

## Norfolk United Church

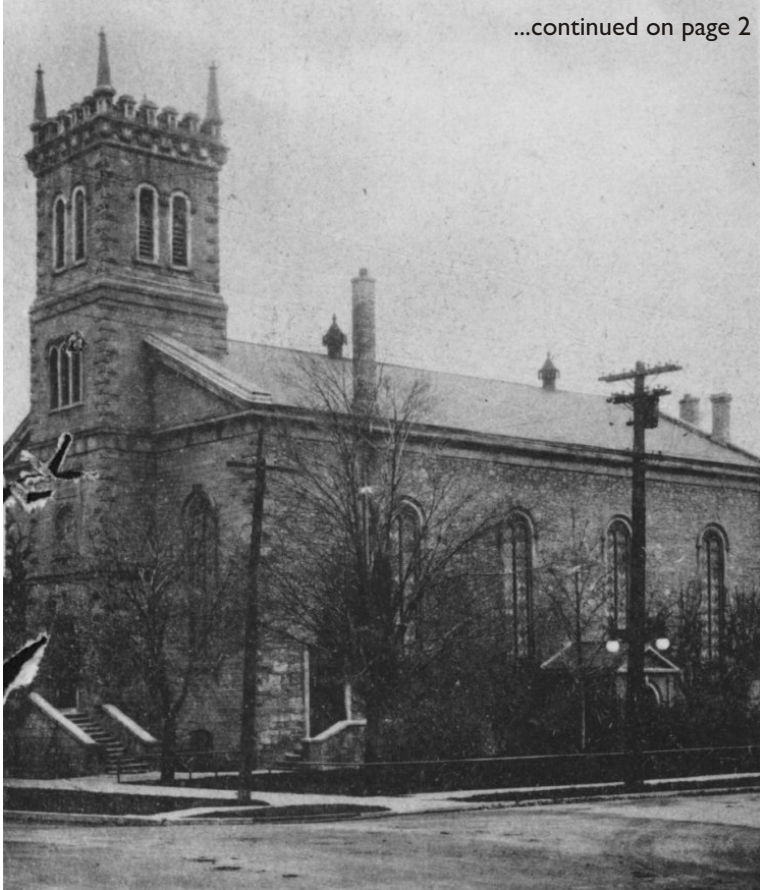
by Ann Guthrie

In December, Ken Russell, archivist at Norfolk Street United Church, gave an excellent lecture entitled, "Norfolk Street United Church: 172 Years of service." In 1836, Norfolk Street Church was constituted as a congregation of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada West. The first frame Methodist chapel was built in 1838. Although Methodists had lived in Guelph since John Galt founded Guelph in 1827, Norfolk Street was the first Methodist church in the area.

### Guelph's Oldest Limestone Church

The current Norfolk Street Church was built in 1855. Norfolk Street is Guelph's oldest limestone church in its original location.

...continued on page 2



## 2009 Dates

## EVENINGS WITH HISTORY

### February 3, 2009

Annual University of Guelph Lecture:

*Dr. Matthew Hayday, Department of History, University of Guelph*  
"A Giant Love-feast": National Unity, Canadian Identity and the Celebration of Dominion Day"

### March 3, 2009

Dr. Rob Davison, History, Wilfrid Laurier University

*"A Most Fortunate Court Martial: Admiral Sir Charles Kingsmill and the Royal Canadian Navy"*

### April 7, 2009

Annual General Meeting, Guelph Historical Society

Guest Speaker: Flora Macdonald Spencer, author of *Evan Macdonald, A Painter's Life*, edited by Judith Nasby, Wilfrid Laurier Press, 2008.

*"Guelph's Lost Buildings and the Paintings of Evan Macdonald"*

**All GHS meetings are held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, at the corner of Norfolk and Suffolk Streets, at 7:30 pm unless otherwise stated.**

[guelphhistoricalsociety.ca](http://guelphhistoricalsociety.ca)

**Photo:** Norfolk Street United Church, circa 1900.



# GHS BOARD

**PRESIDENT:** Debra Nash-Chambers  
Tel: (519) 767-9895  
Email: nashchambers@rogers.com

**VICE-PRESIDENT:** Ann Guthrie  
Tel: (519) 763-6475  
Email: ann-guthrie@sympatico.ca

**PAST PRESIDENT:** Elysia DeLaurentis  
Tel: (519) 846-8280  
Email: elysia@studiospace.com

**SECRETARY:** Anne Holman  
Tel: (519)  
Email: anneholm7017@gmail.com

**TREASURER:** Joe Jany  
Tel: (519) 822-7323  
Email: joejany@sympatico.ca

**MEMBERSHIP:** John Parkyn  
Tel: (519) 824-0564  
Email: john.parkyn@rogers.com

**BOOK SALES:** Ken Irvine  
Tel: (519) 829-2252  
Email: ken.irvine@guelph.ca

**ARCHIVIST:** Susan Ratcliffe  
Tel: (519) 822-8236  
Email: sratcliffe@santex.ca

**SCHOLARSHIPS:** Clare Newson  
Tel: (519) 823-2356  
Email: pcnewson@rogers.com

**NEWSLETTER:** Leanne Piper  
Tel: (519) 824-3840  
Email: home@piper.ca

**WEBSITE:** [guelphhistoricalsociety.ca](http://guelphhistoricalsociety.ca)

**EMAIL:** [info@guelphhistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:info@guelphhistoricalsociety.ca)

**MAILING ADDRESS:**  
Guelph Historical Society  
100 Crimea Street, Unit A102  
Guelph, Ontario  
N1H 2Y6

**NEWSLETTER  
AVAILABLE in COLOUR!**  
A full colour version of the GHS  
Newsletter is available online at  
[guelphhistoricalsociety.ca](http://guelphhistoricalsociety.ca)

## Norfolk Church continued...

The first limestone church built in Guelph was St. George's Anglican Church, which was erected in the St. George's Square in 1851. John McLean, who came to Guelph in 1846 to become the manager of the Bank of Montreal, laid the cornerstone of the church. Previously, McLean had served with the Hudson's Bay Company for 25 years and is credited with discovering the Great Falls of Labrador (now known as Churchill Falls).

The congregation of Norfolk Street expanded quickly during the boom years of the 1860s and a new church in the "suburbs" was needed. As a result, Dublin Wesleyan Church was completed in 1875.

## Methodist Tradition in Canada

The Methodist church underwent a series of amalgamations. In 1874, the Wesleyan, Primitives and New Connection Methodists formed the Methodist Church in Canada. In 1884, the Methodist Episcopal Church merged with the Methodist Church in Canada. Finally, in 1925, Methodists, Congregationalist and some Presbyterians joined together to form the United Church of Canada.

## A Congregation of Prominent Guelphites

Many of Guelph's founders and famous inhabitants attended Norfolk Street, such as:

- Dr. Henry Orton who moved to Guelph from a farm in the Paisley Block and started a medical practice in 1835.
- James Hough was one of the founders of Norfolk Street Church. He started the Sunday School.
- Lester B. Pearson's father was minister at Norfolk Street from 1917 to 1921.
- George Drew who was Premier of Ontario, leader of the federal conservative party, and first Chancellor of the University of Guelph also attended Norfolk Street.

Other prominent members of the Church included: John Crowe, John "Quaker" Howitt, Thomas McBride, Benjamin Harrison, Arthur Wells, H. W. Petersen, Samuel Carter, Dr. Henry Howitt, Robert McKim, William Johnson, Charles A. Zavitz, and John Belmar Armstrong

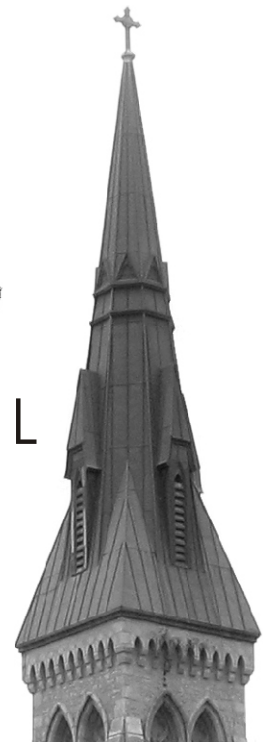
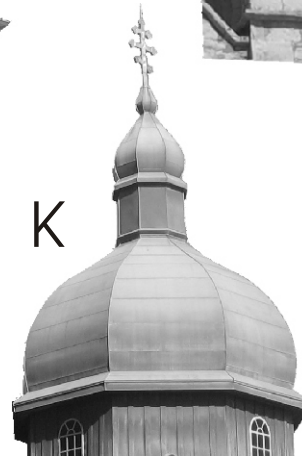
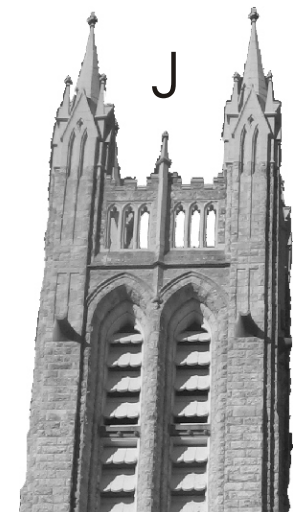
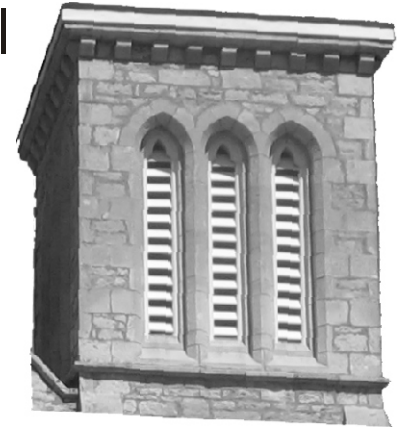
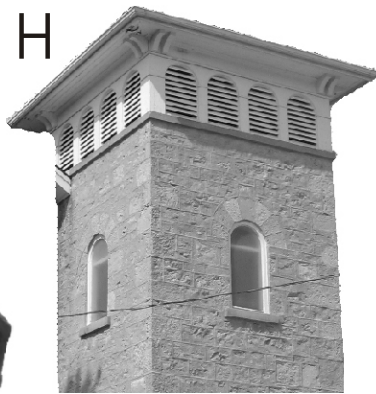
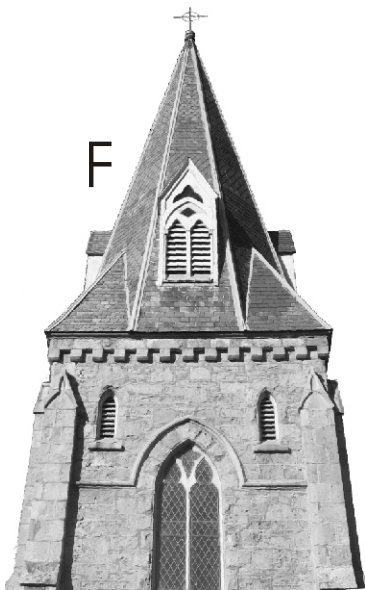
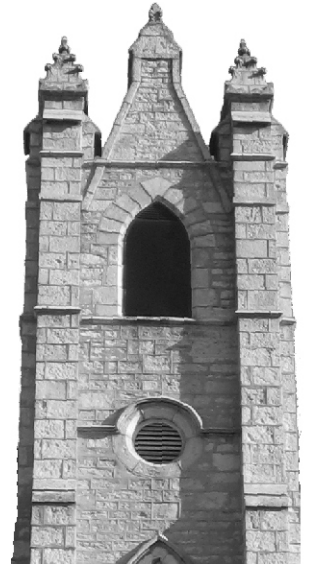
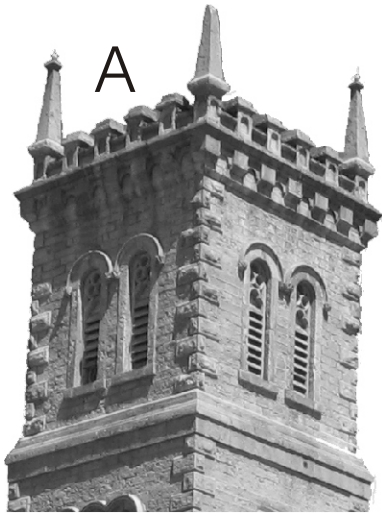


For more information, please visit the webpage maintained by Ken Russell at <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~methodists/norfolk.htm>

**Photo:**  
Date stone of Norfolk United Church.

# A PUZZLE TO IN 'SPIRE' YOU

Match the spire to its church...it's not as easy as you think!



1. Dublin Street United Church
2. Church of Our Lady Immaculate
3. St. George's Anglican Church
4. St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
5. Paisley Memorial United Church
6. Knox Presbyterian Church
7. Guelph Mosque (former Disciples of Christ)
8. Royal City Church (former Chalmers United)
9. St. James the Apostle Anglican Church
10. First Baptist Church
11. St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church
12. Norfolk Street United Church

## 2008 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

*Congratulations to the following students who received Guelph  
Historical Society scholarships (Hugh Douglass Awards)  
during fall 2008 commencement ceremonies:*

Kienan Farrell, Bishop Macdonell High School

Christopher Lawson, Centennial C.V.I.

Jessica Ince, College Heights Secondary School

Ian Chesney, Guelph C.V.I.

Rachael Cadman, John F. Ross C.V.I.

Brittany Hunt, St. James High School

Steven Riley, Our Lady of Lourdes

University of Guelph

*Ruth and Eber Pollard Canadian History Award*

Denise Carncohan

## GUELPH MUSEUMS

Review the conceptual designs for the  
new Guelph Civic Museum online:  
[guelph.ca/living.cfm?itemid=76516&smocid=2529](http://guelph.ca/living.cfm?itemid=76516&smocid=2529)

Community feedback is welcome.



### In "Spired"?

A:12, B:8, C:4, D:5, E:6, F:9, G:1, H:7, I:10, J:2, K:11, L:3

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

### ON THIS DATE...

#### February 11, 1880

An Act of Legislature was passed creating the Ontario Agricultural College and Experimental Farm.

#### March 10, 1884

The Salvation Army opened in Guelph.

#### March 24, 1880

The 11th Field Regiment was formed in Guelph.

#### March 30, 1900

Guelph was chosen as the site of the Provincial Winter Fair.

## GHS NOTES

### GUELPH POLICE HISTORY

Guelph Police Services is working on a book to record and celebrate the long history of policing in the Royal City. They are looking for stories, photos or artifacts relating to policing in Guelph. To contribute to this book project, please contact Sgt. Douglas Pflug at 519-824-1212 Ext. #253 or [douglas.pflug@police.guelph.on.ca](mailto:douglas.pflug@police.guelph.on.ca).

### GUELPH IN 'JEOPARDY'

Game show host Alex Trebek posed the following question on "Jeopardy" on January 20, 2009:

*"In the Middle Ages, the Ghibellines supported the Holy Roman Emperor; the Guelphs, the man in this post?"*

Answer: The Pope