

St. Paul's Anglican Church
Greenfield Park



Launching the 100th Anniversary Celebration: 1910-2010



“THE CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL”...Our Patron

Sunday January 24, 2010

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Incumbent: The Reverend Linda Faith Chalk
Guest Officiant: Lay Reader, Mr. Gregory Weeds
Organist & Choir Director: Rose Nemeth-Garoufalis

Wardens: Jennifer Taylor
Carolyn Hiscox

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & THANKS TO:

Reverend Linda Faith Chalk: Pastor & Coordinator.

Mr. Greg Weeds, Lay Reader and former parishioner, who as a Lay Reader and Sexton, was actively involved in numerous aspects of the parish life, including the installation of the elevator and other renovation projects.

Anne Weeds, his wife, who as a Greeter, was also involved in Pastoral care ministry, Ministry for seniors and the Prayer Chain ministry.

Gloria Kidd, Chair of the A.C.W. team who organized and prepared the lunch.

Alan & Kim Briand coordinated the program.

Rose Nemeth-Garoufolis, Organist & Choir Director, who arranged the music.

Wendy Crawley designed the Church Logo.

Marilyn Myles, assisted by Marion Campeau, organized the photo display.

Winsome Wason compiled and narrated the highlights of the Church history, assisted by Irene Frail.





A JOURNEY INTO YESTERYEAR

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE HISTORY OF ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH GREENFIELD PARK, QUEBEC

1910 - 2010



1909-1928

In the early nineteenth century, many immigrants from the British Isles settled in Montreal, because of its limitless open spaces and employment opportunities to build the two great engineering feats of that century-the Lachine Canal and the Victoria Bridge. They came with their families and settled in and around Point St. Charles and Goose Village, a tiny enclave at the Montreal end of Victoria Bridge, then later in Verdun.

Around 1907, the building of the railway across Victoria Bridge and the development of St. Lambert, resulted in an overflow of people to the outlying regions, including Greenfield Park. A few English- speaking people began buying land from the original five French Canadian families who owned the territory of Greenfield Park. These persons were attracted by the vast expanse of wooded area, the creeks and ponds which abounded, the wild flowers, the animals and the available and inexpensive farmlands.

In 1907, Mr. Louis Marcille sold lots to new arrivals and among them were 25-30 Anglicans who were for the most part Grand Trunk Railway employees. They built their homes and worshipped at St Barnabas Church in St. Lambert. The Beck family, parents of Alice Dame, was one of these.

In 1909, the population of Greenfield Park increased to 200 including 25 Anglican families and this stirred a desire to establish their own church. In the summer of 1909, the first religious service was held in a tent located at the corner of Petit St. Charles and Murray Avenue. The tent, which was raised each weekend and stored during the week in a barn owned by a Mr. Cross on St. Charles Road, was soon moved to the corner of Third and Lapiniere Road (Later named Devonshire and now known as Victoria.) . Shortly after, a small framed building was erected on the site as the mission Church of St Barnabas. The cost to erect the building was \$1,300.00. Half of this sum was loaned by the Diocese and the remaining amount through fund raising events organized by the Ladies Guild.

The little church was enlarged three times from 1910-1924. A chancel and a vestry were added. The church was heated by a large pot-bellied stove and lit with oil lamps. Services were often conducted by students from the Diocesan College under the supervision of Rev. W. I. Dart, the Rector of St. Barnabas church.

On December 16, 1909, a service of dedication was held, conducted by Rev. Dart and attended by Bishop Farthing. It was decided not to consecrate the church, because in the future it might become necessary to remove it, or sell it, and a lot of legal trouble would be avoided by not doing so. People of all denominations attended the first public worship. Many continued to worship with the Anglicans until they were able to build their own churches. Since it



was the only public building, it became the central meeting place for all ages in the community. This mission church served an area as far away as Brossard Station, St. Lambert Annex, Laprairie and Delson.

A year later in 1910 several organizations were formed including the Ladies Guild, the Senior Choir and the Sunday school. In order to accommodate the large number of children, Sunday school was held in an old Grand Trunk railway caboose brought to the site. This continued until 1914. Activities for the children included "Christmas Tree" parties. The first one was part of the inaugural festivities and was attended by seventy children, and sixty adults. Toys were distributed by Santa Claus and games were played until 10:30 p.m. when all the children were transported home on sleighs, provided for the occasion by Mr. Marcille, one of the farmers. Oranges, candies and cards were given to the youngsters to take home. "Snow tramps" were organized for the youngsters, in which they donned snowshoes and set off from the church on treks across the fields on snowy winter evenings. On return to the church they received warm drinks and sometimes a hot meal of beans and wieners awaited them, cooked by the adults. One parish member recalls that many times his mother cooked up a crock of beans at their house, then covered it against the elements, placed it on a toboggan, and dragged it by herself, more than half a mile to the church for others to enjoy. Sleigh rides were also popular and listening to records played on a phonograph at the church.



Circa 1910

The end of World War 1 in 1918 saw a growing congregation of 160 families. To accommodate this number, an acre of land was purchased on Empire St. and the new church was built at the cost of approximately \$15,000.00. The foundation stone was laid on June 30, 1928 by Bishop Farthing. Again money was loaned by the Diocese and the members made pledges as well as numerous fund raising activities.

On October 31, 1928, dedication of the church took place, along with the installation and induction of the first incumbent, Rev. Isaac Malcolm Lidstone. A year later the Parish hall was built and dedicated on July 31, 1929 by Bishop Farthing. Mrs. W.A. Parker, one of the first parishioners declared it open. Of note, during the construction the workers were unable to remove a large rock so they built the hall around it. This is still visible in the basement.

St. Paul's Church
GREENFIELD PARK

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*Laying
the Foundation Stone*

SATURDAY, JUNE 30TH, 1928
2.45 P. M.

"Christ is our Corner-Stone"



Circa 1928

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE LADIES GUILD 1909-1992

In the summer of 1910, as the men built the little wooden church, the ladies formed a Guild and their first president was Mrs. C. Willard. A choir, under the direction of Mr. Anderson, and a Sunday school, supervised by Mr. Tom Hill, were organized. The Guild members immediately started to organize fund raising events to defray their \$650.00 loan from the Diocese. They held snow-shoe parties, skating parties, sleigh rides, hot bake beans suppers in the winter and teas, concerts and plays in the summer.

Within four years their lives would be radically changed when World War 1 started and most of their men immediately left to fight for their motherland. They were left alone with the children, in houses spaced well apart with no electricity or telephones. However, they continued to meet once a week to work and to support each other. It was only in December 1917, that fifty-

three houses became the first to be connected to the electricity system. In 1918, the few streets that were built had the service of a snow roller team of horses. Well trodden foot paths were more the norm. The only telephone was in the local store.

The return of the veterans in 1918, the building of the Southern Counties Railroad, saw the population increased by leaps and bounds. The little church was too small. Once again a new church was needed and so the present building was opened on October 1928.

Some of the early Guild members from 1910-1932 were: Beck, Maynard, Cummings, Philp, Millar, Sexton, Devy, Parker, Townsend, Morley, Hollingdrake, Board, Mason, Mercer, Greenwood, Wallace. Of note, several of the streets in the Park are named after these pioneers.

Just when everything seemed to be going well, the Great Depression of the 30's hit. However, the Guild still carried on 12 months of the year, raising money with concerts, teas, care parties, spring and fall bazaars and always an Anniversary Dinner in November. To supply food for these occasions, a great deal of begging went on from Weston Bakeries, Red Path Sugar, and Guaranteed Milk. Also, the congregation was asked to put any spare ration coupons into the offering plate on Sundays. Tickets to all these functions were adults, 25 cents and children, two for 25 cents. No tea or refreshments were served at these meetings.

Once again their world was turned upside down in 1939 by the start of World War 2. Greenfield Park had the highest enlistment rate of any small town in all of Canada, with 280 out of a population of 1,800. Again the ladies rose to the occasion. All of them joined the Red Cross Unit. They took over the janitorial duties of the church and continued to hold weekly meetings throughout the year. They no sooner paid off the mortgage on the church that they took on another debt, with the addition of the church hall and new rectory. The Ladies Guild were in continuous service for a total of 82 years, because there was always a younger group prepared to step in and replace a senior group, without the chain of service being broken. A special service commemorating the work of these dedicated ladies, as well as the work of the Women's Auxiliary, was held in May 1992. One of the Rectors stated, "Our church has survived two world wars, a depression and debts by the courage, hard work, and faithfulness of its ladies." Let us not forget them.



Acknowledgements:

*Excerpts from: The History of Greenfield Park 1910-1975, by John Riley
History of the Town of Greenfield Park, Author unknown
Short History of Ladies' Guild, St. Paul's Church,
1910-1992 by Muriel Brown
Written by: Winsome Wason*

LUNCHEON PROGRAMME:

Organ Prelude

Luncheon

Highlights of the History of the Church
Narrators: Winsome Wason & Irene Frail

St. Paul's Chorus

Benediction



A Prayer for St. Paul's Congregation:

O God, draw us closer to you that we may be drawn closer to one another. Deepen our faith, sustain our hope and enlarge our capacity to love. Let the mind that was in Christ Jesus, who came not to be served, but to serve, be in us. Grant to us the gifts of the Spirit that we may bear faithful witness to the Lordship of Christ by word and deed. May we be so conscious of your rule in our lives that with quiet confidence we may proclaim as He did, that your Kingdom is at hand here and everywhere in the world. We pray this in His Holy name. Amen.

