

Church of the Holy Spirit & Commemorative Plaque Unveiling

“The spiritual needs of local Anglican residents and summer visitors were met with the construction of this church in 1931” so begins the text for the fifth historical plaque by Manitou Beach Communities in Bloom (MBCiB). This plaque, commemorating The Church of the Holy Spirit, was unveiled Sunday May 2 by Val Hinde and Sue Alcock at a well-attended tea held in All Saints Anglican Church Parish Hall.

Special guests were Rev. Colin Clay and the mayors of both communities, Eric Upshall and Ed. Collins. All three men spoke of their support and goodwill for the historical plaque project. Elaine Muzichak, chairperson of MBCiB was M.C. for the tea and Sue Alcock talked a little about how the plaque came into being and how it was initiated by Val Hinde’s desire to commemorate the former church.

Work on the plaque text was done by Sue Alcock and Jean & Lionel Sproule and the photograph came from the Diocese of Saskatoon archives located in Saskatchewan Archives, Saskatoon.

Church History

The church was dedicated Monday June 20, 1932 by the Bishop of Qu’Appelle, the Right Reverend Malcolm Taylor McAdam Harding, “in the presence of a large and devout congregation” because at that time the newly created Diocese of Saskatoon lacked a bishop. Bishop Lloyd had retired in 1931 and the new bishop, William Hallam, did not assume the title of Bishop of Saskatoon until November 9, 1932.

Constructed of wood, on a lot donated by J.J. MacLachlan, by Alf Parsonson, the building measured 20 feet by 40 feet and cost \$1000 to construct. In 1936 more pews were added by Parsonson so it could seat a congregation of 65. During the summer months Evensong and Holy Communion services were conducted by the

vicar from All Saints Church, Watrous, and Sunday school was available for children, including our own Lionel Sproule who grew up here.

The church was located on the N.E. corner of Watrous St and Lakeview Ave and as it was so close to the ball ground sometimes services were interrupted by the excited spectators!

According to the Record of Services on Tuesday July 19, 1932 a baptism service was held with two communicants.

July 19, 1942 there was a record congregation and extra chairs set out for some of the 300 members of the Security Corps who were on parade at Manitou Beach with the salute taken by Colonel Stayor at Hiawatha Inn.

Note: Records for the church are scant as the church was probably not locked and records kept in a parishioner's home. Who knows the fate of those documents—fire, flood or relatives clearing out the house after the death of the owner could have been their demise.

In 1953 the church was moved to a lot closer to the Chalet Pool and in 1957 relocated again, this time into Watrous where it became the Parish Hall for All Saints Church. Many Anglican locals remember attending AYPAs and Sunday school as well as other social events in the hall.

Just when the former church was moved to a local farm yard is hard to pinpoint. A new vicarage, funded mostly by a legacy from Alf Pierce of Manitou Beach, was still under construction in November, 1967 when Rev. W.S. Tibbo was inducted and his reception was held in the Parish Hall. Most likely the old hall was moved once the vicarage became habitable and the old vicarage - the present day Parish Hall - was maybe re-modelled. So perhaps

the former Church of the Holy Spirit was moved away 1968 or 1969?

Sources: Archives and archivists from the Diocese of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and Qu'Appelle; the Watrous Signal and The Watrous Manitou newspapers in Saskatchewan Archives.