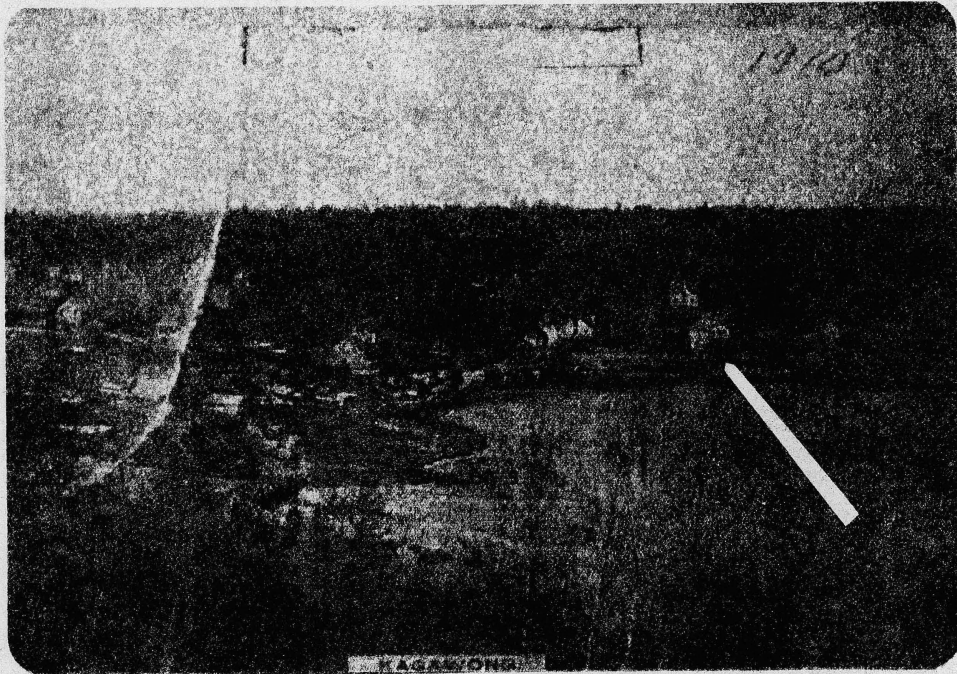


HISTORY OF
ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST
KAGAWONG

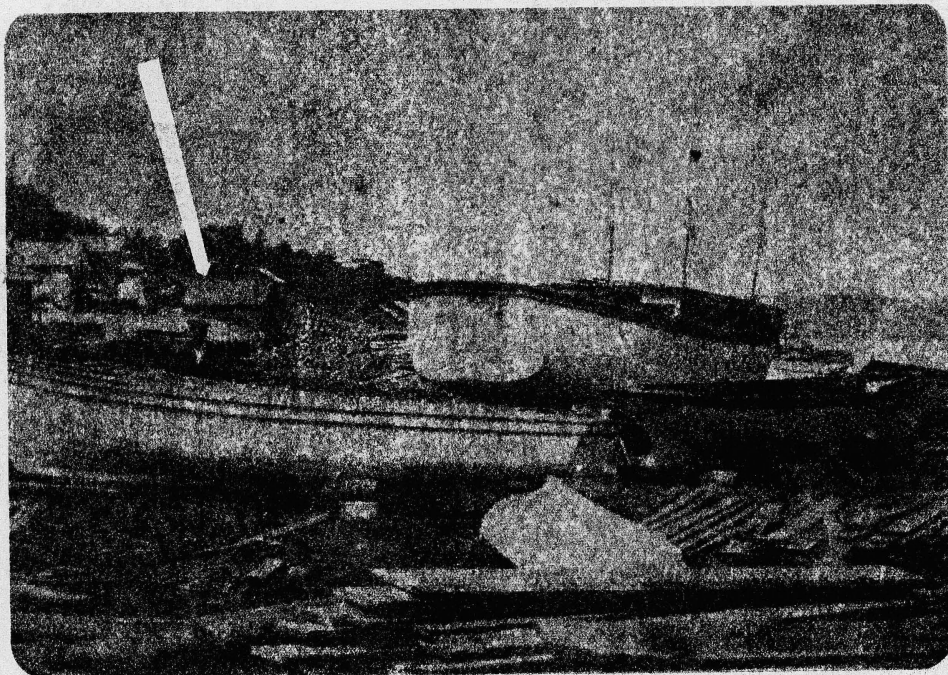
compiled by Mary Buie.



CLERGY SERVING KAGAWONG

The Rev'd Walter W. Jarvis - until January 1939
 The Rev'd Alfred J. Bull - February 1939 - April 1941
 The Rev'd Alfred P. Banks - March/April 1941
 The Rev'd Arthur J. Bruce - May 1941 - August 1945
 The Rev'd Gilbert Thompson - November 1945 - April 1950
 The Rev'd Samuel Eric Richards 1950 - 1952
 The Rev'd Michael P. Thomas - May 1953 - January 1962
 The Rev'd J. Bain Peever - June 1963 - August 1966
 The Rev'd M. H. Dunnill - 1966 - 1969
 The Rev'd M. Bradford - 1969 - 1973
 Captain David Page - 1973 - 1975
 The Rev'd J. G. McCausland - 1975 -

ARROW POINTS TO ORIGINAL WAREHOUSE THAT BECAME THE CHURCH.



ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST - KAGAWONG

The Church of St. John the Evangelist, Kagawong, was dedicated on October 9th, 1938. The Church was originally a warehouse of Charlie Snow's which is now Hunt's Store and Bishop Rocksborough R. Smith, who came for the dedication robed in the old Snow Store at the Long Counters. He had a great sense of humour and enjoyed this sort of vestry for robing. The warehouse which became the Church, was a storey and one half frame building 20 feet wide and 30 feet long built around 1898 and sold for one dollar by Harriet Snow (widow of Charles Snow) to the Diocese of Algoma in December, 1936.

The Rev. Walter Jarvis was the priest whose vision and enthusiasm led to the Anglican Church in Kagawong coming into being. Before this time the different church congregations held their services in the 'Union Church' (the present United Church). The Anglicans were classed as a hearty congregation for their singing and responses and were served by missionaries in charge of Goré Bay since 1895. Kagawong was classed as an out station. Father Jarvis sometimes walked from Gore Bay to Kagawong for services in the Union Church - later he used an old car. He also gave the Church the name St. John the Evangelist in honour of the Saint and the Cowley Fathers under whom he trained.

The alteration of the building into the Church owes a very great deal to the Montagues, summer visitors from Ottawa and the men of Kagawong who gave their services free and donated many materials. The first Womens Auxiliary was formed in the middle 1930's and was very active to get the store altered into the Church with about 40 members. Each family of the congregation put on something to raise money to build the Church. Some activities put on were bake sales, St. Patrick's supper, euchre parties. Father Jarvis and Tom Montague, a public works engineer who retired here, organized an old fashioned 'Bee'. Father Jarvis drew up the actual plan and design for the Church and Mr. Montague, Tom Prestage the contractor, and others carried it out. The building was given new hardwood flooring, a lining of wallboard, stove and seating. Lumber for the pews was donated by Lyle Graham's father, William. Tom Montague designed the belfry and made the altar. The screen behind the altar came from St. Edmund's Church,

Toronto. Rev. Jarvis's wife's uncle and aunt were members of long standing in that parish and discovered the Church had this disused screen. It was purchased for a small sum and sent up to Kagawong - the whole cost being about \$12. The screen was donated by Tom Montague in memory of his mother, Elizabeth Montague. Mr. Austin Hunt senior donated the belfry and Bill Fraser from Omaha (a regular summer tourist) donated the bell for it from a railroad locomotive. There is also a ship's wheel from a pulp barge which sank in the bay on the outside of the Church.

The original cross on top of the Church was wooden and was struck by lightning. The insurance paid for a replacement which is the present red neon light cross erected about 1968. Jim Newburn was a magistrate for Manitoulin District and a chiropractor and he donated the first organ. The next organ (the present one) was donated by the Christy family in memory of their father La Mar Christy senior, a summer resident of Kagawong since 1924. The life-belts in the Church are from Christy's boat and the net floats at the ends of the pews are from the Graham Brothers fishing nets - they used to fish in the bay. The steering wheel and light are from Austin Hunt junior's boat.

The most interesting feature in this Church is the pulpit which is the bow of a boat wrecked in the North Channel off Maple Point on August 23rd, 1965. Four people lost their lives in this disaster including the editor of the Sudbury Star newspaper. They were sailing from Little Current to Gore Bay when they missed their way in stormy weather. The pulpit was placed in the Church dedicated by Rev. Dunnill in 1970. All the articles related to boats in this Church were placed here in the 1950-60's.

Another unique part of this Church's history is that excursion boats used to call between 1940 and 1962 and the passengers would arrange and conduct their own church service when they got to St. John's in Kagawong. There was a hostess on the boat and about one hundred people might be at the service - they would spill out of the Church and block the road. They would take up a collection and leave it in the Church. This money bought the furnace and other things such as a loud speaker that would broadcast music as the boats came in.

So this then is our Church.