

Coins

from the South Eldon Presbyterian Church Time Capsule

The Township of Eldon was surveyed between 1826 and 1829 and the first settlers, consisting mostly of immigrants from Scotland, arrived between 1828 and 1830.

Neil Gregor Smith illustrates in 'The Kirk in Eldon' that "Many of those who originally settled here left a hard life behind them and faced a hard life here...To attempt to better their lot by facing the hardships of pioneering in a new land of which they knew little was a solution..." "It is only with difficulty that we, who see fields cleared in a few hours with a combine, can imagine the toils of those who worked under such conditions."

While the majority of first settlers were of the Presbyterian faith, it was some time before a regular church service was established. In the first few years the people had occasional services that were provided by ministers sent by the Church of Scotland, held in homes, school houses or intimate outside gatherings.



St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church,
c. 2022

John Carruthers' ministered the early communities of Eldon and Thorah Townships frequently in 1832 and detailed his time in 'Retrospect of Thirty-Six Years Residence in Canada West':

Wednesday, August 15th- Crossed the Talbot River, and entered into the Township of Eldon, bounded on the north by forest unsurveyed... These were new townships and had only a few settlers yet.

Sabbath, 19th- Assembled the young people and children on the forenoon at the school house between Eldon and Thorah...on the afternoon delivered a lecture to a good attendance of people.

Getting restless, a petition from the Presbyterians of Eldon for a regular minister was presented at the November 1843 meeting of the Toronto Presbytery and in 1844 Rev. John McMurchy was appointed as the first permanent minister of St. Andrew's South Eldon Presbyterian Church.

Don't McIntyre

Ken Ure

Hec Grant

Hugh Grant

Presbyterian Church

And McPherson

Thos Lyon

NEVILLE

O Per Mc

Alpine LP

Neil Mc Donald

Neil

Neil Smith Sr.

John Mc Calloch

Wm Ross

Jas. Mc Pherson

Neil Mc Don

The first church was built in 1846 on land the trustees obtained 10 years prior. According to the 1851 census it was a frame building 30' x 40' and capable of holding at least 100 people. It was the only public building in Eldon at this time.

Kawartha Lakes
Jump In



Coins found in the South Eldon Church Time Capsule
CKL Artifact Collection 2023. 001.001-004

According to the 150th Anniversary of South Eldon Church Committee, the cornerstone which was brought all the way from Scotland and a time capsule containing newspaper articles and coins of the time, were laid on June 20th in front of a large crowd.

When the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, South Eldon closed in 1995, the corner stone was removed and installed in the neighbouring cemetery and the contents of the time capsule were kept safe.

St. Andrew's Church is now privately owned.

Thank You

Mr. Reid Torrey

Resources

'The Kirk of Eldon' by Rev. Neil McGregor Smith, D.D.

'Retrospect of Thirty-Six Years Residence in Canada West' by J. Carruthers