

# A HISTORY OF ST. JAMES THE APOSTLE ANGLICAN CHURCH

PORT CARLING, MUSKOKA, ONTARIO, CANADA

Established 1881



Robert Donald

BY JOYCE ARCHDEKIN PAYNE

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Much of the material in this booklet was obtained from two volumes of "Church History" handwritten by the incumbents, and covering the years 1870 to 1959.

Facts and information were also obtained from:

The Archives of Algoma, Sault Ste. Marie

The Archives of Ontario, Toronto

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"The Diocese of Algoma 100, 1873-1973"

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## BISHOPS OF ALGOMA

The Right Rev. Frederick D. Fauquier	1873-1881
The Right Rev. Edward Sullivan	1882-1896
The Most Rev. George Thorneloe	1897-1927
The Right Rev. Rocksborough R. Smith	1927-1939
The Most Rev. G. Frederick Kingston	1940-1944
The Most Rev. William L. Wright	1944-1974
The Right Rev. Frank F. Nock	1974-1983
The Right Rev. Leslie E. Peterson	1983-1994

Parish Priests who served in the old church  
from 1884 to 1912:

Reverend Messrs.

Edward S. Stubbs	1884
Samuel Enos Knight	1884-1888
Percy St. Michael Podmore	1890
Wm. Arthur John Burt	1891-1897
Thomas Edward Chilcott	1897-1902
Wm. Aylsworth Howard	1902-1903
Loftus Augustus Trotter	1904-1907
William Evans	1908-1911
T. Bird Holland	1911-1912

Parish Priests who served in the present church  
from 1913 to 1993:

Reverend Messrs.

T. Bird Holland	1913
Richard Haines	1914-1918
C. F. Langton Gilbert	1918-1921
Thomas W. Buckley	1921-1923
Julian S. Smedley	1925-1929
Albert Ernest Carding	1929-1933
Gerald K. Lowe	1933-1935
John Selwyn Rhodes	1935-1942
Stephen W. L. Gilbert	1945-1947
James H. Jackson	1952-1955
George K. Menzies	1955-1959
Nelson Adair	1959-1967
John H. Watson	1968-1975
William A. Graham	1975-1988
Ray Porth	1989-



*Rev. Edward S. Stubbs Memorial Window - saved from the burning of the old Church in 1912.*

# IN THE BEGINNING.....

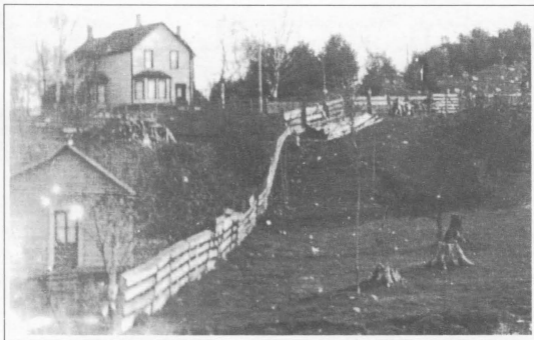
Before the 1860's, much of Muskoka, including the area around Port Carling, was a dense wilderness of vast stands of trees, sparkling lakes rippled only by the wind, and exposed granite almost two billion years old. A few native peoples of the Ojibway tribe camped near Port Carling, then called Indian Village, and the occasional adventure-some trapper or fisherman would wander into the area. A pine tree served as a bridge across the rapids. In 1865, a trading post was established in Indian Village, near the present Port Carling locks.

With the population boom in the south, the government eyed this large, untouched expanse of land and proceeded to encourage immigrants to settle there. The corduroy roads, which were muddy quagmires much of the time, were extended. In 1866, the first steamboat was launched in Muskoka, the "Wenonah". This paddle-wheel steamer travelled from one end of Lake Muskoka to the other, furnishing the settlers with supplies and mail, as well as transportation and communication with their fellow pioneers.

In 1866, Benjamin Hardcastle Johnston settled in Indian Village and built a log house on the island beside the rapids in the river. This house became the first post office when Mr. Johnston was appointed the first post master in 1869. Mr. Johnston was a staunch Anglican.

The Free Land Grants and Homesteads Act was passed in the first session of the Ontario Legislature in 1868. This Act enabled many prospective landowners to apply for "locations of land", which was a grant of up to two hundred acres. If the numerous conditions specified by the Act were fulfilled within five years, the settler would receive clear title to the land. Enthusiastic families poured into these free grant areas, including Muskoka, from Southern Ontario and the British Isles.

Most of the pioneers who settled near Port Carling had optimistic visions of farming the land, but found it to be heart-breakingly unproductive. The topsoil was thin and the rocks were numerous. The winters were long and the growing season relatively short. The



*The first rectory - around 1900.*

lumber industry flourished to the detriment of the countryside. Much of the land was a maze of tree stumps, discarded logs and blackened burned-over areas. Eventually, many settlers found employment in the ever-expanding tourist industry, as the influx of summer visitors increased.

Mr. Johnston was responsible for promoting the idea of building a canal to connect Lakes Rosseau and Muskoka. Some Ontario Members of the Legislature scoffed at joining “two frog ponds”, but the building of the locks began in 1869 and was finished in 1871. The first “hotel” in the Port Carling area originated as a boarding house for the men who worked on the locks. Mr. Johnston was asked to name the Village and chose to name it after his friend, John Carling, Ontario’s first Minister of Public Works and Agriculture.

Beginning about 1870, the Mission Parish of Port Carling included Gregory and Port Sandfield. Anglican church services were occasionally held in Port Carling in various settlers’ homes, and at Gregory House, Lake Rosseau. These services were conducted by a clergyman who travelled out from Bracebridge for the purpose, and by layreaders who lived in the vicinity, most of whom had been licensed by The Rt. Rev. Frederick D. Fauquier, the first Bishop of Algoma.

LOT 5 EAST MAPLE STREET  
 PLAN 1 PORT CARLING

DATE OF INSTRUMENT	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	CONSIDERATION	Quantity of Land
5 Sept 1873	The Crown	George Carlton Hazlewood		9/10 Ac.
31 July 1877	George Carlton Hazlewood et ux The Incorporated Synod of the	Bishop of Algoma	\$45.00	11 3/10 Ac.
13 Sept. 1912	Diocese of Algoma	George H. Sutton	\$810.00	10 acre

*Record of purchase and sale of land for first Church from Land Registry Office.*

The Diocese of Algoma had been founded in 1873 with the See located at Sault Ste. Marie. This Diocese is 800 miles long and averages 150 miles in breadth and includes the District of Muskoka. In 1873, the area of the Diocese was a vast wilderness covered mostly by dense forests. There were no railways in the area and just a few miles of primitive corduroy bush roads. In all of Muskoka in 1873, there were only three Anglican churches, which were unfinished frame buildings, and no rectories. The only travel was by boat or buggy in the summer and by snowshoe or sleigh in the winter. The church had difficulty in attracting clergy to the area because they faced not only constant travel, isolation and other physical hardships, but also a low stipend and no financial security for themselves or their families.

Every year, Bishop Fauquier made a thorough visitation in Muskoka, usually in the winter, as many settlements in the area were more accessible during that season. He preached and confirmed, celebrated the Eucharist, baptized children, attended church meetings, addressed social gatherings and visited people in their homes. Even today with our modern transportation, the Bishop of Algoma spends a considerable amount of time and energy "on the road" travelling around the extensive Diocese.

An old church record book describes meetings of local Anglicans in the Port Carling area which were held from April 2, 1877, to 1889. An earlier register is referred to in one of these minutes, indicating that documented gatherings of Anglicans had taken place in the early 1870's.

On February 5, 1877, Georgina Elizabeth Rickards gave 1 1/2 acres of land to Frederick, Lord Bishop of Algoma, "for the purposes of a cemetery or burial ground in connection with the Established Church of England and Ireland". This land was Lot #23 on the north side of Medora Street in Port Carling. An item in the church record book for 1879 states that it was decided to erect a picket fence around the burial ground. Mr. R. Mahon's tender was accepted for the job. In 1888, a committee was formed to look after the burial ground. On October 4, 1897, the lot was sold to Joseph Milner for \$50.00.

# THE FIRST CHURCH

On July 31, 1877, Mr. George Hazlewood of Port Carling sold 3/10 acre of his Crown land (Lot #5, E. Maple Street) to the "Bishop of Algoma" for \$45.00, on which a church was to be built. The Store and Brown's Appliances are now located on this land. At first, all Anglican churches in Muskoka were considered part of the parish of St. James Church, Orillia, and many were therefore named St. James.

The construction of the original building named St. James the Apostle Anglican Church, Port Carling, was begun in 1877 and finished in 1885. The official date for the establishment of the church was A.D. 1881. The completion of the structure was a slow process as most of it was built by busy settlers who contributed what little spare time was available to them. The church record book for 1881 states that forms were to be printed and issued asking for assistance in finishing the building.

Various people generously donated many of the furnishings to the new church. Pine benches were given by the Governor-General of Canada at the time, Lord Dufferin, and several are still in use at the back of the present church. The beautiful east window, which is in the present church, was installed at the turn of the century in the original old church in memory of The Rev. Edward S. Stubbs, who was the first ordained clergyman to be appointed to the parish as a whole.

Rev. Stubbs and his bride had come directly from England in 1884. The previous year, the Right Rev. Edward Sullivan, the second Bishop of Algoma, had made an extensive tour of England, pleading for men and money for Algoma. Perhaps Rev. Stubbs had been inspired by Bishop Sullivan to serve in an overseas mission in this unknown distant land.

During Rev. Stubbs' year in the Port Carling mission, Bishop Sullivan threatened to remove him if all the money promised for his salary (\$100.00 per year) wasn't paid by the mission within two weeks. It was subsequently forthcoming. The church records indicate that Bishop Sullivan was a frequent visitor to the Port Carling mission. About this time, Bishop Sullivan wrote that "Algoma (Muskoka) needs men of ready resource, who can use an axe, or wear

a snowshoe, or groom, harness and drive or ride a horse, or meet other contingencies incident to missionary life”.

Over the years, numerous clergymen served St. James the Apostle Anglican Church in Port Carling. The intervals between the departure of one clergyman and the arrival of another were filled in by various students, visiting clergy, or local lay-readers.

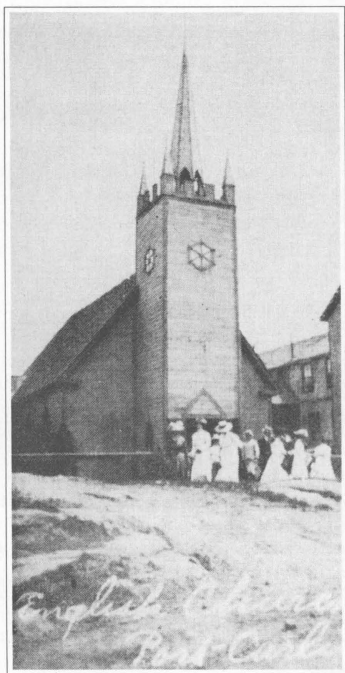
The first recorded baptism in St. James Church was of William James Johnston, born on February 11, 1881. The first marriage recorded was between William Mortimer and Margaret McKnight on September 20, 1886. The first recorded death was of George Carleton Hazelwood on September 1, 1884.

The family names of some early parishioners from the church records of 1888 to 1911 are: Buttler, Croucher, Johnston, James, Knight, Mortimer, Mahon, Massey, Penson, Pain, Riley, Rogers, Stubbs, Sutton, Wroe, Willmott, Cox, McDermott, Harris, Foreman, Davidson, Martin, Kaye, Cope, McCulley, Budd, Arksey, Minett, Duke and Penney.

In 1884, it was announced at a church meeting that Rev. Stubbs was to change places with Rev. Knight of St. Thomas Anglican Church, Bracebridge. The Rev. Samuel Enos Knight was the incumbent from 1884 to 1888. Rev. Knight was from Barbados and educated at Codrington College, Barbados. In 1885, the first appeal was made to tourists to give financial assistance to the mission church. The record book for 1886 states that the meeting was concerned about warming the church from below. It was decided to build a chamber under the church, made of wood and lined with zinc, about seven feet square, to accommodate a stove.

In 1887, during his annual visit to the Pt. Carling mission, the Bishop again threatened to close the mission if the minister's salary wasn't paid. Also in 1887, supply boats began serving the Port Carling area. These floating general stores were packed with goods from stern to stern. One of them even included a refrigerated meat room. In that same year, \$141.00 had been raised towards the purchase of a rectory, but \$350.00 was needed to buy the particular house and lot the vestry had in mind. In 1889, a building committee for the rectory was formed consisting of Messrs. B.H. Johnston, Massey, Martin, Sutton, W.H. Foreman, Stubbs and Penson. That same year, the Bishop sent

*The first  
Port Carling  
Anglican Church  
1885 - 1912.*



a letter stating that children of all church members must attend Sunday School.

Among the expenditures of the church listed for 1889 were: a bottle of sacramental wine - \$1.00, 2 gallons of coal oil - 55¢, and a boat for an excursion - \$1.00. Other expenses were two new shoes and a brush for the mission horse, as well as repairs to the cutter and harness. Many parishioners gave wood and hay as their contribution to the church. The offering for the month of May, 1889, was 25¢. In 1891, a sexton, Mr. Alex Matthews, was employed at a salary of \$30.00 a year. In 1893, 15¢ was spent on glass in Hanna's Store.

The Rev. Percy St. Michael Podmore was the rector in 1890. He was the author of "The Sporting Paradise" and other books of Muskoka interest. Rev. Podmore was ordained a Deacon in the Port Carling Church by Bishop Sullivan. When he left the mission, he moved to the Diocese of Springfield, Illinois.

Rev. Podmore was followed by The Rev. William Arthur John Burt, Trinity College, from 1891 to 1897. Upon leaving the Port Carling mission, Rev. Burt served in Gravenhurst. In 1891, the bare shell of Christ Church, Gregory, was constructed. It was some years before the interior was lined and the stained glass windows installed. About 1892, St. George's Church, Port Sandfield, was built.

On June 1, 1892, "The Bishop of Algoma" bought some property from the Estate of Julia Bailey for \$50.00. This half-acre piece of land was Lot #109 on East Joseph Street. The first rectory was built here and was completed about 1897. The building is still very much in evidence as the large white house set back from the street next to the Port Carling post office.

Beginning in the early 1890's, the incumbent Anglican minister was usually a member of the Port Carling Library Board. Religious literature was deemed necessary for the Library so subscriptions to four different magazines were ordered, "Church Bells" for the Anglicans.

In 1896, Port Carling became an incorporated village by a special act of Parliament. The tax rate that year was 11 mills. The tourist industry was flourishing, the shoreline was dotted with private cottages and hotels, steamboats were plying the lakes, and many small rowboats and canoes crisscrossed the waters.

The Rev. Thomas Edward Chilcott, Trinity College, Toronto, was the incumbent from 1897 to 1902, when he transferred to Parry Sound. Mr. Frederick D. Stubbs, who immigrated from England in 1870, was church warden and superintendent of the Sunday School for about 30 years. Mr. Stubbs had much to do with the erection and maintenance of both the old and the new churches. Mrs. Stubbs (Alice Penson) was a founding member of the Ladies' Guild and the Sanford Women's Institute in Port Carling. Mrs. George Sutton was the first organist and played until her daughter, Leila (Mrs. John Cope) was old enough to replace her - at 13 years of age.

In the summer of 1901, a musical concert was given at The Stratton House Hotel in aid of the fund to purchase stained glass windows for the adjoining new St. James Anglican Church. The records for 1902 mention that another source of revenue was to rent the church ground for pasture at a rate of \$10.00 per year.

In her writings, the daughter of a summer resident reports that the old Anglican church was crowded to the doors. Unless you were in good time, on a Sunday morning, you were not likely to secure a seat. To travel to church, these summer visitors sometimes had to row in the hot sun a distance of up to five miles. Some people had family rowboats which were equipped with canopies and three pairs of oars to speed them along. It was a favourite pastime for boaters to sing as they moved through the water. On a Sunday morning, perhaps they sang hymns.

In the years 1902 to 1911, several clergy served the Port Carling Mission. The steamboat era on the Muskoka Lakes was at its height during this period. The Rev. William Aylsworth Howard was the incumbent from 1902 to 1903, when he was transferred to the Diocese of Ontario. The Rev. Loftus Augustus Trotter served from 1904 to 1907 and then was moved to Sundridge. The Rev. William Evans was rector from 1908 to 1911 and then transferred to the Diocese of Toronto. It was noted in the record book that Port Carling was now contributing to foreign missions and to a superannuation fund. The rector's salary was now \$150.00 per year.

From 1911 to 1913, The Rev. T. Bird Holland, McGill University, was the resident clergyman. This proved to be an extremely memorable and historical time for St. James the Apostle, Port

Carling. By 1912, the old church was deemed too dilapidated to be worth repairing. Also, it was located only twenty feet from the popular Stratton House Hotel, which disturbed the reverence of the church services with its noise. In April of that year, it was decided at a vestry meeting to build a new church at a different, quieter location.

Various sites were suggested. Then it was unexpectedly found that the Roman Catholic Church, which had held the best church site in the Village for over thirty years, was willing to sell it. Rev. Holland negotiated the purchase, and the Ladies' Guild, which was the first women's organization in the church, provided the funds. On April 25, 1912, The Roman Catholic Episcopal Corp. for the Diocese of Peterborough sold about half an acre to The Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Algoma for \$330.00. This land was part of Lot #111 and was on East Joseph Street.

# THE NEW CHURCH -THE FIRST EIGHTY YEARS

On June 13, 1912, the top storey of the Stratton House caught fire. As the wooden hotel burned, it became obvious that the Anglican church was also doomed, as the bucket brigade was ineffectual in dousing the flames. The east window and some of the wooden pews were quickly removed from the church and saved from the inferno. Soon, the raging fire spread to the belfry of St. James. Within a few hours, the old church and the hotel were burned to the ground. The local Orange Lodge offered the Anglicans the use of their Hall for a year, rent free, until a new church could be built. The Orange Hall was located beside the old rectory where the present Port Carling post office now stands. The insurance on the old church was \$1,000.00. The burned-out land site was sold on September 13, 1912, to Mr. George H. Sutton for \$810.00.

The calamity of the burning of the old church hastened the building of the new one. Generous funds and gifts for a replacement structure streamed in from both permanent residents and summer visitors. Plans for the new church were drawn up and donated by Mr. Ronald Catto of Toronto, whose parents had been summer members of the old church. The stone foundations, basement walls, and the pressed red brick chimney were built by Mr. Allan Dixon of Port Carling for \$935.00. The original "Form of Contract for Masonry Work" is in the Muskoka Lakes Museum. The contract states, "The whole to be finished in workman-like manner" and was signed by Thomas Croucher and F.D. Stubbs, Church-wardens, and T. Bird Holland, Incumbent, on February 25, 1913. The contractor for the wooden superstructure was Mr. Harry Rutherford of Bracebridge. All the new stained glass windows were by McCausland's of Toronto.

The Building Committee revised the plans, considered the tenders, and supervised the whole matter from its inception to the opening day. This Committee consisted of the following people, elected by the Vestry: Rev. Holland, Chairman, and Messrs. Thos.

Port (Arling)

LOT No. 111

E Joseph St.

INSTRUMENT	ITS DATE	DATE OF REGISTRY	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	QUANTITY OF LAND	CONSIDERATION OR AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE
------------	----------	---------------------	---------	---------	---------------------	---

" - - 29 June 1877	27 Feb 1877		James White et al	Lord Bishop of Exeter	all	\$1 <sup>00</sup>
B & S 21 May 1877	21 Aug 1877		James White et al	Right Rev. Bishop of Exeter	-	\$1 <sup>00</sup>
B & S 25 Feb 1912	1 May 1912		The Roman Catholic - Episcopal Com <sup>tee</sup> for the Diocese of Peterborough	The Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Alameda	All.	\$330 <sup>00</sup>

Record of purchase of land for new Church from Land Registry Office.

Croucher, F.D. Stubbs, R.C. Harris, Jr., Aleck Harris, John Cope, and Mrs. F.D. Stubbs and Mrs. T.B. Holland.

On July 4th, 1913, the cornerstone of the new St. James Anglican Church was laid by Samuel H. Armstrong, M.P.P., who was presented with a silver trowel on behalf of the parishioners by Rev. Holland who was in charge of the well-attended service. This cornerstone now rests on the floor inside the church and reads, "St. James Church, Port Carling - Built A.D. 1881 - Rebuilt A.D. 1913".

On Tuesday, August 26, 1913, at 11:00 a.m., The Right Rev. George Thorneloe, the third Bishop of Algoma, consecrated the fine new but incomplete church in the presence of many clergy and a thankful congregation. The lower part of the church was stone and the upper part was wooden frame, to be brick veneered in the future. The rector stated that the total cost of the building and furnishings at the time of opening was \$4,200.00, and the parish was almost out of debt.

A single cast metal bell hangs in the square tower of the present church and is rung at the beginning of regular services, to celebrate a new marriage in the church, and to observe other important occasions. The bell is about 2 1/2 feet in diameter and is rung by means of a thick rope hanging in the vestibule of the church. Embossed on the north side of the bell is:

"Meneely & Co., West Troy, N.Y., 1912

The First Church

was destroyed by fire

June 13, 1912.

This bell was hung

in the new church of

St. James the Apostle

1913."

Embossed on the south side of the bell under a celtic cross is:

"O come let us worship and

fall down and kneel before

the Lord our Maker. PS.XCV.6."

In October, 1913, Rev. Holland left Port Carling to enter the Diocese of Huron, and was replaced by The Rev. Richard Haines,



*New Church under construction - 1913.  
(courtesy of Muskoka Lakes Museum)*

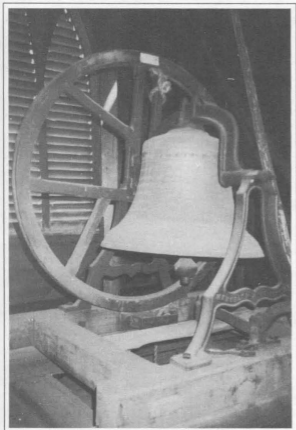
Trinity College, Toronto, who served from 1914 to 1918, when he was transferred to Powassan.

In 1914, roofing material was added to the upper walls of the outside of the church pending the addition of the brick coating. Also in 1914, the Women's Auxiliary was organized. Because of the outbreak of war, no further work was done on the church for four years. In cold weather, church services were conducted in the lower level of the church, affectionately called "the basement chapel", which was heated by a wood stove.

A framed "Roll of Honour" of Anglicans from Port Carling who served in the Port Carling Detachment and other Canadian Forces in the Great War of 1914-1918 hangs inside the church.

During the incumbency of Rev. Haines, the balance of the debt on the incomplete church was paid off. New seats were placed in the nave, occupying about two-thirds of the floor space.

In addition, a considerable amount of money was spent on much-needed improvements to the interior of the rectory. Also, the sum of \$250.00 was donated for the installation of a new furnace in



*Cast metal bell situated  
in Church tower with  
embossed printing on  
both sides.*

the house. As well, the siding on the outside of the rectory was torn off, three thicknesses of building paper put on to keep out the cold, and the siding replaced. In addition, the rectory exterior was painted for the first time in 25 years.

In 1917, The Right Rev. Dr. Farthing, former Bishop of Montreal, was spending the summer in the mission area of Port Carling, Gregory and Port Sandfield. Assisted by the generosity of some summer residents, he was instrumental in purchasing a Disappearing Propellor Boat for the use of the incumbent minister, Rev. Haines. The purchase price of the D.P. boat was \$245.00 plus \$15.00 for gasoline. At the time, the mission was also in possession of a buggy, cutter, harness and robes.

From 1918 to 1921, The Rev. C.F. Langton Gilbert, Trinity College, Toronto, served the mission area, and was then transferred to the Diocese of Huron. In 1918, a complete new set of altar rails was provided for the church. A polished copper cross was placed in the sanctuary. The basement chapel was re-arranged and improved for greater reverence of the rendering of services during the cold weather. An efficient system of oil lamps was provided to replace the broken-down gas plant. The altar from the Basement Chapel was presented to the Port Sandfield Church. This altar had been made by Mr. Penson and stood in the original old church. Dorsal and side-curtains were placed in the church.

In 1919, a new fence was placed around the front half of the rectory property. Also in 1919, about \$750.00 was collected towards the \$1,500.00 estimated as the probable cost of bricking the outside of the church. This plan must have been changed because in 1920, the exterior of the church was covered with horizontal wooden siding and then painted. That same year, the rectory was mortgaged for \$400.00 to help defray these expenses. Also, the church's shares in the Port Carling Water Supply Company were sold. Part of the proceeds from this sale were devoted to installing electric lights in the church and in the rectory.

# THE TWENTIES AND THIRTIES

From 1921 to 1923, The Rev. Thomas W. Buckley from St. Mary's, Richmond Hill, Ontario, was the incumbent rector of the mission. During this time, the rectory was re-roofed and the old wooden steps up to the front door were replaced by concrete steps. Considerable work was done on the inside including wallpapering many rooms. The Women's Auxiliary presented the rectory with a cooking range. The churches at Port Sandfield and Gregory shared in the expenses of these renovations. Also, the wooden approach to the church was replaced with a concrete walk and two concrete pillars.

On Sunday morning, December 9, 1923, Rev. Buckley left Port Carling in the mission's Disappearing Propellor boat, and headed for Christ Church, Gregory. The previous night had been very cold which caused the formation of ice in the Joseph River. While travelling up the river, the wooden boat struck this unexpected ice which punched holes in its bow. The boat quickly started to fill with water and began to sink. Rev. Buckley became excited, stood up in the boat and toppled into the icy water. He was weighted down by his heavy clothes and drowned before help could arrive. He was buried in the church cemetery at Gregory on December 11, 1923. This is the only known death of an occupant of a D.P. boat.

The mission was without a rector from this time until April, 1924, when Cyril G.F. Stone, a theological student from Trinity College, arrived to take the charge for the summer. The church debt was over \$800.00, including the \$400.00 mortgage on the rectory. The Treasurer, Mr. F.R. Andrews, presented a cash balance of \$3.83 and a postage stamp to offset this debt. A vestry meeting was held and the congregation promised to do their best to clear up this deficit. Various activities were engaged in during the summer which were splendidly backed by the people. All debts were paid and the mortgage was reduced by \$100.00.

During the winter of 1924-25, services were held twice a month in Port Carling by the rector from Milford Bay.



*St. James the Apostle  
- 1925.*



*George Temple,  
Rev. Smedley,  
Harold Temple.  
Young Choirboys  
- 1925*

The Rev. Julian S. Smedley, Trinity College, Toronto, became the incumbent in 1925 and served until 1929 when he was transferred to St. Thomas Church, Bracebridge. During the summer of 1925, the interior of the rectory was renovated. Most of the downstairs rooms were papered and painted – this work was done by T.S. Temple & Sons. The bathroom was partitioned off, a window cut in the north wall, and a hot water system was installed. The debt on the rectory was reduced to \$100.00 and all expenses paid.

These projects were made possible by the whole congregation responding well to all enterprises entered into. A branch of the Anglican Young People's Association had been organized in Port Carling and a piano purchased for the A.Y.P.A. for \$110.00. This

group produced two successful plays. The very active Sunday School met on Sunday afternoons and organized several well-received entertainments. The Women's Auxiliary was described in the Church History as being a tower of strength to the church.

In 1929, The Rev. Albert Earnest Carding arrived from the mission field of Biscotasing which is north of Elliot Lake, Ontario, and was in charge until 1933 when he was moved to the parish of Schreiber. Rev. Carding was instrumental in the raising of funds for a polished brass cross purchased for \$30.00, a Bishop's chair for \$90.00, and two brass vases.

A committee of parishioners worked to raise the necessary money to buy an automobile for the use of the rector of the mission. In November, 1929, a Chevrolet Coach was purchased for \$888.00 from W.E. Massey of the Port Carling Garage.

During the spring of 1930, the huge stones embedded in the church lot in front of the church were prized up and placed at the corners of the lot making an adequate fence to keep the automobiles off the property. Also that year, two coats of stone-coloured paint were applied to the exterior of the church. The platform in the Sunday School room had caved in, so it was removed, new floor joists put in, and the floor re-laid with hardwood. The interior of the Sunday School room was also re-painted.

In the fall of 1930, a bee was called to haul stone from a local gravel pit. In the spring of 1931, the stone was used to build a wall across the front of the church property for a total cost of \$200.00. The ground in front of the church was subsequently graded, loam hauled from the rectory grounds, the area seeded for a lawn, and a rockery built in the centre. The expense of this was met with the profit of a picture show given by the rector. In that same year, arc lamps were placed above the chancel to give light on the altar.

In 1930, Rev. Carding produced the first of many issues of a church magazine which he hoped would "prove to be a bond between the Vicar and his people and of great benefit to the church". This monthly booklet was called the "Port Carling Church of England Magazine". This publication sometimes consisted of over twenty pages – complete with cover and advertisements – and contained an assortment of articles, total monthly collections, parish news, local

news, serial stories, poems, quotes, puzzles, drawing competitions and pictures to be coloured by children. Some topical items in Rev. Carding's monthly letter were: an appeal for visiting clergy to "give a service to help out" during June, July or August; a request for volunteers who played a stringed instrument to help form an orchestra; an advertisement for a three-act play, staged by the Anglican Dramatic Society.

During the depression of the 1930's, winter church services were again held in the basement to reduce the costs of heating the building. In 1931, the windows and crevices of the church were cemented by a special process to keep out draughts.

The members of St. James the Apostle have been energetically involved throughout the years in numerous church-related organizations and pursuits. Parishioners have participated in various children's and youth's groups, in beautifying and maintaining the building and grounds, in fund-raising, musical and drama groups, as well as in countless activities to enhance the spiritual life of the church and its members.

The Rev. Gerald K. Lowe was the rector of the parish from 1933 to 1935 when he was transferred to St. Michael's, Port Arthur, and Murillo, which is near Thunder Bay, Ontario. In February, 1935, St. James Church, Mortimer's Point, became a welcome addition to the parish.

In April, 1936, the parishes of St. James, Port Carling, and St. Mark's, Milford Bay, were amalgamated under The Rev. John Selwyn Rhodes who resided in the rectory at Milford Bay. St. John's Church, Beaumaris, was also included in this charge. Rev. Rhodes had charge of the mission from 1936 to 1942, when he was moved to Burk's Falls. At that time, The Most Rev. G. Frederick Kingston, fifth Bishop of Algoma, requested Archdeacon J.B. Lindsell to take charge of the parish temporarily. In 1945, The Rev. Stephen W. L. Gilbert became the incumbent and served until 1947 when he was transferred to Murillo. Archdeacon Lindsell again took over until 1952.

# FORWARD FROM THE FORTIES

Inside the church hangs a framed list of members of St. James the Apostle Port Carling, "who volunteered for active service with Canada's Fighting Forces" in World War II. At the top are printed the words, "For King and Country".

As the rectory in Pt. Carling had not been used steadily by an incumbent since 1936, it was sold in June 1946, to Ernest A. Duke of Port Carling, for \$2,150.00.

In January, 1950, the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Algoma purchased a house on Lot #22 on the north side of Medora Street from Cameron Milner of Port Carling, boat builder, for \$5,000.00.

In 1952, The Rev. James H. Jackson, of Wycliffe College, Toronto, became the incumbent of the parish until 1955 when he entered the Canadian Forces as a Chaplain. Rev. Jackson was the first occupant of the new rectory and the first resident incumbent in the Mission since 1936. The first task was to put the new rectory into good shape. The entire house was redecorated and the kitchen completely renovated. An oil furnace was installed and a garage built.

On June 2, 1953, St. James Port Carling held a special church service to mark the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. The Rt. Rev. W.L. Wright, the sixth Bishop of Algoma, had requested that a solemn service of Holy Communion be held at 9:00 a.m. in each Anglican church in the diocese to commemorate the occasion.

During Rev. Jackson's incumbency, a new carpet was laid in the church, new electric lights were hung, the organ was electrified, and the Sunday School room was renovated.

The Rev. George K. Menzies was appointed rector of the Port Carling Mission in 1955. During Rev. Menzies' incumbency, many additions and improvements were made to both the church and the rectory. The Mission prospered. In 1959, Rev. Menzies was appointed rector of Christ Church, Petrolia, in the Diocese of Huron.

The Rev. Nelson Adair served as the Mission rector from 1959 to 1967 when he moved to the Diocese of Michigan. In 1961, the

Bracebridge Herald Gazette reported that the Ladies' Guild and the Women's Auxiliary organized several fundraising events for church projects, a bingo was held, and an Easter Tea which featured a children's fashion show, the sale of handwork, a fishpond for children, and lucky door prizes. Spring flowers and Easter novelties decorated the tea tables. The young girls of the church assisted in serving the tea.

In 1963, electric heaters were purchased and attached to the ceiling of the church to supplement the heat from the furnace.

In 1968, the Port Carling church was aligned with the Bala church, and The Rev. John H. Watson served as the incumbent from 1968 until 1975. As Rev. Watson lived in Bala, the Port Carling rectory was sold in June, 1969, to Ray and Joan Woodward, of Port Carling, for \$8,000.00.

Before there was an electric organ in the church, a reed pump organ was used which was powered by the organist's feet pushing on the pedals. In 1968, the oil furnace from the old Algonquin Hotel across the street was installed in the church. This enabled the pump organ to be hooked up to the blower on the furnace. The organist then had the option of using the furnace blower or the organ's pedals to produce musical sounds. In practice, the furnace blower was used for most of the service. However, during the communion, the organist turned off the blower switch and used pedal power, as this method was much quieter.

A special confirmation service was held in October, 1971, to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the establishment of the original Anglican Church in Port Carling. The Most Rev. W.L. Wright, Archbishop of Algoma, confirmed thirteen candidates, assisted by Rev. Watson. The service was followed by a buffet luncheon in the Port Carling Memorial Community Centre prepared by the Anglican Church Women.

In 1975, the alignment was changed again, and The Rev. William A. Graham, from Pangnirtung, N.W.T., became rector of Port Carling and Milford Bay. With the arrival of sewers in Port Carling in 1976, badly-needed plumbing facilities were installed in the basement.

In 1981, the 100th anniversary of the establishment of St. James Anglican Church in Port Carling was observed. To prepare for this auspicious occasion, the church was repainted and a new electric

organ was donated and installed. The old reed organ was sold for \$450.00. To mark this centennial, a special service was held on Sunday, July 12, 1981. Princess Margaret and her daughter, Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones, attended the service. The royal pair were weekend guests at the cottage on Lake Rosseau of the then Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, the Honourable John Black Aird and Mrs. Aird. The rector, Rev. Graham, together with the Archdeacon of Muskoka, The Venerable John Watson, received the distinguished visitors at the church door. Inside, the church was filled to capacity with worshippers. Outside, hundreds of spectators lined the street, including honour guards of Guides, Brownies, Pathfinders, Cubs, and the Port Carling Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. The choir was supplemented by choristers from St. Mark's Church, Milford Bay. As they departed, the royal visitors signed the church's guest book and accepted a gift of a souvenir plate with a picture of St. James the Apostle Anglican Church on it. Subsequently, a letter was received from the Princess's Private Secretary which said, in part, "We all came away feeling spiritually refreshed and uplifted".

In 1984, the present electric organ replaced the nearly new one that had been in use. In that same year, the shingles on the south side of the roof were replaced after being damaged in a wild windstorm. Subsequently, the north side shingles were also replaced. Some of these were cedar shingles which had been on the roof for close to fifty years. 1985 saw the wooden kneelers upholstered in attractive red and, in 1988, new concrete steps took the place of the crumbling wooden ones.

In December, 1988, Rev. Graham retired and moved to Bracebridge. In February, 1989, The Rev. Dr. Ray Porth came to the Port Carling Church from Dorset, Ontario. Rev. Porth taught and was involved in research in the Nova Scotia Agricultural College., Truro, Nova Scotia, from 1970 to 1980. He studied for the ministry at Trinity College from 1980 to 1983. His first pastorate was a four-point charge in the Lake of Bays area from 1983 to 1989. While there, he lived in the rectory in Dorset.

In May, 1990, the parish was again realigned and Christ Church Gregory, became a welcome and active part of the Port Carling - Milford Bay Parish.

In 1991, the old furnace was removed and an efficient new oil furnace was put into the basement furnace room at a cost of \$6,500.00. This ensured that the church would be cosy and warm in the coldest of winter days.

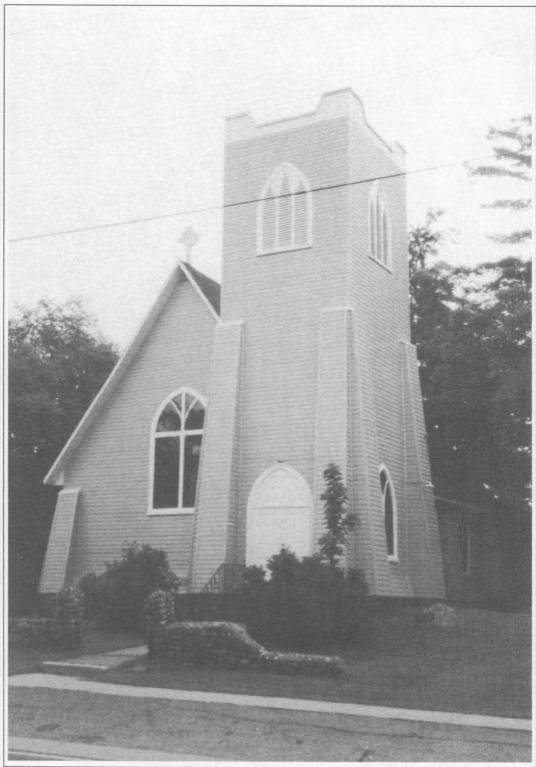
In 1993, the outside of the church was again badly in need of painting. The vestry decided to have the exterior covered with vinyl siding and a fund-raising campaign was launched. In June, 1993, the work on the installation of the stone-grey vinyl siding with white trim was completed. This new exterior greatly enhanced the appearance of the church and coincided with the 80th anniversary of the consecration of the present church building.

St. James Church contains many interesting and attractive items which were donated as memorial gifts by generous parishioners and their families. Among these are the stained glass windows, the pulpit, the choir stalls and altar rail, the Bishop's chair, the credence table and communion cruets, the organ, the reading desk and stall, the carpet and curtains, the flower stands and vases, the candle sticks, the baptismal font, the collection plates, the pews, the bibles, the prayer books, the hymn books, the Books of Alternative Services, the lights and outside steps, various miscellaneous items including some silver and linens, and possibly the bell.

From the ceiling of the church hang four flags: the Anglican Church flag, the Canadian flag, the flag of St. George, Patron saint of England, and a Union Jack the original of which was dedicated to the 122nd Battalion of Muskoka during the First World War.

Improvements to the church buildings and rectories have been made when necessity and funds dictated. Over the years, countless devoted permanent and summer residents have willingly volunteered their time and various talents to maintain the spiritual strength of the church and to enhance it as an attractive place of worship. Among these many loyal, hard-working parishioners are Mrs. Leila Cope who was church organist for over 40 years, and Mr. Len Amey who was treasurer for the better part of 47 years.

The enduring stability of the Church, the faith of the parishioners, and the caring interest of visitors continue to contribute to the presence of St. James the Apostle Anglican Church in Port Carling, and to its continuous forward movement and growth.



*St. James the Apostle – 1993*