

Friends of Beaverdams Church

NEWSLETTER: SPRING 2015

Beaverdams Church has a long rich history as an integral part of the village of Beaverdams, and many people in the community have fond memories of time spent in the church - attending Sunday School, special church events, weddings and family get-togethers. With your help this building can once again take its place as a vibrant centre of the community, making memories for new generations.

The Friends meet monthly and everyone is welcome to attend these meetings! This is a great opportunity to be involved in the planning of events, to share ideas, chat with friends old and new, and be a vital part of the group. Bring your ideas and expertise. We would love for you to join us!

New In 2014

Purchase of the building:

The "Friends of Beaverdams Church" were able to purchase the church building and surrounding land from the City of Thorold in September of 2014. This purchase now means that the 'Friends' are now the owners of the church, responsible for its upkeep and the upkeep of the surrounding land including the cemetery. It also means that we are now in control of the finances of the church. The money raised by events and donations can now be used at the discretion of the Board and members to pay the bills and complete the renovations.

Charitable Status:

In November 2014, our President, David Cowan, was very pleased to be able to inform us that "The Friends of Beaverdams Church" had been granted charitable status. This involved an incredible amount of work completing the required paperwork, getting information and references and we were all thrilled that the request was granted so quickly. David informed us that, "Notably, corporate charitable status means that the Friends can now apply to corporations and foundations for grant monies that will help with the larger restoration expenses. We can now also give receipts for tax purposes to individuals who make donations."

With these two pieces in place we are all able to move ahead quickly with the plans that we envision for the Church building and the community involvement.

The Board:

During the April meeting a new board was elected to move forward with the restoration planning.

President: David Cowan Vice President: Melanie Battell Past President: Denise Bradden

Secretary: Lesley Daniels Memberships Coordinator/Publicity: Sarah King Head

WAYS TO STAY INFORMED!

To receive regular emails, send your email address to:

beaverdamschurch@gmail.com

You can always find information about upcoming meetings and events on our website:

www.friendsofbeaverdamschurch.com

Join us on Facebook. Go to:

www.facebook.com/historic.Beaverdams.Church and 'like' us.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 70,
8 Clairmont Street, Thorold Ontario
L2V 3Y7

Grant Applications

Our board is currently working hard filling out grant applications to various government bodies in an effort to access funds available to groups such as ours. The hope is that monies can be raised that will enable us to begin work on the more costly restoration projects. This is time consuming and very involved so we wish our board the very best as they complete these forms.

The amount of support for the project that is generated within the community is very important when making these applications. The Granting Boards are more likely to look favourably on applications where a strong community commitment to the project is in evidence. We are sure that they will be impressed by the amazing community support that we have experienced since getting started 3 years ago. A big THANK YOU to everyone who has given of their time and expertise, THANK YOU to all who have supported our fundraising efforts, THANK YOU to all who have made donations or shown support through their membership of the Friends of Beaverdams Church.

Everyone is important and working together we can do this!!

In the space of only three years, nearly \$40,000 has been raised through community fundraising events, membership dues and donations. The support of the community of Beaverdams and Thorold is amazing, the reality of a fully restored Church available to the community for all kinds of events: weddings, concerts, art shows, community evenings, etc. is clearly within our grasp.

Beaverdams Memories

We are the Beaverdams Girls: Eileen, Shirley, Barbara, Jessica, Beaty, Diane and Helen.

Three of us were born to families living in Beaverdams, and one of these still lives there.

The rest of us moved to Beaverdams as young children, in the late 1930's and 1940. Our ages range from 77 to 84 years.

In reality, we have been the Friends of Beaverdams Church for as long as we have been friends to each other, as it played an important and happy part of our lives.

As children, we spent summers, with the rest of the village children, swimming or fishing in any one of the four bodies of water that surrounded our island home.

All year round we met at Nelly's store to plan our games or adventures for the day. In winter we skated on the old canal next to a home where, many times, we warmed up with hot chocolate. The hills were perfect for sledding and, we all agree, we had year round built-in entertainment.

As we grew up and built our separate lives, we all experienced the same emotions of joy, sorrow, pain and love.

Among us, we are blessed with 17 children, 30 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren with 2 more expected this year.

Eventually, as adults, we were drawn together at the annual Beaverdams church services.



Lunch together following the service was the catalyst that formed our meeting for lunch each month. These get-togethers are a source of joyful reminiscing, as well as keeping up to date on our families and our lives.

We may outwardly be showing a few signs of aging-all of which we have earned-but we are truly the same; friends of each other and our treasured Beaverdams Church.

Courtesy of Sarah King Head

Submitted by The Beaverdams Girls: L-R: Bea, Helen, Diane, Barbara, Shirley, Jessica, Eileen

Thank you ladies!!

Fundraising 2014

Our fundraising efforts continued unabated throughout the last year:

The **Fertilizer Sale** in the Spring raised \$1,000, thanks to Teresa and John Tepylo.

At the 2nd Annual **Yard Sale** a staggering \$2,630.22 was raised for the restoration fund through a combination of sales and donations. Notably, nearly \$400 came from individual donations!

Trivia Night raised \$3,000. It was an excellent evening, attended by more than 100 people, with fabulous door prizes, a 50-50 draw and three tables brimming with silent auction treasures.

On **Dickens Night** nearly 180 people filled the pews and aisles as period-costumed carolers singing “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!” processed into Thorold’s Trinity United Church. Thus, began the two-hour dramatic reading of Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol* by the St Thomas Community Players of St Catharines. A light collation followed and \$3,700 was netted through ticket sales and donations. Because of the outstanding response a donation of \$500.00 was given to Thorold Community Care.

Restoration Underway.

Securing the foundations! It looks a bit like something out of Gulliver’s Travels, but engineer Mark Shoalts has driven 14 very large screws – German-made Krinner ground screws – all around the church. He explains how the process works: “The screws are driven down just to the level of the bracket that will be inserted under each post.” This ensures the foundations stay where they are supposed to be and the building remains standing proudly where it has stood for the past 183 years.



Courtesy of David Cowan



Courtesy of Melanie Battell



Courtesy of David Cowan

The new roof is complete! A new tin roof, heritage approved as consistent with the age of the church, was installed in January 2015. The chimney, an addition in the 1960’s, was removed to maintain the original look of the building. Thanks to M&M contractors of Fenwick.

2015 Spring and Summer Events

We are planning a DRAW! Tickets will be on sale, once we get the necessary permits, at our various events or from a member of the Friends.

Prizes include a beautiful handmade **Quilt**, and a **framed archival photograph** of the church from Henderson's Pharmacy.

Tickets will be \$2.00 each or 4 for \$5.00. If you are able to sell tickets please contact: Donna Cowan, 905 227 7556

Mark your Calendars:

May 9th: Thorold Craft Fair: The Friends of Beaverdams Church will have a table at the fair.

May 30th: Church clean-up: Everyone is welcome to come and help clean up the church inside and out, bring your mops, dusters, aprons and lunch. 10.00 am until 4.00 p.m. (you get a chance to have a good look around!)

June 6th: Organ Recital: Andrew Henderson will be playing the organ at St Andrew's Church in Thorold Proceeds to the restoration fund.

June 7th: Annual Trinity United Service: The 183rd anniversary of the dedication of Beaverdams Church will be commemorated by Rev George Addison at the church held in the grounds of the Beaverdams Church

June 13th: 3rd Annual Beaverdams Yard Sale: held in the grounds of the church, all welcome to come and help out. We are looking for items to be donated for the sale. Contact Donna Cowan, 905 227 7556

July 1st: Thorold Mayor's Canada Day Celebrations: The Friends of Beaverdams Church will have a table and be selling Draw tickets.

July 5th: Open Afternoon. Join us at the church for a summer afternoon, tour the church building, musical entertainment provided by a ladies choir.

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Join us at our monthly meetings: 7.00pm
4th Wednesday of the month at Trinity United Church, Thorold

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