

The Siloam Spirit

1240 Fanshawe Park Rd. E. London Ontario N5X 3Z8



For the Fruits Of Harvest

J Evans Anderson

I'm grateful at this time of year
For all the golden grain,
For all the fruits of harvest time,
For sunshine and for rain.

For every blessing known to man,
And every lovely flower,
For each and every friend I have,
For every golden hour.

I'm grateful, too, for every child,
For every starry night,
For music, health and happiness,
For morning's promise bright.

I'm grateful for a path to choose
For weary feet to trod,
And to ascend the heights sublime,
Yes, hand in hand with God.

*Submissions
Publications Deadlines
For the Siloam Spirit
Publication*

November 11 Christmas
March 10 Easter
June 16 Summer

Early submissions are always
appreciated

Shelley Mercer, Office Administrator



Siloam
United
Church

Siloam United Church 2026 Contact List

Council Chair	Tracey Brown
Recording Secretary.....	Peggy Rivard
Treasurer.....	Lynn McClary
Outreach & Social Justice.....	Wendy Barbour
Spiritual Life & Worship	Margaret Smith
Congregational Life	Anita Elworthy Harla O'Neill
Regional Representatives.....	Steven Britton Mary Dillon
Ministry & Personnel.....	Chassidy Hall
Congregational Resources.....	Jim Anderson John Little
Communications	Tracey Brown
Property	Dave Dunham
HEAT	Lynn McClary (Healing Education Affirming Team)
Rose Birrell Group	Open
Young at Heart.....	Allison O'Connor
Garden Ministry.....	Randy Donkervoort
Minister Emeritus.....	Rev. Wib Dawson
Trustees	David Peeling
Music Director	Blythe George
Office Administrator	Shelley Mercer
Custodian.....	Maria & Rae Austin

Upcoming Events:

September 26.....Boutique Yard Sale
September 27.....Young at Heart Bake Sale + Reconciliation Sunday (HEAT)
October 4.....World Communion
October 11.....Thanksgiving Sunday
October 18.....Anniversary Sunday
November 1.....Daylight Savings Ends
November 7.....Santa Shoppe Bazaar

Message from your Church Council Chair

The Siloam Church Council meets monthly and is made up of representatives from each of the standing committees. We post meeting minutes on the website for those who wish to review council decisions.

In light of the ministerial changes that occurred in June, the council continued to meet over the summer instead of taking their usual break and I would like to thank to the council members for their flexibility in coming together. Rev Kerry Stover will be acting as our Pastoral Charge Supervisor until we have a permanent or interim minister in place and monthly meeting are scheduled for the 4th Wed of the month.

Highlights from the past few months include:

- Updates on the land sale – it is moving forward and it is anticipated that the deal could be finalized this year.
- Beginning planning for Siloam's 170th anniversary in fall 2027 – If you are interested in joining a temporary committee to help make this anniversary special, please reach out to the office.
- Planning for the creation of a Search Committee and pulpit supply
- Discussion of the future of our two largest fundraising events – the organizers of the chicken BBQ (John Bell) and the yard sale (Wendy Barbour & Pauline Newton) are retiring from their long-standing positions. Many thanks for all of their work to coordinate these events through the years. We will need new people to step up to take on organizing if they are to continue. Personally, I think these are important fundraisers that encourage community engagement and should continue. However, there may need to be changes to the organization of these events that allow for them to require less manpower. Anyone

with ideas for more efficient ways to offer a supper or yard sale can reach out to the office or a council member.



Update on the Search for a New Minister

The council is almost finished with recruiting members to make up the Search Committee and the next steps will include:

- Council approval of the Search Committee membership
- Revisiting and revising the position description – this work will be completed at an open council meeting in Sept
- Council approval for Position Description to be presentation at a congregational meeting
- Presentation of the Position Description for approval at a congregational meeting planned for Sept
- Approved Position Description presented to the regional council in Oct
- Search committee receives training and begins their work

The Search committee will endeavour to keep the congregation updated on their progress; however, it is important to remember that this process can be slow and much of the Search Committee's work is confidential.

Education, Understanding and Reconciliation: A trip to the Woodland Cultural Centre and Mohawk Institute, Brantford

On September 8th, David and Mary Dillon joined members of the Tri-Regions of Antler River Watershed, Horseshoe Falls, and Western Ontario Waterways for guided tours of the Woodland Cultural Centre and the former Residential School known as the Mohawk Institute in Brantford. The Centre and Institute are located on approximately 40 acres of Reserve Land situated within the City of Brantford. Also on this land is the Mohawk Chapel. Built in 1785, it was the first Protestant Church in Upper Canada and is now the oldest church in Ontario.

The tour of the Woodland Cultural Centre was very interesting. Our knowledgeable tour guide and the beautiful Indigenous artwork helped to tell the history of the area. The Six Nations of the Grand River is the only First Nation community that includes all six Haudenosaunee nations: Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, Mohawk, and Tuscarora. Established in 1972, upon the closure of the Mohawk Institute Residential School, the Centre is one of the largest facilities in Canada managed and administered by First Nations, and serves to promote and strengthen Indigenous language, culture, art and history.

The Mohawk Institute is the longest-running and largest Indian Residential School in Canada. Research indicates that 4,581 children attended the school during its 139 years of operation. It is estimated that 1 in 10 children who attended an Indian Residential School in Canada attended the Mohawk Institute. The Institute closed in 1971. There are records of 97 children dying while at the Residential School but this number may be higher as many students managed to escape, some never being heard from again.

This former Residential School was preserved to look the way in did during the years it had Indigenous children living, learning and working there. It was a powerful experience to walk down the hallways and through the various rooms, for the energy still exists there. Each room – and there were many, including the school room, dining hall, kitchen, boiler room, isolation room (5' x 4' x 6' tall with only a board the size of a single bed and a bucket for their toilet), boys' and girls' toy rooms and gender-specific dormitories. Each room, as well as some items and pictures within, were numbered and participants could hear the related story by pressing the appropriate number on the electronic gadget they were given. It was eye-opening and heart-wrenching to experience the stories (both audio and video) told by real people. Stories such as how they were taken from their families, forced to have their long, braided hair cut, and were forbidden from speaking their language, stories of attending class for part of the day and doing manual labour for part of the day, never receiving enough to eat, standing in line awaiting the strap for the least little infraction, and the stories of abuse! There were stories told by the children would be taken by a staff member and sexually assaulted behind the boilers where the machinery would drown out any sounds.

There were stories of boys and girls being segregated and told never to talk to one another. In the case of siblings, they were allowed to speak to one another for 15 minutes once a month. Stories of parents coming to visit and bringing gifts for their children which were quickly confiscated by the staff. Stories from children who managed to hide the little gift somehow and place it in a safe hiding place they discovered under the stairs where they could play with their toys and speak their language. A story from a little boy who never had a visit from his parents.

In many of the rooms, as well as on dining tables and desks in the school room, there were quotes from the students such as, "They have 90 cows here but we see no milk. They have 50 chickens here but we get no eggs. But the staff do." The children, in fact, were served plain oatmeal, known as mush, with nothing to

enhance it, which led to the school being called the Mush Hole. The oatmeal ranged from fresh to rancid, and meals never included milk or eggs, or meat of any kind.

What becomes apparent in the way the authorities within the system are described is one of people being worse than indifferent, with some of them being power-drunk and drunk with power to the point of committing abominations upon children. Such unconscionable behaviour by human beings, many who claimed to be Christian!

The United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, defines genocide as "... acts committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial, or religious group, including forcibly transferring children of the group to another group." Given this description, the Canadian House of Commons acknowledged that the destruction of Indigenous culture and forced assimilation can constitute genocide under international law.

Those who visited the Woodland Cultural Centre and the Mohawk Institute can't help but feel deep sorrow, and a desire for healing. We acknowledge the pain and suffering endured by Indigenous children and young people during their time in residential school and seek comfort and healing for all Indigenous peoples affected by this tragic legacy. And that trauma carries on still today in the families of the Residential School survivors.

As the poet Maya Angelou once said, "Once we know better, we must do better" and so we call for a commitment to reconciliation and justice, asking for the Holy Spirit to guide those in their effort to walk the path of truth and love.

Submitted by Mary Dillon



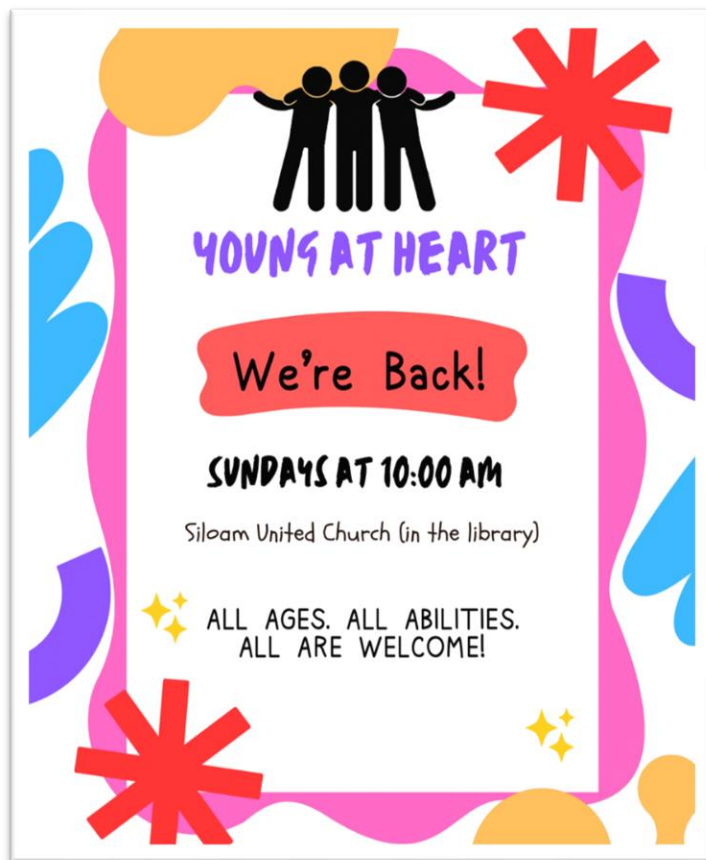
Congratulations, Allison O'Connor

Allison O'Connor has been selected as an outstanding Western University alumna, and will soon be added to the Don Wright Faculty of Music Wall of Fame.

Allison is being honoured not just for her talent as a musician and teacher, but her visionary work with Dreams Come True Music Studio, and her unshakable belief that the joy of music-making is a fundamental human right.

At Siloam, Allison's passion for meaningful inclusion has led to the creation of Young at Heart and Community of Faith Musical Theatre – safe and joyful spaces where every person and every ability is celebrated as a gift from God. We give thanks for Allison's ministry, her energy, and her inspiring leadership.

Allison will be honoured at Alumni Awards Celebration during Western's Homecoming on Saturday, September 26, 2026



Siloam United Church's Young At Heart group returned on Sunday, September 13 at 10:00 a.m. in the library! All ages, all abilities are welcome to join this wonderful

inclusive group celebrating our faith together! Come join us!
#inclusion
#abilitiesfirst
#singyoursong

COMMUNITY OF FAITH MUSICAL THEATRE
PROUDLY PRESENTS

**THE BEST
CHRISTMAS
PAGEANT EVER**

DO YOU LOVE TO SING AND ACT?
EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN!

REHEARSALS BEGIN
SEPTEMBER 13TH
9:25 AM - 10:00 AM

PERFORMANCE
DECEMBER 13TH
2:00 PM

SILOAM
UNITED CHURCH

EMAIL DREAMSCOMETRUEMUSICSTUDIO@GMAIL.COM BY SEPTEMBER 1ST TO REGISTER!

Greetings, Siloam family! Happy fall from your Director of Music, Blythe George

Over the summer, we welcomed musicians from our Siloam community and beyond. We welcomed back singer Andrea Wells, enjoyed a trombone solo by Steve Mitchell, were graced twice by our Arva ladies, heard from Sue Hay and Al Newton—and more! While I was on vacation, music was left in the talented, capable hands of Helen Bruzas, who dazzles us year after year. Thank you, Helen!

Starting September 10, choir practices will resume in the sanctuary on Thursday nights at 4:30pm, ending at 6:00pm. We looked forward to a few new faces joining us as well! If you are interested in joining us to sing, contact me, one of the choir members, or the church office. “There is room for all!”

In December, the choir looks forward to presenting a choral cantata by Mary MacDonald entitled “This Is Christmas”. The singers are already hard at work preparing for the performance on December 20. Here is a description of the work as described on the Lorenz website:

“Every Christmas, we celebrate the birth of a Child. With this breathtaking work, legendary composer Mary McDonald invites us to truly remember what is at the heart of Christmas: this Child, this King, this Savior who was sent to earth to redeem the world. THIS is Christmas.”

We look forward to sharing the cantata with you in December.

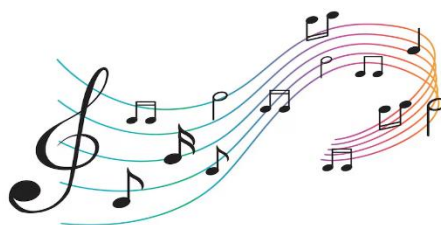
The Siloam handbell choir will be starting up soon. Rehearsals will continue to be in the sanctuary on Sunday after services. Handbell ringing is a rich musical tradition dating back to 17th century England. The practice was developed to enable bell tower ringers to practice “change ringing” on smaller, quieter bells. Over time, the ensemble was standardized, gaining its own library of unique and beautiful arrangements. Handbell ringing can be easily adapted to match the capabilities of all ringer, with opportunities to improve skills over time. It’s lightly physical and quite a lot of fun! If you are interested in joining us, contact me, one of our ringers, or the church office.

Finally, it is profoundly bittersweet that we wish Ruth Wannamaker a fond farewell as she moves back to her community in Lucan. Ruth has been most cherished by the choir. Her talents—singing, solos, narrations, and kindness—will be greatly missed. All the best to you, Ruth! ❤️

There is so much generosity and talent in the Siloam community. It is an honour to continue serving as your musical director. I look forward to this new season and all the joys and challenges ahead!

“See you on the ice!”

Blythe
blythepjgeorge@gmail.com
519-476-3309





Greetings from the Trustees of Siloam United Church

This memo is an update on our activities for the year to date.

On the investment front, we are maintaining our conservative approach by minimizing our exposure to equities given the volatility in a stressed financial market. This is especially true with Canadian equities considering the recent attack on our economy through trade sanction levied on us by our bad neighbour to the south. We remain invested for the most part in government insured G.I.C.s and an investment grade bank savings account. When the smoke clears the board will investigate broader opportunities.

The sale of the unused acre of land behind the church is proceeding in accordance with the terms of the purchase and sale agreement signed last fall. We expect to be notified in October 2026 whether the purchaser wishes to close the transaction at this time or extend it for another term. If an extension is optioned, then we are entitled to an additional deposit plus an extension fee. The board will keep the congregation informed as things progress.

Bless you all,

Dave Peeling

Financial Report from Council

We Need You!

Times of Transition can be both challenging and exciting. As we continue our mission to be Christ to each other and to God's world, let us work together. Please consider how you can contribute with your prayers, your thoughts and ideas, and with your financial support. Together, we are stronger, and we can live into our 170th year as a loving and caring community of faith with renewed hope, trust, and optimism. Contact any member of council if you have any concerns, suggestions, or questions.

Financial Report from Council as of July 31, 2026

INCOME	Total Yr. to Date	Notes:
Total Givings plus Dec. incr.	\$ 153,095.62	\$9,444 below 2025/PAR \$7,495 below 2025/\$14,146 below budget
Trustee Fund	\$ 3,051.09	1/2 of the Insurance cost covered by Trust - prorated
Trust Housing Allowance	\$ 7,583.33	From Trustees Fund
Rose Birrell	\$ 9,211.50	Rec'd \$12,000. Prorated at \$1,000/month & Paid for fridge
Contribution from UCC Found.	\$ 3,087.20	Rec'd \$5,292.30 in March. Prorated at \$441.02/month
Facilities Rental Revenue	\$ 16,550.05	\$7,800 over budget
Misc. Revenue	\$ 2,833.11	
Fundraising Revenue	\$ 32,207.45	Net Revenue YTD \$23,024 (Budgeted for \$39,700 for the year)
AV Production Revenue	\$ 910.00	
Grants General	\$ 1,754.19	Final payment for the Faithful Footprints Grant UCC
Total Income	\$ 230,283.54	
EXPENSES		
Staff & Contract Personnel	\$ 120,315.48	Over Budget \$3,296
W.S.I.B.	\$ 1,136.71	
Council Expenses	\$ 672.85	
Mission & Services UCC	\$ 8,750.00	Annual Target for 2026 \$15,000
ELUCO	\$ 7,000.00	Annual Donation \$12,000
Outreach	\$ 1,100.00	
Spiritual L&W/HEAT/Cong Life	\$ 6,024.54	
Prof. Fees/SC/Council Exp.	\$ 5,312.59	
National Assessment	\$ 11,659.69	Annual assessment \$19,988 (\$1,665.67/month)
CEBA Loan Pymt to Trust	\$ 4,666.69	Repay CEBA loan of \$40,000 to Trust (\$666.67/mo)
Fundraising Project Costs	\$ 7,088.10	Prorate expenses (\$833/month)
Office	\$ 3,645.96	
Fuel	\$ 2,846.60	
Hydro	\$ 11,948.94	
Annual Insurance Premium	\$ 6,102.18	Premium \$10,460.88. 1/2 paid by Trust Fund. Prorated
Bldg Maintenance & Repairs	\$ 11,224.94	
Communications	\$ 27,125.30	
New Horizons Grant Related Exp	\$ 311.52	
Total Expenses	\$ 236,932.09	
Net Ordinary Income	-\$ 6,648.55	Note: Negative Balance

Reuse, reuse, reuse

In the course of writing these articles, I've come across a term that I really like: "Earth-strategizing". The concept is not new to me, I just didn't have a name for it. When you Earth-strategize, you take time to think about what might protect our fragile environment – and what might harm it – before you act on anything. My husband and I have been doing it for so long it is ingrained in us, and that's a good thing.

We Earth-strategize by using the 3R's – REDUCE, REUSE and RECYCLE. In a previous issue of Fanfare we looked at the first R – reduce. The second most important R is reuse. Why? Because even though recycling is a good thing to do, it still uses energy and resources.

Reuse means that you use the same item over and over again instead of throwing it away. Here's an example of how one household can make a big difference: I've been using cloth shopping bags for at least 30 years now. Over that time, I would have used an average of 10 bags a week which works out to about 500 a year. Multiply that by 30 and that equals a total of 15,000 plastic shopping bags that my household has kept out of landfill!

We've come a long way since when I first started using cloth bags. Last year, the Canadian government banned the use of single use check out bags, along with some other single use plastics. This is a good first step.

But there are still many other opportunities to reuse items. Here are some ideas:

- Use a reusable coffee filter instead of single use pods.
- Avoid buying take-out coffee or take your own mug. Estimates suggest that Canadians use between 1.6 and 2 BILLION disposable coffee cups a year!
- Instead of using paper towels to wipe up a spill or to clean something, use cloth dishcloths and cleaning cloths that can be washed and reused.
- Remember, there are two sides to every piece of paper - use both sides before you recycle it.
- If you must use batteries, get rechargeable ones that will last for years
- Reuse plastic containers from things like margarine and sour cream. Use them to store your leftovers in the fridge and freezer or to organize small things like elastic bands or paper clips.
- Plastic milk bags and bread bags are now recyclable in Ontario. But they can still be washed and used again several times before they go in the Blue box. I never buy freezer bags or zip-lock bags, and I haven't bought plastic cling wrap for over 20 years. Instead, I use the bags I already have, with a twist tie to close them. I also have beeswax cloths to cover and wrap things in. Even a piece of aluminum foil can be wiped off and used again.
- Get reusable net bags to put your produce in when you buy groceries instead of wasting so many plastic produce bags.



- Take your own dishes and cutlery when you go to large social gatherings where you know they will be using paper or Styrofoam plates. I've created a little "picnic pack" to take with me. If anyone questions you, it becomes a good opportunity to talk about how we all need to do our part to reduce the garbage we produce.
- Shop second-hand. The opportunities and options are endless! Thrift stores and Consignment shops are everywhere and on-line sites like Kijiji offer treasures galore. It's a win-win situation.

My husband and I found all kinds of great buys at the Habitat for Humanity Re-store last year when we were helping our daughter with her house renovations. Not only are you saving some of the earth's precious resources but you'll be saving yourself some money as well.

I know that change is not easy - just take it one step at a time. The important thing is that we all become more Earth-conscious. Before you buy anything or throw anything in the garbage, think about what impact it will have on our environment. Then ask yourself how you can lessen that impact by making wiser choices. Before you know it, Earth-strategizing will become a habit for you too.

5 Simple Ways to Reduce Plastic at Home:



1. Carry a reusable water bottle.



2. Use cloth bags instead of nylon.



3. Avoid disposable plates/cups.



4. Reuse containers for storage.



5. Buy in bulk to reduce packaging.

✨ Every small change helps protect our planet.

👉 Which of these do you already practice?

Submitted by Maria Prohaszka

Boutique Yard Sale

SILOAM UNITED CHURCH
1240 Fanshawe Park Road E.

Saturday, Sept. 26th, 8:00 – 12:00 noon

Bling
Jewellery

Bags
Purses, Totes

Boutique
Fashions, Shoes &
Accessories

Great Value Great Prices

Cash Sales Only.

Small Bills & Change Appreciated
Please bring your own shopping bags

Drop off dates are Monday to Wednesday, Sept. 21-23, 9am-4pm

(no furniture, electronics, sporting goods, or housewares)



Baked Goods
Great Variety

Books
Puzzles, Games and CD's
(no toys)

Rose Birrell
Monthly Meeting
*Come and meet
The Famous Five.*



November 12, 2026
at 1pm
Siloam United Church
Library / Chapel

Join us for tea and treats followed by a presentation by The Women In History Group. Each of the five women will tell their story about getting the right to vote, have equal opportunity in education and occupations and how they participated in the war efforts.

All Ladies Are Welcome!

Rose Birrell
Santa Shoppe Bazaar

Saturday, November 7, 2026
10am – 1pm

Support the work of the Rose Birrell group by shopping at the Santa Shoppe Bazaar! Christmas cakes, pickles, jams, meat pies & Christmas sweets as well as crafts, quilts, woodworking, sewing items and more!



Siloam United Church
1240 Fanshawe Park Road East (at McLean Drive)
www.siloamunitedchurch.org
519.455.9201 (9am—1pm Monday to Friday)

Healthy Body, Mind and Soul

Siloam offers a variety of fitness classes to keep you moving through the week.

Ageless Grace
Join Dillie on Wednesdays from 1-1:45pm
Tolpuddle Hall, \$5/session

Cardio & Fitness Class
Wednesdays from 2-3 pm
Tolpuddle Hall, \$5/session

Pickleball At Siloam

In the beginning, well in 1965 as myth has it, there were 3 friends in the US looking for a game that was easy to learn, suitable for players of all ages, and could be played in someone's backyard. The friends simply started experimenting with elements from many different sports and a new game came into being that combined aspects of tennis, badminton, and table-tennis.

Now it just so happened that Joel, one of the friends, had a dog named Pickles. That much is true. As legend has it, if during a game the ball went into the bushes surrounding Joel's back yard, all

Joel had to do was command his dog to get it, "Pickles, ball" and Pickles would happily return the ball to his master. So, the friends settled on the name of the new game – Pickleball.

That was in 1965. Within the next 7 years pickleball became formalized with rules and the first tournament was held. This led to international recognition over the next 4 years and rapidly began to spread around the world. Today pickleball is recognized as the fastest growing sport in the world. In some locations, tennis courts are even being converted to pickleball courts.

Late in 2019, playing pickleball indoors became possible at Siloam. The air-conditioned gym (known as Tolpuddle Hall) was already lined off for badminton and is the exact dimensions of a pickleball court, so the invitation went out to Siloam seniors (50 and over) that if there was interest, they could play. Except for the forced break during Covid, we have been playing pickleball at Siloam ever since. There are currently 8 to 9 2-hour sessions happening Monday to Friday each week during the year. Many have heard about it through word-of-mouth and our roster of players who have registered is now at 80 people. Some play very regularly, some play only occasionally. Many are not members of Siloam United Church, but that does not matter – all seniors are welcome. Everyone who plays says that the social comradery they enjoy is just as much fun as playing the game. If you are in your 50th year or more and interested in playing, even if you have never played before (yes, it's that easy to learn), simply contact the Siloam Pickleball Club Coordinator Allyn Todd at 519-204-1917.



Photo by Amy Vieira: Playing pickleball in Tolpuddle Hall at Siloam

Submitted by Allyn Todd

Tolpuddle Martyrs Cemetery Restoration Project

I have been asked to present an update on the Tolpuddle Martyrs Cemetery Restoration Project. I think I mentioned five of the six 'martyrs' came to Upper Canada. One stayed in Britain. Four of the five 'Martyrs' who came here were buried either in Siloam Cemetery, (Fanshawe Park Road) or Mount Pleasant Cemetery. The fifth martyr, James Brine settled in St. Marys, Ontario and is buried there.

Over the past few years, it became apparent all of the Martyrs' graves in London needed attention. In fact, James Loveless (brother of George) had no marker whatsoever.

It was decided to try and raise money for repairs. A "Go Fund Me" campaign was a possibility; but a lack of charity status would limit the project's ability to engage donors because no tax receipts could be issued.

So, Siloam United was approached to see if it would agree to have a GoFundMe campaign run through it. Happily, Siloam United agreed.

In total, almost \$12,000 has been raised, with about 2/3rd coming from relations. The balance has come from labour organizations, corporate matching, interested individuals, and the Siloam United congregation. Any monies left after expenses will remain with the church, in appreciation of its assistance.

Another question was: Could better signs be created? There is provincial historical signage at the Siloam cemetery, but it contains errors.

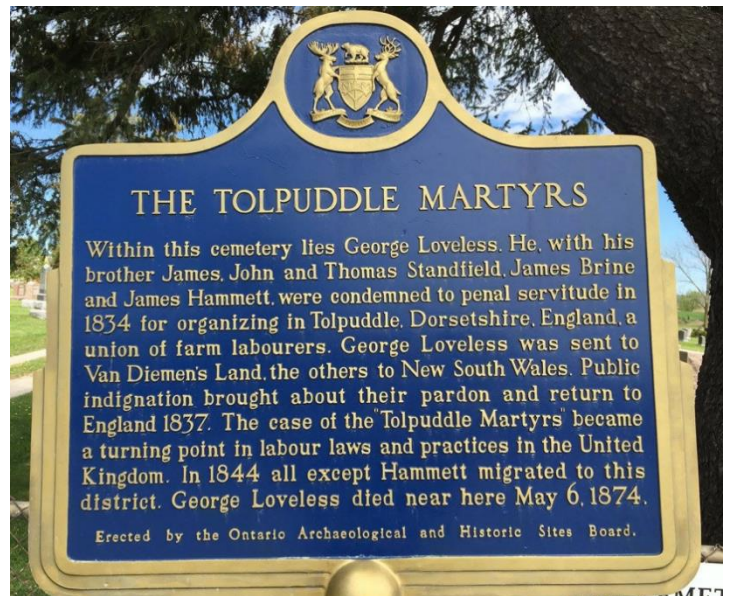
Mount Pleasant Cemetery has no signage at all regarding the Tolpuddle Martyrs.

Yet, it was decided not to fund signage from the GoFundMe campaign because the stated mandate of the Ontario Heritage Trust is to deal with such issues. Project organizers have been in communication with the Trust and are still awaiting a response.

So, let's look at each of the gravesites:

1. George Loveless at Siloam Cemetery (*Along with his wife Elizabeth*)

George's stone was weathered and highly stained. In addition, while all the other Martyrs' stones carried the inscription "TOLPUDDLE MARTYR", his, ironically, didn't. So, George's stone was cleaned and the missing inscription added.



2. Thomas Standfield (George's brother-in-law) also at Siloam Cemetery (*with wife Dinniah Loveless*)

For many years Thomas' burial site was unknown, but in the late 1960s local historian Allen Talbot discovered its whereabouts in Siloam church records. Almost certainly as a result of Talbot's discovery, the present monument was erected around 1970. The new stone includes the inscription "TOLPUDDLE MARTYR".



3. John Standfield (nephew of George Loveless) at Mount Pleasant (*with wife Elizabeth*)

John's stone is by far the most elaborate. It is a double arch for both he and his wife and it has several sections. It was seriously crowded by a large bush, highly stained, and had a serious lean. So, the bush was removed, the monument re-leveled and the stone cleaned. It was already inscribed with "TOLPUDDLE MARTYR".

4. James Loveless (brother of George Loveless) at Mount Pleasant (*with wife Ann Dagg*)

James' situation was by far the most challenging and expensive part of the project. James had died in 1873 and was initially buried in the Wesleyan Methodist cemetery in East London. However, all the graves in this cemetery were relocated to the new Mount Pleasant Cemetery during the 1874-1879 period. James may have had a marker at Mount Pleasant, once but there was no evidence of it. In effect, he rested in an unmarked grave.

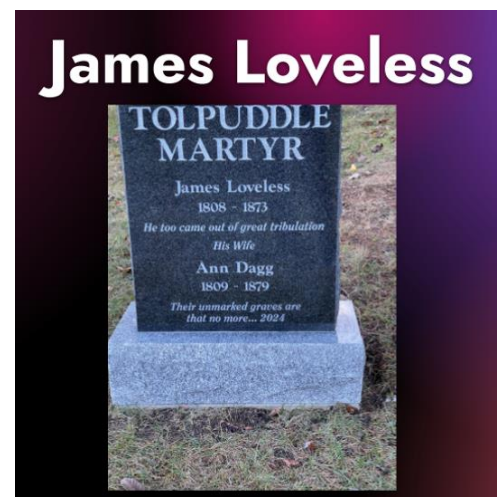
So, the project set about getting him his own stone but could not find a living descendant. By law, only a living descendant could allow a gravestone to be created or altered. Fortunately, Mount Pleasant got around this regulation by giving James Loveless a historical designation.

Another complication was that the published literature on who was buried *with* James was incorrect. To set the record straight, the project organizers requested notes be added to the back side of the stone.

This was something not done, normally, but in this case Mount Pleasant made an exception.

Notice, the front of James' stone bears the inscription "*He too came out of great tribulation*". This is a reference to his brother George's stone in the Siloam cemetery which carries an inscription from the Book of Revelation:

*"These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the lamb".
(Rev. 7:14)*



Tolpuddle Martyrs Cemetery Restoration Project continued

So, the work is now finished and the grave sites much improved. The organizers would very much like to thank:

- Siloam United Church (Allyn Todd)
- Mount Pleasant Cemetery
- Siloam Cemetery
- Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultants
- Archeology Department, Western University
- Karen Stephens and Maureen Loveless who promoted the project back in Tolpuddle, Dorset
- Ingrid Geuens (Belgium) for her *pro bono* artwork; and, last but not least,
- all the individual donors who have helped bring this project to a successful conclusion.

Signed: Gayle Young, Cindy Hartman, Geoff Anderson

Submitted by Mark Richardson

