the old church came down from its high soaring, the chancel arrangements were improved, and some of the square pews were divided.

The change in fortunes for St. Paul’s began with the arrival of Reverend Forneri. He was responsible for undertaking the erection of St. Alban’s as a “United Empire Loyalist’s Memorial Church”. The cornerstone of the new church was laid during the Loyalist centennial celebrations in Adolphustown on the 17th of June, 1884 on land gifted by John Joseph Watson, just to the east of the older St. Paul’s Church. It is interesting to note that the site of the new church was not within the original grant of six acres awarded to the Adolphustown Rectory. It was perhaps in anticipation of the service to be delivered by the Archdeacon of Kingston in the old church prior to proceeding to the site of the new church, that Reverend Forneri undertook the modifications made to the interior of St. Paul’s, likely in late 1883 or early 1884.

A last description of the early interior of the church appears in a 1959 manuscript written by Mary Allison (1878-1973).

The chancel was a raised platform, one step high, in the centre of the east end (the north) with a railing across the front. The altar, one step higher, was a wooden frame with a red frontal which did duty for the whole year. On the left hand as you faced the chancel was the high pulpit and a square pew. On the right, the choir. The pews had walls, about three feet high, with doors opening into them. Those under the windows were square but the rest were narrow with just one seat. There were two rows in the centre with a wall between. All these pews formed two aisles leading up from the doors. There was a gallery at the west end with seats on two levels and at first the choir was in the gallery.

With the disappearance of the spacious columned porch in order to create the vestibule, vestry, and gallery, the steeple became the church’s most distinctive feature.

The history of St. Paul’s steeple is a murky one. Based on the structural components discovered by the Brisleys when they dismantled the church, it looks as if the steeple had been incorporated into the original structure. However, the Vestry Meeting Minutes for 1871 discuss the account submitted by Mr. Outwater for “Building the church steeple”.

Considering the simple style of church, its modest construction materials and the congregation it was meant to serve, it is likely that a steeple was part of the original design for St. Paul’s. Dr. Peter Coffman, an architectural historian at Carlton University specializing in early Canadian churches, confirms it probable that St. Paul’s architect was working to a template similar to that used in Anglican churches being built elsewhere in the Canadian colonies at that time—most of which featured a steeple. It is possible that after nearly 50 years the original steeple had collapsed or been removed. Whether Mr. Outwater’s steeple was new to the church or replaced the original, the steeple is a dominant feature of the church in Moore’s 1877 sketch.

Photographs from 1898 and 1912 show the church with its steeple. However, by the time mention is made of St. Paul’s Church in an unsourced local newspaper article from September 13, 1923, “the original spire had been removed”.



Main Street Adolphustown with St. Paul's in background.

This circa 1900 postcard shows the church in nearly the same condition as the poor quality 1898 postcard, below.



The church was initially clad with clapboard, but at some point after the 1877 sketch was made, the sides and back of the church were stuccoed. According to Mary Allison, it was in the period before the arrival of Reverend Forneri in 1883 that the stucco was applied. Certainly the sides of the church appear to be stuccoed in both the 1898 and 1912 photographs. By 1947, the Vestry Minutes show that stucco was being considered as a new cladding for the building.

The clapboard in the following 1951 photograph looks weathered, indeed almost completely devoid of paint, lending weight to the assumption that the original stucco had been removed shortly after the 1940s photograph had been taken. (Note: In the absence of any date appearing on the 1940s postcard, the card was dated based on the power lines appearing in the photograph. Electricity was available along Loyalist Parkway as early as 1932, so it is possible that the photo was actually taken in

the 1930s. This would make the clapboard-to-stucco-to-clapboard time-line more likely. In that case, clapboard replacing the stucco in the 1930s would more closely match the condition of the clapboard appearing in the 1951 photograph.)

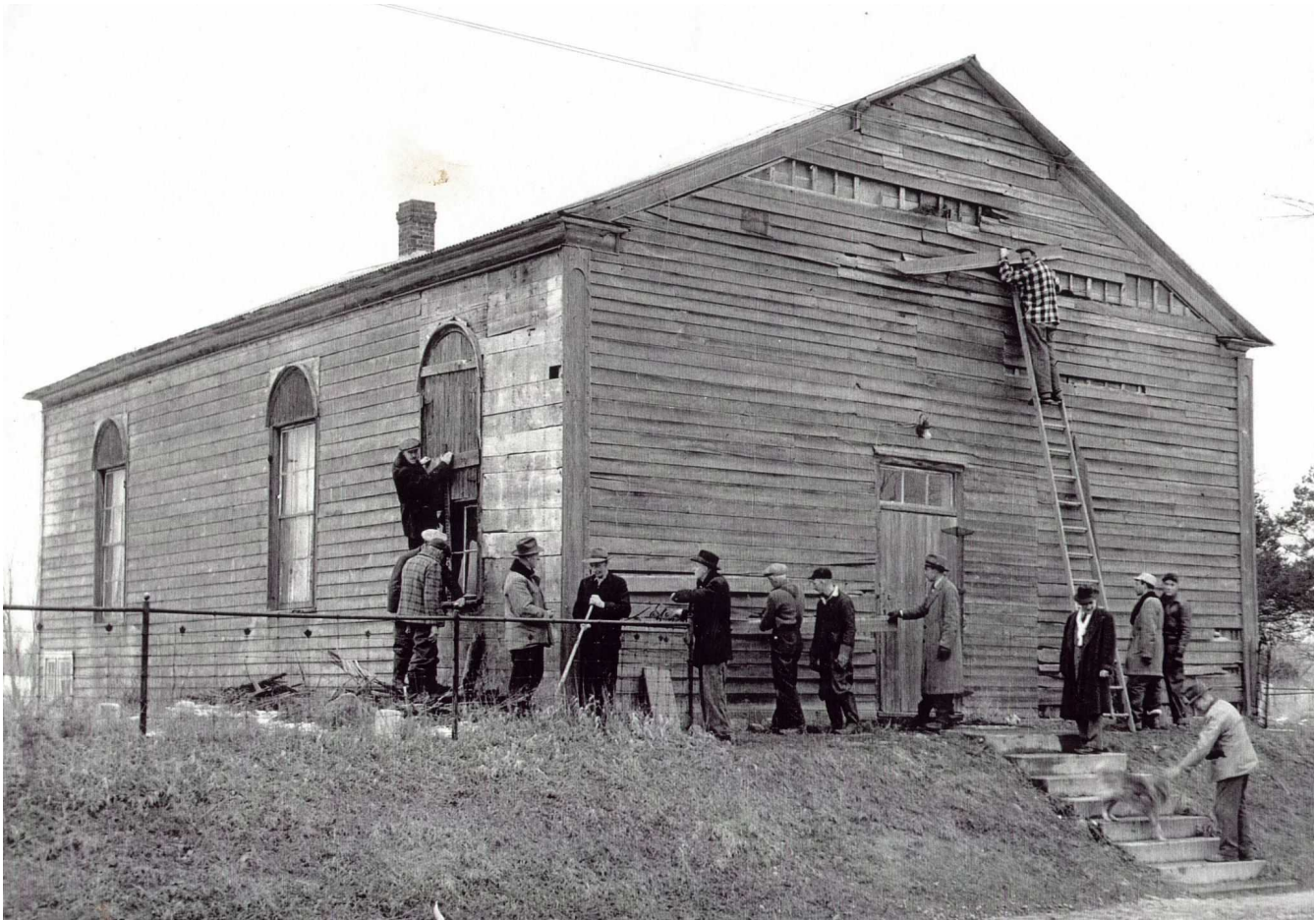
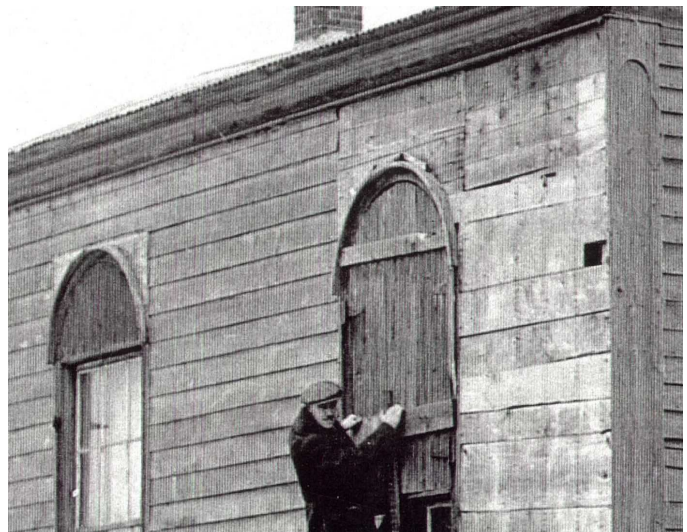


Photo: Scanned from Diane Brisley

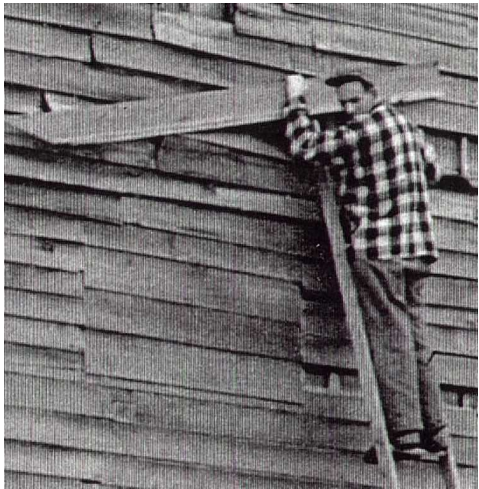
Inspection of the Parish Hall Prior to the 1951 Renovation

The 1951 photograph of St. Paul's exposes the building's many epochs. With the stucco removed from the side of the church, the original siding and the sheathing added to enclose the porch are revealed. Since the sheathing and old siding appear to be flush with one another, and because the block framing of the top of the arched windows is proud, subsequent cladding (clapboard or stucco) could have been directly applied, while still accommodating the existing window trim.

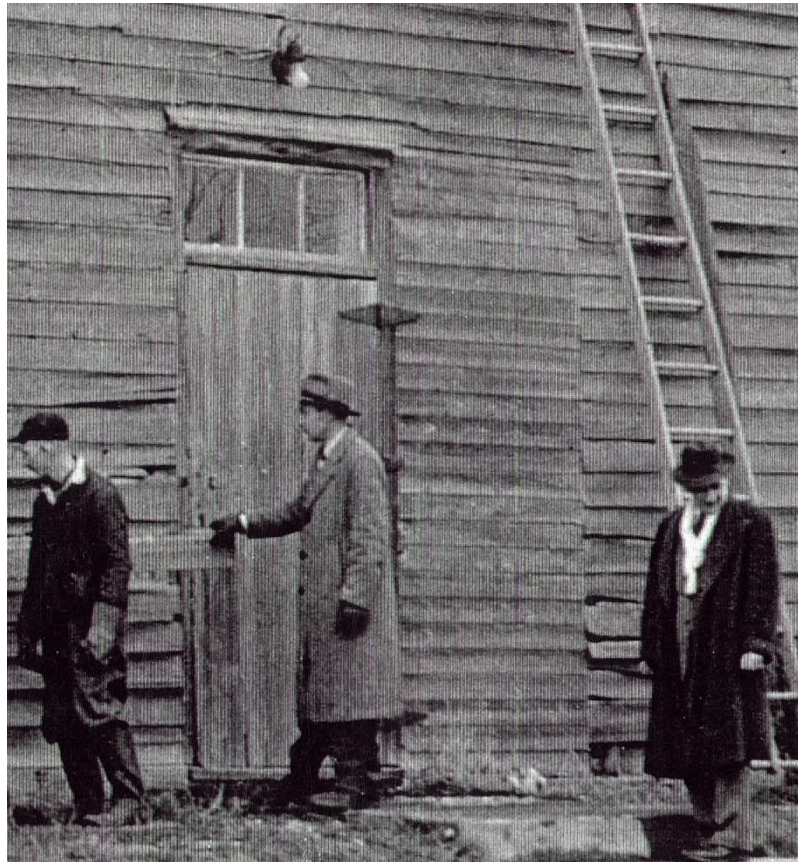
The discontinuity in the clapboard siding on the front of the church shows where both the demi-lune window and half the palladian-framed door have been boarded over. And finally, the discontinuity in roof-line shows where the steeple has been removed.



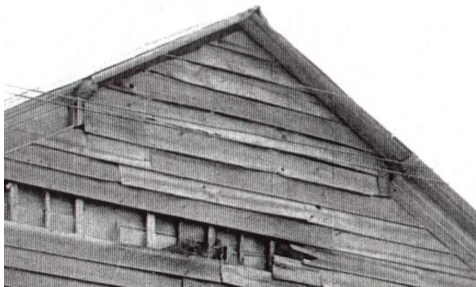
Original Siding and Porch Infill Sheathing



Boarded-over Demi-Lune Window



Palladian-framed Door Partially Boarded Over



Remnants of Steeple Base



The last bit of evidence for filling in the timeline for changes to the church exterior comes from two photographs of Gena & Catherine Duffett with St. Paul's in the background. In the c1918 shot the arch and the right sidelight of the palladian-framed doorway are just visible behind Gena's hat. By the time the c1921 photo was taken, entrance to the church was gained through a simple single door, surmounted with a transom window.



Photos: Susan Wright

Between approximately 1918, above, and 1921, right, St. Paul's acquired the grim windowless face with which it ended its days in Adolphustown.

Note that the east-facing porch window has been boarded over, leaving only a small window, similar to that on the west side.

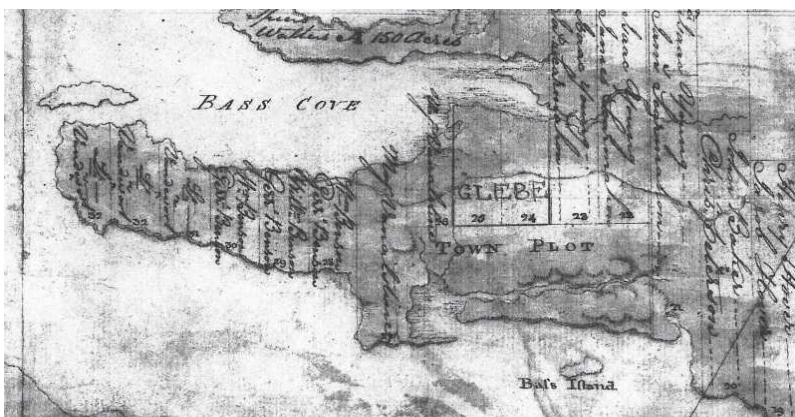
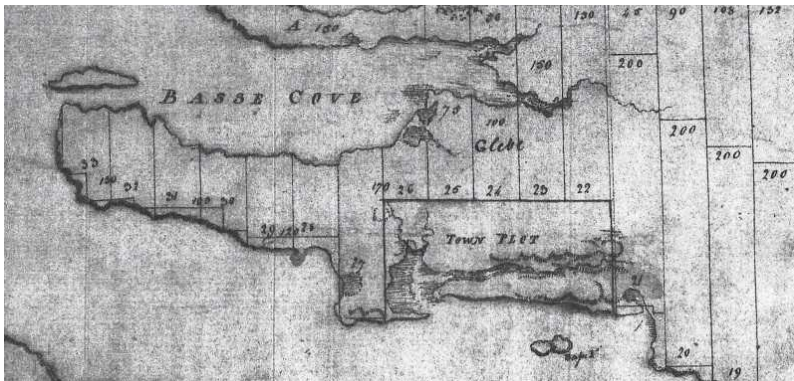
Paying for It All – The Church

A compelling history of St. Paul's can be gleaned through inspection of its finances.

From the 1822 approval of the petition to establish an Episcopal Church in Adolphustown, we know the trustees of the building fund were Alexander Fisher, Thomas Dorland, Thomas Williams, and Johnathan Allen. These were prominent men in the community, and no doubt influential. However, Anglicans were only one of several faith communities represented in the township. The Methodists of Adolphustown had had a place of worship since the building of Old Hay Bay Church in 1792. The first Quaker Meetinghouse was established just to the west in 1796. With allegiances split among several denominations, it is unknown what portion of the residents of the township would have been in support of establishing an Anglican church, or how generous they were with subscriptions and donations. Certainly, of the 88 families (totalling 571 people) appearing on the 1822 Adolphustown census, enough of them contributed sufficient funds to build St. Paul's and to provide for early annual financial support.

It wasn't until the parish received its self-supporting status as a Rectory in 1836, that St. Paul's could rely on some form of stable funding. As enacted in its constitution, the Province of Ontario officially supported the Church of England.

Under the act, one seventh of all land granted within the province was set aside as Clergy Reserves (Glebe Lands) for the exclusive use in maintaining the Protestant clergy within the province. The Adolphustown Glebe appears on two early maps where it occupies lot 24 on a circa 1784 plan of lots, and is comprised of lots 24 and 25 on the circa 1784 "Quebec Plan" showing the initial grantees. The allocation of these lots



Source: Ontario Archives

1748 Quebec Plan Lots & Grantees

Provincial Support of Religious Institutions

According to the 1822 *Statistical Account of Upper Canada*, the Province of Ontario actively supported the Episcopal traditions embodied by the Church of England. However, "dissenters of all denominations" were tolerated and protected by law. With appropriate credentials, ministers of the "Scotch, Lutheran and Calvinist" churches could perform marriages for members within their congregations. Under the law, "Calvinists" included Presbyterian, Congregational, and Baptist clergymen. Other denominations identified as "dissenters" were "Methodists, Moravians, Anabaptists, Roman Catholics, Quakers, Menonists and Tunkers". Special consideration was given to the last three denominations who, due to being "conscientiously scrupulous of bearing arms", were given exemption from militia duties.

is confirmed in the 1790 list of *Land Owners of the Mecklenburg (Ontario) District* which has Lots 24 and 25, at a nominal 200 acres each, allocated as Glebe Lands. However, it was not until its 1835/36 grant that St. Paul's Church

took control of these lands. Six acres within the town site of Adolphustown were set aside for the church, burial ground, parsonage, and garden, and a further 158 acres were awarded as Glebe Lands. (Note: Lots 24 and 25 are irregularly shaped and together comprise only 158 acres, far less than the intended 400 acres.) The Glebe Lands were then leased, with rents used to support the clergy. According to the *Statistical Account of Upper Canada* published in 1822, Glebe lands were leased for terms of 21 years. "The rent of a lot of 200 acres, taken in its uncultivated state, has been ten shillings a year for the first seven years, twenty shillings a year for the second seven years, and one pound ten shillings a year for the last seven years of the lease." There was a proposed order at that time that the rents be doubled for newly or sequentially leased land. By 1839, five years after the establishment of the Glebe in Adolphustown, the *Journal of House of Assembly of Upper Canada Session 1839* shows Lot 24 in Concession 1 leased by Willet Casey and Moses Carnahan. Interestingly, no lease information appears for Lot 25, which made up the other half of the Glebe.

Land transfer records show that "All" of Lot 24 was deeded from the Crown to the "Rectory of Adolphustown" in accordance with the Endowment of 1836. Curiously, in 1848, the Crown then deeded 14 acres of Lot 24 to Job Deacon. As rector of the parish, Deacon managed the Glebe lands associated with St. Paul's, but he also was a landowner in his own right, owning property in Lot 26, adjoining the Glebe Lands, and lots in the Adolphustown Town Plot. By the time of Deacon's death in 1850, his four-acre farm had been developed into a sizable operation, as seen in the auction notices, left, and below.

**IMPORTANT SALE OF
HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE,
Horses, Carriages, Farm Stock, and
Farming Implements,
AT ADOLPHUSTOWN.**

THE undersigned is instructed by the Executors of the late Reverend Job Deacon, to offer for sale by public Auction, on Wednesday, 26th June, at 11 o'clock in the Forenoon, the above valuable Property contained in the Dwelling-house, and upon the premises of the deceased, adjoining the Village of Adolphustown.

The Furniture is in excellent order, and of superior quality, embracing all the articles required for a well furnished house. In the Farm Stock there are 3 horses, 5 milch cows, 4 calves, 10 head of 2 and 3 year old cattle, 17 sheep and 16 swine. There is a valuable Double Carriage, cost £47; a Single carriage cost £34; and several sets of double and single harness, Waggon, Sleighs, &c. and a large variety of the best kind of Farming Tools and Implements, Ploughs, Harrow, Fanning Mills, &c.

Terms—Under £5 Cash; from £5 to £12 10s. three months; from £12 10s. to £20 six months; over £20 one half in six and one half in nine months. The Notes to be secured to the satisfaction of the owners.

Refreshments will be provided for those coming from a distance.

JAMES LINTON,
Kingston, June 13th. A. B. & C. M.

*Daily British
Whig*

Auction of
household
contents,
livestock, and
farm
equipment

June 17, 1850
(left)

Auction of of
house and four
acres just to the
west of
St. Paul's

May 21, 1853
(right)

FOR SALE,

THE beautifully situated and commodious premises, containing four Acres of Land, known as "The Rectory," near the Village of Adolphustown, on the Bay of Quinte, (the private property of the late Reverend Job Deacon,) comprising a Two story Dwelling House, 28x50 feet, containing eleven rooms and two cellars; a wood-house finished to connect with the Dwelling-house, and containing several rooms; a Coach house, excellent Barns, Granary, Stables, Sheds, and every convenience for Farm Stock; a valuable Well close to the Kitchen; with Garden and Orchard, containing 65 fruit trees: the late Proprietor having spared no pains to make the residence convenient and comfortable.

The premises are well adapted for a gentleman's country residence; or, with some alteration, for a Young Ladies' Seminary, the situation being remarkably pleasant and healthy. A daily Stage passes the door in winter, and in summer Steamers to and from Kingston, touch every day at a short distance from the house.

The Property will be positively sold at Auction on Wednesday, the 4th day of May next, at the Court House, at Adolphustown, near the premises, unless previously disposed of at private sale. Title indisputable.

For further particulars apply to either of the three Executors, the Reverend Saltern Givins, Port Credit; to Peter V. Dorland, Esq., Adolphustown, near the premises, or the undersigned at Kingston.

FRANCIS M. HILL.
Kingston, April 7th, 1853.

With the secularization of the Clergy Reserves in 1854, much of the Glebe land throughout Upper Canada was sold. Adolphustown was no exception, with both Lots 24 and 25 being sold in 1871. Despite no longer being in Church hands, Lots 24 and 25 continued to be referred to as “the Glebe”. In its April 25 1890 issue, the *Napanee Express* reported that “Mr. D. W. Allison is preparing to build this season, on his Glebe farm, a barn over a hundred feet long. It will be built chiefly for the storage of hay.” The 1894 Voters List for Adolphustown shows D.W. Allison as the owner of the Glebe, and Edward Fournia as a tenant. Glebe lands were still recognized on the 1933 Voters List, with Schyler French listed as an owner and David King as a tenant.

In addition to Glebe rents, the rector could rely on funds from both church and state. According to the 1822 *Statistical Account of Upper Canada*, each minister received support from the Province of Ontario to the tune of £100 per annum, with an additional £50 coming from the Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts.

By 1863, however, no funding appears to have been received from either the province or the Church of England. Both the rector’s salary and upkeep expenditures for the church were being paid for by parishioners, often with contributions via special subscriptions from some of the more prominent members of the congregation, simply in order to avoid a deficit in the year’s accounting.

The rental of pews became a substantial source of funds for St. Paul’s. It is unknown when the rent was in fact the penny reported in the April 1887 issue of *Our Mission News*, but by 1863 the income from pew rents totalled \$10.40. By the next year, the Vestry Minutes notes the payment of \$2 for two years’ pew rent. As it appears that pew rent was by then a dollar a year, it is unclear how a figure such as \$10.40 might have been arrived at.



Source: Clipping from local paper, February 1951

Despite the “cutting down” and “dividing” of pews over the years, by 1951 many of the old pews remained, including this box pew, complete with a door.

Sunday School student Marion Grooms, aged 10.

The significance pew rental played in contributing to the church’s coffers is illustrated in the financial statement for 1866. Collections from parishioners for the previous year was \$27.76, very nearly matched by “Cash Receipts for Pews this day” of \$25.83. Pew rents were raised in 1882 to \$5 per year for double pews, and \$3 a year for singles, “excepting Nos. 7 and 16”. It is unclear if these pews retained their one-dollar rental rate, or whether these were designated “free seats”. This price hike, perhaps along with the rental of additional pews, saw pew rents ballooning to \$75 in 1884. Despite a healthy level of subscriptions, and a stable level of collection funds, the augmented proceeds from pew rental did little to offset the annual disbursements, leaving a balance of only \$11.10.

1890 saw the congregation move into the new St. Alban’s Church. A special meeting called explicitly “for the purpose of taking into consideration the assessment of Pews for absolutely necessary expenses”. It was resolved that “the Pews or Seats be subject to Rent”, and that “the seats be placed at the sum of five Dollars each per Annum”. It

was also agreed "that when seats are subdivided, let it be left to the Church Wardens". It assumed that this means that the number of "seats" accommodated per pew would be determined by the wardens, and rent would be charged accordingly. By 1894, proceeds from pew rental reached \$99, exceeding funds received from both collections and subscriptions. Revenue from pew rental was explicitly recorded in the Vestry Meeting Minutes until 1895. It is unknown when pew rents ceased to be collected at St. Alban's, but most Anglican churches abolished pew rents in the late 1800s or early 1900s. Certainly there was much discussion internationally about the ethics and propriety of the renting of pews. Also, by that time there were fewer parishioners electing to rent pews, resulting in a diminished ability to generate revenue through the rental scheme.

Paying for It All – The Hall

Although the setting of the cornerstone for the new St. Alban's Church took place in 1884, services continued to be held in St. Paul's until St. Alban's was substantially complete. The last service celebrated at St. Paul's took place on June 22nd 1890, three days before the inaugural service held at the newly completed St. Alban's. With that, St. Paul's ceased to be a house of worship and began its life as a Parish Hall.

Despite the work done on St. Paul's in 1883 in preparation for the UEL Centennial Celebrations, by 1896 the building was in poor repair. Former Adolphustown resident Thomas W. Casey writes in the August 24, 1896 edition of the *Kingston Daily Whig*:

There stands also on the "Front" of Adolphustown the remains of an Anglican church, which was erected many years ago, and in which a large portion of the generation of inhabitants, now passed away, formerly worshipped. It, too, is dilapidated and passing away, and a very fine new stone church, "St. Alban's" has taken its place.

Demotion from Church to Parish Hall was a tough one, and entries in the Vestry Minutes testify to the chronic lack of funds for general repairs or more substantial upgrades. Committees were struck and special accounts established in an attempt to raise and manage funds for the upkeep of the hall. It took a further 60 years for the fortunes of old St. Paul's to experience a significant uptick. The following entries paint a poignant picture of the effects of time and circumstances on the old church.

1906: "There followed a long talk on the subject of the dilapidated condition of the Church Hall, resulting in the determination to have it re-shingled, and the inside walls + ceiling repainted + papered."

Adolphustown and Fredericksburg. — The church buildings and fences are in good condition.

The Church Hall, Adolphustown, has been re-shingled and the ceiling and walls repaired and painted. The rectory grounds have been wire-fenced, with iron gates, and granolithic walk made from the rectory to the street.

Canadian Churchman
December 6, 1906

1922: In March a "Special Meeting of the Vestry was called ... to consider the future status of the Hall." It was moved that "from now onward the Parish Hall be used for all secular purposes in connection with the parish." Seven men were "appointed [to] a committee for supervising the repairing of the Hall." Within a month the work was complete.

—The work on S. Alban's Parish Hall is now nearing completion. The interior has been completely renovated, and now presents a pleasing appearance. The walls and ceiling are of buff murecoed beaver board, with maroon strappings; and the varnished and waxed floor is of British Columbia fir. All the woodwork has been painted maroon color, and new windows and shades have been placed. An enlarged kitchen is an added useful feature. The hall will be lighted with two 300 c.p. gasoline lamps, suspended from the ceiling. The re-opening takes place on Friday of Easter week, April 21st, and the festivities will be in charge of the Girls' Altar-Guild, the local orchestra furnishing music for dancing.

Napanee Beaver
April 7, 1922

Over the next two decades or so, the parish hall appears to have been well used. As a space in which to hold community events, however, it faced competition from both the Adolphustown Town Hall and the UEL United Church in Dorland.

—Cooper's orchestra, of Picton, has been engaged for the dance in the Parish Hall, on Friday, April 17th.—On April 24th the Women's Auxiliary of S. Alban's Church is having a social evening in the Parish Hall.

Napanee Beaver
April 10, 1925

—A dance will be held in the Town Hall, Adolphustown, on Friday, December 18th. Cooper's Orchestra in attendance. \$1.00 a couple; extra lady, 25c. 50b

Napanee Beaver
September 25, 1925

DANCE AT ADOLPHUSTOWN
The A. Y. P. A. of St. Alban's Church, Adolphustown, are holding a dance in the Parish Hall, Friday evening, September 18th. Picton Orchestra in attendance. Admission, 25 cents. 38ap

Napanee Beaver
September 16, 1936

FOWL SUPPER, ADOLPHUSTOWN
The annual anniversary and fowl supper will be held in the U. E. L. United Church, Adolphustown, on October 18th and 20th. Entertainment following supper, with good programme. Supper served from 6 to 8. Admission, adults, 40c; children 25cents. 37a

Napanee Beaver
September 9, 1936

* A.Y.P.A. = Anglican Young Peoples Association

- 1940:** The “gasoline lamps” installed during the 1922 upgrade no longer met the needs of the times. It was moved that “we canvas again this year for wiring” and “that the wardens be empowered to borrow enough money at once to wire both the Church and the Hall”. (The Rectory was wired in 1937 at a cost of \$153.44. A further expense of \$122.50 was recorded for “wiring” in 1940. It is assumed this was additional wiring for the Rectory, and that the Church and Hall had yet to be wired.)
- 1943:** “Electric wiring a/c with Mr. Cooper was paid in full Feb 21, 1942.”
- 1945:** The hall was once again falling into disrepair and it was determined that dedicated funds for the its upkeep were required. It was moved “that the treasurer open an account at the Dominion Bank, Napanee in the name of 'St. Alban's Church, Adolphustown, Repair Fund'. The first charges on the fund to be the repair of the Parish Hall. The Wardens to arrange for collection of money from time to time at their discretion.” At the same meeting it was resolved “that the Parish Hall be repainted”; an amendment added the words “When funds are available.”

1944

Fund for repairing Church Hall

		Rec'd	
Dec 27	Mrs. Jane Boe	10 -	
Carried fwd to 1945.			

Account Books, St. Alban's Archive

The first deposit to the Hall Repair Fund was received in December of 1944, before the opening of the special bank account.

- 1946:** A report was given by “the Executive Committee on St. Alban's Parish Hall Repair Fund.” It was moved “that the Committee proceed to collect the monies already promised and obtain an estimate of the cost of the work to be done.”

1946

Repair to Hall Fund

		Rec.	Sup.
Jan 1	Brought forward from 1945	10 00	
May 15	Donation (Mrs. M. Allison)	40 00	

Account Books, St. Alban's Archive

The deposits for the year reflected the lack of success in collecting promised contributions.

- 1947:** The Parish Hall encountered serious competition for funds from both the rectory and the church. The attention of the Rectory Committee was called “to the need for repairs of the Rectory as follows: Eave troughs needed repair. Outside woodwork badly needed painting and leaks stopped in cistern. Garage doors required repairs. ... Considerable discussion took place regarding the repairs needed to the Church furnace and the Parish Hall building. It was generally agreed that owing to scarcity and high prices of materials etc. the present is not a suitable time to undertake major repairs.” It was moved “that the Repair Fund Committee continue [to] act on the matter and seek out ways and means of raising money in readiness for the time when the repair work can be undertaken.”

Rental of the hall was clearly viewed as a good way of earning extra funds. “A discussion arose on the minutes of the previous meeting regarding the letting of the Hall and it was agreed that the following correction should be inserted. That the Hall be let for \$7 if the Church members do the cleaning and for \$5 if the cleaning be done by the parties hiring the Hall.”

A special meeting of the Parish Hall Repair Committee was held at the Rectory. "After much discussion it was resolved that the following suggestions be presented at the next Executive Council meeting:

1. A new stove be purchased + moved to a better position.
2. All openings at windows, etc. be fixed.
3. The south end inside be lined with some material.
4. The ceiling be tacked up + straightened so that insulation could be made at some time.
5. The door at the back of stage made tight against cold.
6. If possible Mr. H. John be hired to supervise the work."

At the subsequent Executive Council meeting it was deemed "that the resolution brought in by the Hall Repair Committee ... is not acceptable to the Executive Council of the Vestry." An offer was accepted to have a committee member "measure the building and obtain estimates of cost of Stucco, also asbestos siding shingles."

Hall Repair		1947 Repairs to Hall Fund	
	\$		Rec. Exp.
Balance on hand	233.90	Jan 1 Balance from 1946	50.00
Int.	3.91	Sept 30 G. Chalmers	99.85
From tourists (Christies)	3.68	Oct 10 Mrs A. Heathcote	2.00
Mrs Heathcote	1.00	Dec 13 A.Y.P.A.	31.05
Mr W ^m Box	100.00		<u>182.90</u>
	<u>\$ 342.49</u>	Balance	342.49
			342.49

Account Books, St. Alban's Archive
Significant contributions were made in 1947, above, and 1949, left.

A Change in Fortunes

1950: Several special meetings of the Hall Repair Committee were held at the homes of various committee members. At the first meeting at the end of January, the committee "discussed the question of the Church Hall kitchen....The meeting agreed that, subject to approval of committee of inspection, the members proceed to work on the creation of a kitchen under the present Hall platform." Within two weeks the committee reconvened. "After a full discussion it was agreed that the proposed kitchen should be located under the platform." It was decided that the "committee members meet at the Hall on Friday night [the following week] to start on the work."

Since the Hall Repair Fund's creation in 1944, its balance remained meagre. Despite some sizable contributions by a few members of the congregation, it contained only \$342.49 by the end of 1949. By the beginning of April 1950, with some work already underway on the kitchen, the fund had a balance of \$208.54. Work over the summer, including labour expenses at \$43, left \$127.95 in the fund by the beginning of September. "Cement left over from work on basement kitchen was valued at \$13. Harold Allison was deputized to see H. Haight re the carpentry work to be done."

A week later, the Committee met again. "It was reported that H. Haight would not take the job, but would help the men if work was done at night. It was felt by those present that this would not be satisfactory. It was suggested that J. Mack be asked to do the work. Four men went to see Mr. Mack who came to the Hall + estimated what lumber would be needed. It was decided to give the work to J. Mack. The lumber to be bought in Picton by the Rector. Jim Chalmers to draw same. It was reported that Mr. R. Dalzell had kindly consented to wire the kitchen free of charge. The matter of dumb waiters was left for the moment, as it was felt that no-one present knew enough about the construction of them."

By an October meeting the Hall Repair Fund was down to \$9.58, after paying \$38 for labour and offering Mr. Dalzell a \$5 honorarium in addition to \$2 "for Complimentary tickets to the Fowl Supper for Mr.+ Mrs. Dalzell" for his "kindness in wiring the new kitchen." Expenses for the Hall included an Oil Burner for the Parish Hall (\$80) and a sink (\$12) for the new kitchen. A further \$100 had been set aside for an "electric stove for the Parish Hall".

The Fowl Supper to which Mr. and Mrs. Dalzell were offered complimentary tickets, was a major social event and generated much needed funds for the ongoing renovation.

ADOLPHUSTOWN

Adolphustown, Oct. 23. — The fowl supper and bazaar sponsored by St. Alban's Guild and held on Wednesday evening last, was a decided success. It was attended by many from Picton, Napanee and Kingston, as well as the surrounding district. The bazaar and fish pond were held at the Town Hall. Following the supper in the Parish Hall, a dance was enjoyed with Rolston's orchestra of Picton providing excellent music. The proceeds to date are \$590.

Napanee Beaver October 25, 1950

Clearly a major renovation had been sanctioned and was underway. While the work was being undertaken, the hall was unavailable for parish events, necessitating the rental of the "Town Hall for Euchres" (\$8).



Source: Clipping from local paper, February 1951

"A program of renovation is now being carried out with volunteer labor. Practically all the volunteers are farmers of the Adolphustown district. Some of them are shown above grouped around the stove in the hall waiting for their day's assignments."

1951: The big renovation was still underway, with attention now turning to the exterior of the building. It was moved “that the Hall Repair Committee be instructed to procure prices on different materials for covering the outside of the Hall and report to [the] Spring executive council.” The “executive committee [was to] decide on one material, to be carried out when funds become available, either from contributions or by the raising of a loan.” By the end of January the Hall Repair Committee was able to gather in the hall to discuss the exterior cladding.

“The committee proceeded to discuss the relative costs and merits of the possible methods of rehabilitating the outside of the hall, viz:

- (a) Repairing the existing clapboarding, followed by a ground coat and one or two finishing coats of paint.
- (b) Patching of existing clapboarding, and applying ½ inch asphalt siding, such as Insul Brick or Stone Face.
- (c) Stucco finish.

The total surface to be dealt with is about 3000 square feet. Roughly 1000 square feet of clapboarding require replacement by new material.

The costs for each of the three methods (a), (b) and (c), assuming that there would be no labour costs for (a) and (b), but that skilled workmen would be required for (c)

(a)	10 gal. Aluminum ground coat @ \$2.50	\$25.00
	5 gal. Exterior White @\$5.00	\$25.00
	(5 gal. white already in stock)	
	1000 ft. B.M ½” sheeting	<u>\$100.00</u>
	Total	\$150.00
(b)	3000 sq. ft. Insul or similar siding ½” at \$14.00 per 100 sq. ft. including corners and nails	\$420.00
(c)	The accurate figures on the cost of stucco were available but it was agreed a cost of \$700.00 would not be unreasonable as skilled labour would have to be hired.	

In view of the comparatively low cost, and of other considerations the committee agreed that method (a) (Painting) would be recommended to the Executive Committee for approval.”

The Executive Committee met a week later and approved the recommendation to repair and paint the existing clapboard. In addition, the following interior changes were approved:

- “placing a hung ceiling in hall when funds are available”
- “proceed with insulation of walls of Hall, when funds are available, approximate sum of \$100.00”
- “the balcony in hall be eliminated”

To finance these changes, the Rector agreed to “approach the Synod authorities in regard to attaining a loan of \$500.00.” “Failing this, the wardens be authorized to borrow the same sum of money from [the] Bank of Montreal. ... Mr. George Chalmers offered the loan of \$500.00, with interest, if loan was not attainable from Synod.” The Hall Repair Committee was “authorized to spend the funds on hand and further funds as they become available.” Passions were obviously stirred as two committee members immediately pledged donations totalling \$35.

The parishioners were clearly enthusiastically engaged in volunteering labour and material toward the upgrading of the Parish Hall. The following appeared in the February 28, 1951 edition of the *Toronto Globe and Mail*:

Picton. Feb. 27 – One of the oldest church buildings in Eastern Ontario is in the process of having its face lifted.

Located in historical Adolphustown village, on the north shore of the Bay of Quinte, eight miles east of Picton, the building is old St. Paul's Anglican Church, erected in 1822 and now being used as a parish hall.

The renovation program is being carried out by members of St. Alban the Martyr UEL National Memorial Church, which is situated 100 yards east of old St. Paul's. This church replaced the old structure in 1884 and was erected with funds provided by descendants of the United Empire Loyalists who landed at Adolphustown in 1784.

After completion of St. Alban's, old St. Paul's has been used as a Sunday school and parish hall. Famed for their fowl suppers, the ladies of St. Alban's feed more than 500 each year in the building. Amateur plays and social evenings are also held in the hall.

For many years now, the old building has shown the ravages of age. Paint has long since disappeared and some of the boards have come toppling down. Lacking funds to have the building repaired, the parishioners of St. Alban's, under the leadership of Rev. H. C. Secker, are this winter holding renovation bees with volunteer labor carrying out the ambitious repair program.

A basement has been excavated under the north end of the building and fitted out as a kitchen. The men dug the earth out with shovels and built cement floor and walls. Electricity and oil-burning heater have been installed.

Plans now call for a false ceiling to facilitate heating and to replace the worn original sheeting on the exterior with new boards. When funds are available, the exterior will be painted white to make the building as near like the original as possible.

... The floors are of two-inch pine boards, up to 17 inches wide, and sheeting and timbers are also pine. The building was fastened together with blacksmith's hand-made nails. ...

"Three ladies of the parish wash dishes in the new basement, which was excavated from beneath the church by volunteers with pick and shovel.

From left to right: Mrs. William Box, Mrs. Raymond Allison, Mrs. Harold Grooms."



Source: Clipping from local paper, February 1951

1952: Expenses for the 1951 repair and upgrade work show that the stove purchased to heat the hall was problematic.

Stove for Hall	\$30.00
Repair of Stove for Hall	\$52.27
Stove hall, oil element	\$61.53

Other costs included \$199.00 for chairs, \$24.75 for floor covering, and \$13.59 for paint. A line item for the repair of a hot plate (\$4.25) tends to indicate the electric stove for the kitchen had not yet been purchased.

As indicated in the *Toronto Globe and Mail* article, the church Fowl Suppers were hugely popular. They were also successful. Proceeds from Fowl Suppers, \$596.27 in 1951, was a full twelve times the income generated from Euchre, the church's second biggest income generator.



ST ALBAN'S GUILD at Adolph-
held a turkey supper recently
some of the members are
washing up. At the dishpan
resident of the Guild, Mrs. Ken
and at right is Mrs. J. G.

Beaver Photo
Findlater, wife of the rector. Left-to-
right behind them are Miss Gertrude
Chalmers, Mrs. Frank Morton, Mrs.
Irvine Brooks and Mrs. Elizabeth
Heathcote.

Napanee Beaver, undated

This photo may have been taken prior to the completion of the upgraded basement kitchen, which featured a sink — clearly unavailable for the washing-up for this turkey supper.

Parishioners, local residents, and individuals and organizations from further afield were also very generous, with individual donations to the Hall Repair fund ranging from \$1 to \$50, including a \$1 donation from the 11-year-old "Master David Allison". Other income was generated from the "Sale of Paper + Rags" (\$2.25) and rental of the hall (\$5.00), as well as the sale of unused building material (timber: \$6 and cement: \$13).

While some labour costs were incurred in 1950, all work done in 1951 was performed by volunteers. The bulk of the repair and upgrade expenses were for lumber \$374.43 (plus \$4 for delivery). Paint, nails, and glass set the fund back by \$71.50.

1955: The hall's oil heater continued to cause grief, incurring a cost of \$8 for repairs. It was moved "that a Norge dealer be asked to inspect the oil heater as it has not been heating the hall properly."

The manner in which the hall should or could be used was raised. It was moved "that for the time being, the renting of the hall be left to the discretion of the Rector and Church Wardens." The rector "offered to find out the legal way of renting or letting it".

1961: The Report of the Annual Vestry Meeting of this year contained a motion "that the old lock and key on the front of the Parish Hall be removed and preserved, and a new Yale lock be purchased, with extra keys." The lock was subsequently removed and is now on display at St. Alban's — one of only two remaining artifacts from St. Paul's.



"The Old Lock" removed from the Parish Hall in 1961

1966: The state of repair of the hall does not merit an appearance in the Vestry Minutes again until Canada's Centennial is on the horizon. On the list of "projects on Parish Buildings that need immediate attention" is: "The Parish Hall roof + sides of building are both in need of paint + should be painted before the 1967 Centennial." It is apparent that the hall had deteriorated significantly since the whirlwind of activity 15 years earlier. In the Rector's Annual Report, the rector bemoans the general state of woe within the parish. In listing several areas of concern, he concludes "and the Church Hall is still badly in need of a coat of paint. These are the signs of decay!!" He goes on to attribute the general malaise to falling attendance and lists a number of projects languishing due to lack interest on the part of the congregation. The parish hall is prominent on the list. "We have been promised the paint, but how will it get on the Hall?" Clearly exasperated, he concludes "... how can anything happen if no one is willing to do anything?"

1967: Nothing had been done to spruce up the Parish Hall for the Centennial, and in early June a special meeting was called "to discuss Repairs and Maintenance of the Church Hall which is falling into disrepair and is very shabby on the exterior." It was suggested "that Aluminum Permanent painted siding would last much longer than any other surface we could apply". It was believed that "a very special price" could be had. Owing to the competing needs from the church, and due to serious lack of funds, it was concluded "that, in spite of the bad appearance of the Hall, we had better defer action until later." It was then decided that "we should have a 'Save the Parish Hall Campaign' to see if enough interest can be awakened to raise funds to keep the Hall in repair."

1975: It is unknown if the 'Save the Parish Hall Campaign' had any effect. It wasn't until September of 1975 that the hall appears again in the Vestry Meeting Minutes, when a report was given "re cost of new storm windows for Hall — \$274.20 — 4 large + 2 small windows + installation 10% discount (Sam's Aluminum)" It was also noted that "door at hall needs attention — probably needs new one." The go-ahead was given to "go as high as \$350, for 4 aluminum windows, wardens to use own judgment as to type, etc." Additionally, the Wardens were "given authority to see about new door for hall."

Another Flurry of Activity

1976: The hall roof was by now in need of repair at an estimated cost of \$778 for rafters and sheeting and \$672 for roofing. A recent Bikathon had raised \$560.87, most of which appears to have been made available for roof repair. However, "Lacking \$923.45 for payment on roof" meant that other sources of funding were sought, including seeking to transfer an anonymous gift intended to be used to install eavestouching on the church to be used instead to defray the cost of the hall roof. The "Heritage Foundation" was also to be approached "re: aid in renovation of [the] parish hall."

It was determined and approved that "Certain articles in the Rectory [could] be sold" and it was subsequently moved "that a pie social and dance [be held] as soon as possible. ... Tickets to be \$2. Articles [from the Rectory were] to be auctioned off at the same time. To be included on tickets that proceeds [were] to go towards offsetting [the] cost of [a] new roof"

HARD-TIME DANCE—
At St. Alban's Hall,
Adolphustown, Saturday,
November 13, 1976. Dancing
9-1 a.m. Admission — Adults
\$1.50. Students \$1.00. Ladies
please bring refreshments.
Proceeds for Church Hall
roof. 44b

Napanee Beaver November 3, 1976

1977: It is unknown whether items from the Rectory were auctioned at the dance held in the fall of 1976, or how successful the event was, but another dance and auction was to be held in February of 1977. "Notices are posted. The stove [is] to be hooked up this week, and a toilet put in. Soft drinks will be on sale at 25¢ each. Bob Butcher to be auctioneer. R. Grooms + R. Powell [are] to look after [the] stove. Volunteers will sell tickets at the door." "The Band will be paid according to proceeds received. B. Grooms will look after the coffee."

VALENTINE DANCE—
And Box social, Feb. 19,
St. Alban's Hall,
Adolphustown, 8:30 to 12.
Admission - gents \$1.00;
ladies 25 cents with lunch;
\$1.00 without. 6b

Napanee Beaver February 9, 1977

It appears that funds for hall repair were once again being drawn from the general parish account, as it was proposed that "a separate hall fund be set up apart from the Church funds."

And then there was a bat infestation. The Department of Agriculture "warned that dust could cause illness", and advised that masks be worn if the bats were to be cleared from the ceiling." It was moved that the bats be removed and a new ceiling be installed and insulated. The side walls were also to be decorated. However, by the end of the year, the repair had yet to be done due to the lack of funds to purchase insulation.

1978: By March, half of the ceiling had been completed, and it was suggested that members of the "Young Peoples" group help with some of the remaining work. At this point, the expenses for the renovation had mounted to \$344.97, with only \$250 in the repair fund to cover these costs. April saw the installation of the ceiling and plans for a work party to complete the work. This included the "purchase [of] moth balls to hang in the attic of the Hall to help deter the bats."

Dealing with the walls was next, with the decision made to "seal the wallboard and paint if feasible. The paint to be donated by Jack Roblin." With insulating the ceiling nearing completion, the project end was in sight. A "grand opening" would be celebrated with "a strawberry social and official opening June 23." Tickets would be made and sold "in advance \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children 12 + under."

That year the Strawberry Social & Dance, along with another dance, were held in aid of the renovation of the hall. Staging these events cost \$89.32 (including \$5 for piano tuning), and earned \$243.71. This and several other small fundraising activities barely covered the cost of materials for the year.

1979: Funds raised through a Strawberry Social, a Box Social and Dance, and Euchre nights allowed for the completion of the interior decoration of the hall with the purchase of drapes for the windows. Still, with the cost of these events and annual expenses such as Hydro and fuel oil, as well as repaying a loan, the hall repair fund ended the year with only \$29.59.

Entries for the Hall Fund in financial statements from 1979 to 1987 generally show a surplus, but occasionally a deficit.

Use of the hall was in steady decline with the last of the regular socials and dances held in 1979. Euchres continued until 1982. November 1986 saw a final "Carol Supper" take place in the Parish Hall. After the purchase of drapes in 1979, there were no more material upgrades or maintenance done on the hall. Ongoing expenses remained, of course, with Stove Oil appearing as an expense until 1983. Hydro charges continue to be recorded until the account was closed November 12, 1985, and remaining funds of \$18.37 was transferred to the church's general fund.

And in the End

Nearly 175 years after it was built, St. Paul's experienced its most dramatic change in fortunes.

From the 1997 Annual Vestry Meeting minutes:

On a very dark and stormy night, 1997 January 27, the Annual Vestry Meeting, ... was held in the Township of Adolphustown Hall. The meeting began with a potluck supper at 6 pm, in the lower hall, followed by the meeting at 7 in the council chambers upstairs. 17 braved the winter's rage to deal the church's business.

... The original church, built in 1822 and deconsecrated in 1890, has been used as a parish hall and latterly as a storage building. The building has deteriorated, parts of it have rotted, the roof leaks, the wiring is ancient, and the building hosts a multitude of rodents. We have sought funds to restore it from those sources whose mandate it is to care for heritage buildings of Ontario and nothing has been forthcoming. ... We have no funds available to restore the building as we have other priorities as a congregation. We also feel it would be disrespectful, as well as irresponsible, for us to allow the building to continue to deteriorate and eventually, to fall down. The contents have been inventoried and any item worth retaining will be [kept]. The meeting very reluctantly, but with a solid majority, supported the following motion: That the Hall, formerly St. Paul's Church (1822-1890) be dismantled.

The Vestry also moved the following: That the history Committee be requested to formulate a plan to commemorate the site and the existence of St. Paul's Church, (1822-1890) once the building has been removed.

From the minutes of a Special Vestry Meeting held in April 1997:

... And now for some Good News!

Speaking of the old St. Paul's Church, now known as the old Parish Hall, you will recall that the Vestry determined in January to have it demolished. Well it is still going to be demolished, but it will be re-erected in Prince Edward County. John and Diane Brisley, who are fine restoration planners and doers, will have the building taken down piece by piece and rebuild it on their property. This happy circumstance blunts the sorrow and disappointment felt by many at the loss of such an historic building. The agreement between the wardens and the Brisleys will relieve us of a significant financial burden.

On May 10, 1997, a contract was signed between Wardens of St. Alban's and Diane and John Brisley to have St. Paul's removed and re-erected in Prince Edward County. The dismantling of the church began in the autumn of 1997 and was completed the following spring. Nothing has yet been erected to commemorate the site. Portions of the now empty space where St. Paul's once stood have been sold as plots in St. Alban's Cemetery.

The re-building of the church on the Brisley property was substantially complete by 2006, with its distinctive steeple finally put in place in 2008. In 2015 the Brisleys sold the lot on which St. Paul's now stands. The new owners intended to use the church as a wedding venue but disaster struck partway through the very first wedding ceremony to be conducted in the church.

On Saturday, July 22, emergency response teams received a call after a floor joist collapsed during the ceremony of a wedding in an old church. ...

What happened was just one end of the floor joist gave away, so it was basically a big slide. One section stayed attached to the wall and the other end had dropped. So people slid into the crawl space below with dirt floors that were wet — the people who had fallen in were covered in mud. ...

When [emergency responders] arrived on scene the people had self-extricated themselves out of the crawl space and were being treated by some of the people on the scene. Paramedics and firefighters treated individuals — three were sent to the hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

A hole approximately 20 x 20 feet was among the collapsed floor, with a five foot drop to the below crawl space. ...

Despite the unexpected turn of events, the wedding continued after guests were looked after.

Belleville Intelligencer July 25, 2018



2024

The lot soon changed hands again. Today the church, with its paint peeling, looks forlorn. However, perhaps the jack posts now assisting the original columns in supporting the porch roof are hopeful signs—an indication that preventative steps are being taken to stave off further deterioration.

Although its future is uncertain, St. Paul's retains its lovely form and has begun its third century looking much the same as it may have 202 years ago.

A special thanks is extended to
John and Diane Brisley
for sharing photographs, knowledge,
research, and discoveries resulting from
their ambitious project of
dismantling and reconstructing
the old St. Paul's Church.

Thanks also goes to
current and former residents of Adolphustown
for allowing me to interview them about their
recollections of
St. Alban's Parish Hall.

And One More Thing...

The Other Artifact

The old church door lock, removed in 1961 and now on display at St. Alban's, is one of only two artifacts to have survived the removal of St. Paul's from where it stood in Adolphustown for 175 years.

The other artifact is "The Old Bell".

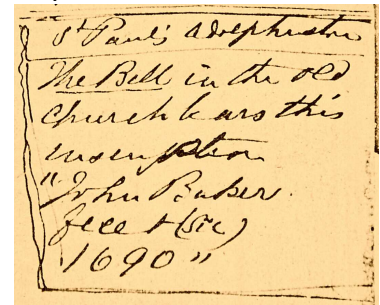
Now also on display in St. Alban's, the bell, manufactured in Bristol in 1690, was a gift to Adolphustown's first rector, Reverend Job Deacon. The bell arrived from Kingston sometime after 1826 when the new St. George's Cathedral replaced the old St. George's parish church where the bell had resided since 1794. Various non-contemporary accounts, including the July 1896 issue of the *Queen's Quarterly*, report that the bell was damaged: "it is no more than a relic, for it is cracked and cannot be used." It is unclear if the bell was already cracked when it was "discarded by the congregation of St. George's for a worthier instrument", or whether it was damaged while in Adolphustown. Despite the state of the bell when it was given to Reverend Deacon, it would be reasonable to assume St. Paul's did in fact have a steeple when first built, and that the bell would have been installed and used, even in its cracked state. If so, it is likely that the bell was also mounted in the new steeple built in 1871.



For many decades the bell was displayed outside St. Alban's. Here it is seen in a shelter built in 1977, and where it resided until it was moved inside the church in 2020.

By the time Reverend Forneri was building St. Alban's, the bell was residing at St. Paul's. In his scrapbook he has transcribed the inscription cast onto the bell. It is unclear whether he could have deciphered this if the bell were still hanging in the steeple, likely a poorly lit space not easily accessed. It was removed from the old church and installed in the tower of the new church in 1890. Less than a decade later the steeple was toppled by strong winds and the bell was not remounted in the new steeple.

By 1924, the old bell was put on display outside St. Alban's.



Source: Anglican Diocese Archives
Reverend Forneri's Scrapbook
1884

The first church bell ever brought into Upper Canada, cast in 1690, and taken from the old St. George church in Kingston, is also on view at St. Alban's Church, not being hung in the tower but suspended near the steps. There was plenty of chance to discover that its tone had deteriorated with the years.

British Daily Whig June 25, 1927

Sometime within the next two decades, however, the bell had slipped from view. In 1944 it was found, covered in debris, at the bottom of the tower where it had apparently languished for some time. Recognized as an important artifact, the bell was put on display once again.

A specially built shelter was erected shortly after the bell was rediscovered. Since then, several shelters replaced that first one, located in slightly different positions along the front of the church.

In 2020 the bell was moved inside St. Alban's for safekeeping. The following year, the bell was taken to the Department of Art History & Art Conservation at Queen's University, where it underwent inspection, cleaning, and stabilization.

A long history for the Old Bell of Adolphustown — much of it, including the century before it appeared in Kingston, still a mystery.