

# **Regional Council 15 Archives**

## **Finding Aid #306**

### **Port Hawkesbury: St. Mark's Pastoral Charge (Nova Scotia)**

**Regional Council 15 Archives  
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**Updated on February 25, 2022**

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**Reference Number:** PC/306

**Title:** Port Hawkesbury: St. Mark's Pastoral Charge fonds

**Dates:** [1930s]; 1950-2019

**Extent:** 48.5 cm of textual records and 1 photograph

**Administrative History:** A pastoral charge consists of one or more communities of faith (known as preaching points prior to 2019) under the spiritual leadership of a minister. The pastoral charge title usually reflects the breadth of the geographic area encompassing the charge.

The Port Hawkesbury: St. Mark's Pastoral Charge is located on the southwestern end of Cape Breton Island on the Strait of Canso. It consists of the community of faith of St. Mark's United Church.

The history of the pastoral charge is traced back to five churches: Zion Methodist Church, Robertson Presbyterian Church, Sunnyside Methodist Church in Point Tupper, Port Malcolm Methodist Church and Melville Methodist Church.

In 1828, a local businessman named Andrew la Bracey, along with several others, built a small Methodist church which was offered to the Wesleyan Missionary Society on the condition that a minister be sent immediately to serve the community. Rev. J.G. Hennigar was sent from Sydney as the first resident minister. The Methodist ministry at Port Hawkesbury was affected by many businesses moving from the area and in 1848 the Methodist church building was loaned to the Congregationalists. When the Eastern British America Conference was formed in 1855, the Methodist mission was resumed. A new church, Zion Methodist, was dedicated on January 13, 1883. A Methodist church was dedicated at Sunnyside on December 17, 1893. A church was dedicated in Melville on May 3, 1902. Sunnyside Methodist Church was located in the vicinity of the Gulf Oil Refinery. By 1925, the Port Hawkesbury Methodist Circuit contained the appointments of Port Hawkesbury, Sunnyside, Port Malcolm, and Melville.

Robertson Presbyterian church was constructed on Granville Street in 1911 and was named for Dr. James Robertson, Superintendent of Missions in the West.

In 1925, the Congregational, Methodist and the majority of Presbyterian Churches in Canada were united into one denomination--The United Church of Canada. At this time, Zion Methodist Church and Robertson Presbyterian Church were united into one congregation with the name Zion-Robertson chosen for the new United Church. The congregation worshipped in the former Methodist building and the Presbyterian church building became known as Robertson Hall and was used until 1936. Robertson Hall later became the home of a boxing club. The new pastoral charge also included Sunnyside and Port Malcolm. Melville was placed in the West Bay Pastoral Charge and was closed in the early 1930s.

In 1936, it was decided that Port Hastings and Port Hawkesbury would share a minister although they remained as separate pastoral charges.

A new manse was built in Port Hawkesbury in 1940.

The Zion-Robertson congregation decided to purchase land and build a new church in 1959. The official sod-turning took place on June 16, 1965 and St. Mark's United Church was dedicated on June 12, 1966. The bell from Zion-Robertson was placed in St. Mark's United Church. The Zion-Robertson building was demolished on September 24, 1966 and the land was later sold.

Sunnyside United Church was located near the Gulf Oil Refinery. In 1945, after most of the congregation members had moved away, Sunnyside United Church was moved to Point Tupper where it was used for Sunday School programs and a monthly church service. The church was renamed Point Tupper United Church. It was closed in 1966 and later sold. It is unknown when Port Malcolm United Church closed but the building was placed under the trustees of Port Hawkesbury in 1967.

Effective January 1, 2019, The United Church of Canada underwent some structural changes including the elimination of all Presbyteries. At this time, Port Hawkesbury: St. Mark's Pastoral Charge became part of Regional Council 15.

**Custodial History:** Information about the custody of these records prior to acquisition is incomplete.

**Scope and Content:** Fonds consists of membership directories; minutes; reports; correspondence; financial accounts; orders of service; newsletters, a photograph; a certificate; unpublished histories; and newspaper clippings. Fonds is composed of the following sous-fonds:

- Port Hawkesbury: St. Mark's Pastoral Charge records
- Zion-Robertson United Church records

**Notes:**

**Source of Supplied Title Proper:** Title based on contents of fonds.

**Accruals:** Further accruals are expected.

**Immediate Source of Acquisition:** Records were received from the pastoral charge in November 1987; April 1992; November 1992; January 1994; February 1996; 1998 (accession 98-021); 1999 (accession 99-029); 2000 (2M-005); 2002 (accession 02-046); 2003 (accession 03-107); 2008 (accession 08-020); 2013 (accession 13-046); 2014 (accession 14-027); 2015 (accession 15-051); 2016 (accessions 16-019 and 16-022); 2017 (accession 17-073); and 2020 (accession 20-006).

**Related Records:** See the W. Burton Crowe fonds for photographs from Zion Robertson United Church and St. Mark's United Church.

**Associated Records:** The Nova Scotia Provincial Archives has microfilmed records from St. Mark's United Church including baptism records (1829-1978); marriage records (1830-1967); burial records (1917-1963); membership rolls (1924-1969); Official Board minutes (1925-1953); and Sunday School minutes (1925-1955).

**Reference Number:** PC/306/1

**Title:** Port Hawkesbury: St. Mark's Pastoral Charge records

**Dates:** 1962-2019

**Extent:** 43 cm of textual records

**Scope and Content:** Sous-fonds consists of membership directories; minutes; reports; correspondence; orders of service; newsletters, unpublished histories; and newspaper clippings from St. Mark's United Church. Sous-fonds is composed of the following series:

- Membership Records
- Records of Congregation
- Records of Committee
- Records of Women's Organizations
- Newsletters
- Orders of Service
- Other
- Annual Reports
- Church Histories

**Note:**

**Source of supplied title proper:** Title based on contents of sous-fonds.

**File List:**

**Membership Records**

<b>File Number</b>	<b>File Title/Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
PC/804/27	Pictorial membership directory on occasion of 20 <sup>th</sup> anniversary	1986
PC/1006/4	Pictorial membership directory	1996
PC/1051/5	Pictorial membership directory	2007

**Records of Congregation**

<b>File Number</b>	<b>File Title/Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
PC/836/18	Invitation to celebrate St. Mark's United Church's Jubilee Year	June 10-12, 2016
PC/505/16	Email correspondence and photograph re. Jane MacKinnon, church secretary, on the occasion of the 35 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of her work as secretary	October 2016
PC/1002/3	Correspondence with the Maritime Conference Archives	1988-1994

**Records of Committees**

<b>File Number</b>	<b>File Title/Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
PC/1050/1	Pastoral Care and Worship Committee minutes	April 17, 1990-November 15, 1994
PC/1050/2	Pastoral Care and Worship Committee minutes	January 17, 1995-February 16, 1997
PC/1050/3	Pastoral Care and Worship Committee minutes	February 18, 1997-November 21, 2000

**Records of Women's Organizations**

<b>File Number</b>	<b>File Title/Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
PC/1050/9	UCW minutes	January 18, 1962-October 5, 1965
PC/1050/10	UCW minutes and roll	April 7, 1970-March 8, 1976
PC/1050/11	UCW minutes and roll	April 5, 1976-November 8, 1982
PC/1050/12	UCW minutes and roll	January 10, 1983-March 10, 1986
PC/1050/14	UCW treasurer's book	1971-1979
PC/1050/13	UCW meeting agendas	January 1983-1988
PC/804/22	UCW Ester Unit minutes	n.d.
PC/804/23	UCW Esther Unit minutes	January 1969-January 18, 1972
PC/1050/18	UCW Esther Unit minutes	February 15, 1972-October 18, 1977
PC/1050/19	UCW Esther Unit minutes	October 1978-January 15, 1980
PC/1050/15	UCW Mary Magdalene Unit minutes	February 11, 1969-April 22, 1975
PC/1050/16	UCW Mary Magdalene Unit minutes	May 26, 1975-January 1980
PC/1050/17	History of the Mary Magdalene Unit by Dorothy MacNeil	n.d.

## Newsletters

\*Note: The newsletters are for both St. David's United Church (Port Hastings) and St. Mark's United Church (Port Hawkesbury).

<b>File Number</b>	<b>File Title/Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
PC/1468/18	Contact newsletter	April 1996; June 1996; December 1996
PC/1468/21	Contact newsletter	1977-1979
PC/1468/22	Contact newsletter	1980-1985
PC/1468/23	Contact newsletter	1986-1993
PC/1468/24	Contact newsletter	1994
PC/1468/25	Contact newsletter	1995-1999
PC/1531/10	Contact newsletter	2000-2001
PC/1531/9	Contact newsletter	2002; November 2003; June 2004
PC/1531/11	Contact newsletter	2005; November 2006; 2007

## Orders of Service

\*Note: The orders of service are for both St. David's United Church (Port Hastings) and St. Mark's United Church (Port Hawkesbury).

<b>File Number</b>	<b>File Title/Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
PC/804/29	Orders of service	October 1991-April 1992
PC/813/1	Orders of service	1992
PC/813/2	Orders of service	1993
PC/813/3	Orders of service	1994
PC/1002/1	Orders of service	1995
PC/1002/2	Orders of service	1996
PC/1006/1	Orders of Service	1997
PC/1006/2	Orders of Service	1998
PC/1006/3	Orders of Service	1999
PC/1006/5	Orders of Service	2000

PC/1006/6	Orders of Service	2001
PC/1040/1	Orders of service	2002
PC/1040/2	Orders of Service	2003
PC/1040/3	Orders of Service	2004
PC/804/19	Orders of Service	2005
PC/804/20	Orders of Service	2006
PC/804/21	Orders of Service	2007
PC/1050/20	Orders of Service	2008
PC/1051/1	Orders of Service	2009
PC/1051/2	Orders of Service	2010
PC/1051/3	Orders of Service	2011
PC/1051/4	Orders of Service	2012
PC/1052/9	Orders of Service	2013
PC/153/4	Orders of Service	2014
PC/836/14	Orders of Service	2015
PC/483/27	Orders of Service	2016
PC/1470/8	Orders of Service	2018
PC/1470/9	Orders of Service	2019

**Annual Reports**

<b>File Number</b>	<b>File Title/Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
AR/309	Annual reports	1985-2019

**Other**

<b>File Number</b>	<b>File Title/Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
PC/804/6	Pamphlet for amateur church musicians compiled by Dorothy MacNeill of the Joyful Noise Department	n.d.



**Church Histories**

<b>File Number</b>	<b>File Title/Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
CH/306	-History: "St. Mark's United Church" compiled by Audrey MacLaughlin, Rilla McLean, June Oliver, and Laura Swain	June 11, 1989
	-History: "Celebrating The Past: St. Mark's United Church and its Predecessors" (June 11, 1989)	
	-History: "50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memories," 4 pp., (1975)	1975
	-History: "Memories" compiled by Lucille Evans, Rilla McLean, and Audrey MacLaughlin, 11 pp. (1986). Also includes update done in 1988 (2 pp.)	1986
	-Photocopy of newspaper clipping: "Dedication of New Church at Port Hawkesbury Sunday," The Chronicle-Herald (June 10, 1966)	June 10, 1966

**Reference Number:** PC/306/2

**Title:** Zion-Robertson United Church (Port Hawkesbury) records

**Dates:** [1930s]; 1950-1961

**Extent:** 5.5 cm of textual records and 1 photograph

**Administrative History:** In 1925, Zion Methodist Church and Robertson Presbyterian Church were united into one congregation with the name Zion-Robertson chosen for the new United Church. The congregation worshipped in the former Methodist building and the Presbyterian church building became known as Robertson Hall and was used until 1936.

The Zion-Robertson congregation decided to purchase land and build a new church in 1959. The official sod-turning took place on June 16, 1965 and St. Mark's United Church was dedicated on June 12, 1966. The bell from Zion-Robertson was placed in St. Mark's United Church. The Zion-Robertson building was demolished on September 24, 1966 and the land was later sold.

**Scope and Content:** Sous-fonds consists of minutes; financial accounts; a report; a photograph; a certificate; and a newspaper clipping. Sous-fonds is composed of the following series:

- Records of Women's Organizations
- Records of Men's Organizations
- Annual Reports
- Photographs
- Church Histories

**Note:**

**Source of supplied title proper:** Title based on contents of sous-fonds.

**File List:**

**Records of Women's Organizations**

<b>File Number</b>	<b>File Title/Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
PC/1050/8	Woman's Association (WA) minutes and roll	December 8, 1959- December 12, 1961
PC/804/24	WA treasurer's book	1950-1956
PC/804/25	WA treasurer's book	1957-1961
PC/1050/4	Woman's Missionary Society (WMS) minutes and roll	January 1956-January 19, 1961
PC/1050/5	WMS minutes and roll	February 16, 1961- November 16, 1961
PC/1050/6	WMS agendas	1951-1952

PC/1050/7      WMS agendas      1954-1956

**Records of Men's Organizations**

<b>File Number</b>	<b>File Title/Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
PC/483/28	Charter certifying that the Zion-Robertson Men's Club is enrolled within The National Association of United Church AOTS Men's Club	October 24, 1958

**Annual Reports**

<b>File Number</b>	<b>File Title/Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
PC/804/28	Annual report	1964

**Photographs**

<b>File Number</b>	<b>File Title/Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
V/1/104	Exterior of Zion Robertson United Church B&W. 7 cm x 9 cm. Portion of photograph is torn off. Possibly from Charlotte Philpott.	[1930s]

**Church Histories**

<b>File Number</b>	<b>File Title/Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
CH/306	-Photocopy of newspaper clipping: "Churches by the Sea: Zion-Robertson United Church, Port Hawkesbury" by M. Allen Gibson	April 3, 1954

## Ministers of Port Hawkesbury Methodist Circuit

1829-1830: J.G. Hennigar  
1830-1833: Matthew Cranswick  
1833-1835: Thos. Crosthwaite  
1835-1838: Thos. H. Davies  
1838-1840: A.W. McLeod  
1840-1854: No regular supply  
1854-1857: W.G.T. Jarvis  
1857-1858: Charles Gaskin  
1858-1859: S.F. Huestis  
1859-1861: Jos. Sutcliffe  
1861-1862: John Johnson  
1862-1865: J.W. Howie  
1865-1868: E. Slackford  
1868-1869: J.G. Bigney  
1869-1872: A.E. LePage  
1872-1875: A.F. Weldon  
1875-1878: Jos. B. Hemmeon  
1878-1880: J.A. Mosher  
1880-1882: G.W. Tuttle  
1882-1885: C.W. Swallow  
1885-1888: J. Astbury  
1888-1891: F.A. Buckley  
1891-1894: R.B. Mack  
1894-1897: C.W. Swallow  
1897-1900: W. Purvis  
1900-1903: W.F. Cann  
1903-1906: R. McArthur  
1906-1907: D. Hickey  
1907-1911: W.H. Evans  
1911-1915: J. Astbury  
1915-1918: J. Sharp  
1918-1922: C.H.C. McLarren  
1922-1924: N. Coll  
1924-1925: R.L. Roach

## Ministers of Port Hawkesbury Pastoral Charge

1925-1927: R.L. Roach  
1927-1929: R.L. Coffin  
1929-1936: A.R. Reynolds  
1936-1939: Angus J. MacQueen  
1939-1942: Russel MacSween  
1942-1947: Burton Crowe  
1947-1951: W.K. Pace  
1951-1955: Harold O'Brien  
1955-1957: G.A. Christie  
1957-1958: E. Lloyd Salsman  
1958-1964: Ronald Dempsey  
1964-1967: Boyd Butt  
1967-1972: Eldon Gunn  
1972-1978: Dawson MacDonald  
1978-1979: Walter Davis  
1979-1987: Rev. Kenley MacNeil  
1987-1992: Kimball William Fraser  
1992-1993: James G. Crooks  
1993-1998: William R. MacLennan  
1998-2002: ----  
1999-2002: Debbie A. Aitken  
2002-2003: Donald J. MacDonald  
2003-2007: Wilfred E. Pelley  
2007-2010: G.L. Sheldon LeGrow  
2010-2011: Robert S. Lockhart  
2011-2020: Nancy E. Corrigan  
2020-2021: ---