



OLD HAY BAY CHURCH - 1792

A National Historic Site of Canada

South Shore Road, Napanee, Ontario

To All Fellow Loyalists and Historians

The Old Hay Bay Church needs your support. We have been fundraising for the restoration of the exterior of the church and other needs inside and on the cemetery grounds. Our initial quotes have seen a sharp increase in costs due to the prices of materials and labour.

We are making an urgent appeal to the Loyalist of Canada to support the work required on our beloved church. Please help us ensure the future of this important part of our Loyalist heritage.

Why you should support OLD HAY BAY CHURCH

In 1957 the church was officially recognized as an Ontario Historic Site. In 1992 it was added to the United Methodist Church Register of Historic Sites in the United States.

Hay Bay Church received National Historic Site recognition in 1999 as an artifact of philosophy and spirituality, early settlement and places of worship. The recorded heritage value of the site is:

- it was built in 1792 by United Empire Loyalist settlers, and is associated with the province's early days of settlement and with the Methodist's contributions to Upper Canada's early social and political development;
- it is the oldest surviving Methodist building in Canada, it was a significant station on the first Methodist circuit in Upper Canada and was the site of the first camp meeting in Upper Canada and;
- because the Methodists were also the largest of the three groups that joined together in 1925 to form the United Church of Canada, it is also significant in the history of that national organization.

Old Hay Bay Church is of simple design, first built in 1792 as a meeting house in the early days of Upper Canadian settlement when communities were small and isolated, and waterways were the main form of transportation. Its pioneer meeting house character is greatly reinforced by its site and the unspoiled rural setting. The church was conceived as a public space used for both secular and religious meetings although its internal arrangements reflected its religious priorities. Despite some changes, the church still retains the essential characteristics of the pre-1840 evangelical meeting house, as the church still retains the essential characteristics of the pre-1840 evangelical meeting house, as it was developed in Britain, New England and modified in Upper Canada. Enlarged in 1835, Old Hay Bay Church closed as a regular place of worship in 1860 and becoming a farm storage area. In 1910 it was reacquired and restored by the Methodist Church. It currently houses a museum and is still used for annual services by the United Church of Canada."

The church is recognized as being an important part of the history of Ontario and particularly for Lennox and Addington County. Starting in 1784, the region between Kingston and the east side of Prince Edward County was one of the first to receive loyalist settlers. These and later settlements prompted the British government to establish the province of Upper Canada in 1791.

“The Cradle of Methodism in Upper Canada”



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Old Hay Bay Church is included in the sites on the Loyalist Parkway Association website and maps which promote tourism throughout this historic area between Trenton to the west and Amherstview to the east.

For more information on the church like us on Facebook or www.OLDHAYBAYCHURCH.CA
Donations may also be done through CanadaHelps.

Cheques are payable to Old Hay Bay Church Restoration Fund and should be mailed to Jen Wilson, PO Box 53, Yarker, Ontario K0K 3N0.

Sincerely

Orland French, Fund Raising Chair

Elaine Farley UE, Restoration Chair

Angela Johnson UE, Restoration Secretary. johnsonue@bell.net

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