

**ST. MARY'S  
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**MAIDSTONE, ONTARIO**

**EST. 1846**



## **St. Mary's Church**

**In the early to mid 1800's, the pioneering families of what would become Sandwich South, attended mass at Assumption Church in the town of Sandwich. It was a 12 mile walk each way.**

**At the time Maidstone was know as the " Irish Settlement ". Occasionally missionary priests from Assumption would say mass in the log homes of the Irish settlers in the Maidstone area.**

**By 1842 the first small log church was built on County Road # 46.**

**In 1845 it was decided that a larger church was needed to meet the demands of the growing Catholic population. This brick church was well used but needed to be replaced just 25 years later.**

**It was during this time in 1846 that St. Mary's was established as a separate parish.**

**Construction began in 1872 on a new and larger brick church at Maidstone Cross, its' current location. The corner stone was laid in 1874. The first wedding performed in the church was between William Cole and Catherine Driscoll.**

**Over time a parish cemetery, rectory and convent were added.**

**St. Mary's Church continues to be the focal point of the villiage of Maidstone. A healthy parish life continues to serve the needs of the community.**

ESSEX FREE PRESS CLIPPINGS  
1980's

MAIDSTONE CROSS NEWS

LENTEN CARD PARTIES  
Many Familiar Parish Names

MAIDSTONE  
CROSS

The sixth and last card party in the Lenten Euchre series had 22 tables in attendance. Mens

1st - Harvey Hayes donated by Mr. and Mrs. Stan Eyraud  
Second - Tom Belleau donated by Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Walsh.

Third - Vince Shanahan donated by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Renaud.

Consolation - Jean Reaume donated by Doreen Eyraud. Ladies

First - Rosemary Beahan donated by Mr. and Mrs. Martin Strong.

Second - Sharon Maitre donated by Mr. and Mrs. Emmett McLean.

Third - Alice Perry donated by Jim Shanahan.

Cons. - Diane Dawson donated by Mr. and Mrs. Gerard Vanhoorne.

Raffle prizes:

Frank Renaud donated by Thomas Lavin Realty.

Marie Kane donated by Big V Pharmacy, Tecumseh

Blaise Bellmore donated by Harvey and Marion Hayes

Tim Belleau, donated by Kimball Building Supply, Essex.

Door Prizes:

Joe Fenton donated by Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Tecumseh.

Father Bastien donated by the Can. Imp. Bank of Commerce, Tecumseh

Mary Anne Shanahan donated by Sadlers Highway Market, Essex

M. Kosokowski donated by Can. Imp. Bank of Commerce, Tecumseh

Florence Gerard donated by Mrs. Gerard McCarthy

Diane Dawson donated by Don Sylvestre.

Beth Jobin donated by the Can. Imp. Bank of Commerce, Tecumseh.

There was also a prize given for the oldest and youngest person in attendance. The oldest was won by Marie Kane and the youngest by Colleen Kananaugh. Both prizes were donated by Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Van Hoorne.

The Series prizes went to the following:

First - Nelson Tremblay, 43 games

Second - Florence Gerard, 42 games

Third - Catherine Clarkson 42 games

The executive of the Altar Society would like to thank all the couples who worked so hard at making our card parties so enjoyable. A special thank you to all of the card sharks whose faithful attendance once again made our series a success, and to all those who so willingly donated prizes. A Happy Easter to you all.

MAIDSTONE  
CROSS

The first Card Party in the Lenten Euchre Series had 22 tables in attendance.

Game Prizes: Mens first, \$5.00 Jim Dame, donated by Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Sexton; second, a Super Pizza, from Capri Pizzeria, Dougall Ave., won by E.J. Clarkson; third, a case of pop from The Pop Shoppe, Ouellette Pl., won by George Diesbourg; consolation, two passes to Wheels roller skating rink, Dougall Ave., won by John Mullins Jr.

Ladies first - \$5.00, Shirley

Fitzpatrick donated by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Allen; second, a super pizza from Capri, won by Eleanor Johnson; third, a case of pop from the Pop Shoppe, won by Blanche Knuckle; consolation, two passes to Wheels, won by Pat Carter.

Raffle Prizes? a bowling bag from Bowlero Bowling Lanes, Tecumseh Rd. W., Pat Carter; a heavy duty hose nozzle, Oldcastle Co-op, Marie Markham; \$10 gift certificate from Dominion

Stores, Pat Belleau; \$10 Woolco gift certificate, Gordon Jobin; dinner for two at Ponderosa, Mike Mullins; a plant from Forsyth Travel, Essex, Mike Mullins.

Door Prizes: tote bag from Forsyth Travel, Peter Halford Sr.; \$5 gift Woolco gift certificate, Catherine Clarkson; dinner for two at Lond Fone Restaurant, Rev. Fr. L. Bastien; two passes to Wheels, Isabelle Hayes; large pizza from Amando's Pizzeria, Nelson Tremblay.

MAIDSTONE  
CROSS

St. Mary's Cemetary spring Clean-up -

Any ornaments left on graves after March 21 will be disposed of when the cemetary is cleaned in preparation for Easter.

The second of six Lenten Card Parties in the St. Mary's Hall saw 24 tables of eager euchre players.

Men's 1st prize was won by Mr. John Kovac and was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Shanahan. Men's 2nd prize, donated by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Cook, was won by Mr. James Quinlan.

Men's 3rd prize was won by Mr. Peter Halford Sr. and was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Gary Deehan. The consolation prize went to Mr. Ralph Simmons and it was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Andy Kotow.

The cards had to be shuffled and after all the ladies had their turn at cutting, an Ace high was drawn by Mrs. Kay Mc Suliffe, the 1st prize winner, and her prize was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Leo Shanahan. More shuffling of the deck, and Mrs. Adeline Jobin walked away with the second prize, donated by Mr. and Mrs. Roy Deehan. Third prize went to Mrs. Pauline Quinlan and it was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Andy Kotow. Mr. and Mrs. Gary Deehan complimented Trudy Mc Cann with the consolation prize.

The four door prizes were won by : Mr. Ed Burling, donated by Mr. and Mrs. Emmett McCarthy. Mr. Mike Mullins, donated by Mr. and Mrs. James Quinlan. Mr. Ron Garrad, donated by Mr. and Mrs. Peter Halford Sr. and Dorothy Fox won a gift certificate, compliment of the Essex Big V Pharmacy.

The numerous raffle prizes were won by Mrs. Blanche Knuckle, compliments of the Green Giant, Tecumseh, and Mr. Tom Shanahan, Jr. won a case of tomatoes donated by Thomas Canneries. Mr. Frank McCloskey and Mr. Andy Kotow each went home wearing a new farm hat, compliments of Rice's Farm Equipment, Woodslee. Linda Halls will enjoy the stationary she won from Miss Judy Gould and Dolly Shanahan has a new picture to hang in her home, compliments of Mrs. Rosemary Halford. Mr. Ralph Simmons will now have a place to hang his keys, since he won a lonely key rack made by Mr. Jack McSuliffe. Mr. Mike Mullins won two macarame plant holders, compliments of Stedman's, and Mr. Tom Shanahan Jr. also won a gift donated by Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Chevalier. Fun was had by all. Mr. and Mrs. Jack McSuliffe donated the coffee, tea, sugar and pickles.

Those who helped make the evening fun were Mr. Gerald Shanahan, Mr. and Mrs. Andy Kotow, Mr and Mrs. Peter Halford Jr., Mrs. Wilma Bissonnette, Mrs. Maureen Choje, Mrs. Carolyn Collins, and Mrs. Dolly Shanahan. Those who could not attend but sent gifts and goodies were Mr. and Mrs. Roy Deehan, Mr. and Mrs. Gary Deehan, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Chevalier and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Cook.

Remember, the parties will continue for the next four Sundays, beginning at 8 o'clock. Plan on attending. We promise a good card game - lots of fun, meet new people, have a nice lunch and win prizes. What a great way to beat the winter blues!

## MAIDSTONE CROSS

The 2nd card party in the Lenten series held at St. Mary's Church hall had 22 tables at play.

Game prizes: mens first \$5 donated by Mr. and Mrs. Gary Deahan won by Alex Renaud; mens 2nd \$4 donated by Mr. and Mrs. Peter Halford Sr. won by Jeremy Jobin; mens 3rd, \$3 donated by Mr. and Mrs. Emmett McCarthy won by E.J. Clarkson. Consolation prize of \$2 donated by Mr. and Mrs. Roy Deahan was won by Tony Santarossa.

Ladies 1st, \$5 donated by Mr. and Mrs. James Quinlan won by Phoebe Croft; 2nd \$4 donated by Mr. and Mrs. Leo Shanahan won by Blanche Knuckle and Maryanne Shanahan; 3rd, \$3 donated by Mr. and Mrs. Roy Deahan won by Pauline Bellmore and Evelyn Lawhead. Consolation, \$2 donated by Mr. and Mrs. Emmett McCarthy won by Marie Markhan and Diane Lawhead.

Raffle prizes: \$10 donated by Mr. and Mrs. Ken Borrowman, won by Jeremy Jobin; 1 case of tomatoes, donated by Thomas Canning won by Catherine Clarkson; 18 piece punch bowl set donated by Stedmans, Essex won by Craig Jobin; case of frozen food donated by Green Giant won by Joan Marie Fenton; case of frozen food donated by Green Giant won by Les Stiers.

Door Prizes - \$7 gift certificate for gas, donated by Leo Baillargeon Service won by Sylvestre McGuire Jr.; \$5 donated by Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Shanahan won by Rose Mary Beahan; \$5 gift certificate donated by Essex Big V won by Amelia Renaud; picture made by Judy Gould and framed by Rose Mary Halford won by Mrs. Ralph Sexton; framed picture donated by Rose Mary Halford won by Annie Kobelsky; handmade cards donated by Judy Gould won by Florence Gownalock; \$1 donated by Mr. and Mrs. Peter Halford Sr. won by Louann Hebert.

Thank you to all who so kindly donated prizes, the lovely lunch, all who helped in any way and especially thanks to all who came out to play, you made our evening a very enjoyable and successful one.

## MAIDSTONE CROSS

The first card party in the Lenten Euchre series had 24 tables in attendance.

Winners were: Mens - 1st, John Mullins, donated by Co-Operators Insurance agent, Dan McGuire; 2nd - Jim Quinlan, from Emmett and Mary McCarthy; 3rd - Bill Fenton, from Emmett

THE ESSEX FREE PRESS — Friday, February 29, 1980 — 15

and Mary McCarthy; Cons. - Tom Deehan, from Leo and Betty Kosokowsky; Ladies - 1st - Dorothy Fox, donated by Jim and Evelyn Markham; 2nd - Leneath Damp-house, from Chris and Kathy McCarthy; 3rd - Madeline Diesbourg, from Emmett and Mary McCarthy; Cons - Rose Sexton, from Leo and Betty Kosokowsky; Raffle - Ron Garrod, donated by Em-

mett and Rita McGuire; Donna Gemus, from Bob and Betty Ann Quinlan; Rose Sexton from A Friend; Door Prizes - Veronica Benoit, donated by Tom and Bonnie Quinlan; Brian McGuire, donated by Cameo Hairstyles; Larry Maitre, from Rob and Marlene St. Louis; Rosemary Beahan, from Cameo Hairstyles; Dan Oates, from Sadlers Supermarket.

## MAIDSTONE CROSS

The 4th card party in the Lenten series held at St. Mary's Church hall had 22 tables.

Game prizes - mens first, \$5 donated by Bob and Betty Quinlan won by Bill Fenton; 2nd, \$2 from Mrs. Marjorie Quinlan, Betty and Leo Kosokowsky to Joe McCarthy; 3rd, \$3 from Emmett and Rita McGuire to Alex Renaud; consolation \$2 by Emmett And Rita McGuire to Tom McCarthy.

Ladies first - \$5 from Marc and Jane Coultier to Joyce Poyuter; 2nd, \$4 from Leo and Betty Kosokowsky to Blanche Knuckle and Marylou Oriet; 3rd, \$3 from Jim and Evelyn Markham to Pat Charter; consolation \$2 from Jim and Evelyn Markham to Diane Lawhead.

Raffle prizes: 1st Heinz Gift Pack given by Monica Collins, compliments of Heinz, won by Jim Quinlan; 2nd Begonia plant from Kathy and Chris McCarthy to Maurice Chevalier; 3rd \$10 from Bonnie and Tom Quinlan to Alex Renaud; 4th cup and saucer from Halmo Jewellers to Mrs. Marjorie Quinlan; 5th \$7 from Mrs. Marjorie Quinlan to Katherine Clarkson.

Door prizes - china butter-dish from Halmo Jewellers to Merine Labute; \$5 from

Chuck and Brenda Sally to Pat Belleau; steak knives from Jim and Evelyn Markham to Bill Fenton; towels, from Jim and Evelyn Markham to Judy Jobin; embroidery portrait kit from Bob and Betty Quinlan to Lillian Grondin; Jhirmack Jel shampoo for men, from Betty Kosokowsky to Dan Fenton.

A special thank you to all who donated prizes, the lovely lunch, all who helped in any way and especially to all who came out to play, making our evening very enjoyable and successful. God bless you all.

Also donated for door prizes was Jhirmack complexion bar by Betty and Friends won by Robert Quinlan.

A dinner-dance was held last Saturday evening to benefit the refugee family of the St. Mary Parish. The evening was organized by John Hebert and hosted by Bob Croft, Grand Knight of the Essex Council, Knights of Columbus. Chef Blaise Bellemore prepared a chicken and beef dinner that kept everyone asking for seconds and third helpings! During the evening of fun and dancing the following door prizes were awarded:

-A gift certificate for a cut, shampoo and set at Betty and Friends Hair Studio won by Bernard Barrett; a gift certificate for a permanent at Betty and Friends Hair Studio won by Loyola Beahan; three small framed needlepoint pictures from Rosemary Halford two won by John Grantmoire and one by Blanche Knuckle; a bouquet of flowers from Macdonald Muffler to Ray Kavanagh; a bouquet of flowers from Pleasant Park Machining to Carolyn Polewaki; handmade cards

from Judy Gould to Mary McCarthy; handmade stationary by Judy Johns to Valerie Wood; an enormous bottle of moose milk from Ernie Kenette to Leonard McCarthy.

Many thanks to all who helped make this a very pleasant and successful evening - especially Theresa Letzlaff the number one ticket seller in Maidstone.

1986  
On Sunday evening St. Mary's welcomed neighbouring churches including Bethel-Maidstone, St. Stephen's and Redeemer to a joint prayer service to begin Holy Week. Rev. John Swain gave the sermon and Loni Jones representing Bethel-Maidstone assisted Fr. Kornacker in the various readings. Also assisting at the service were Jackie Tofflemire and Pinky Markham. Several visiting choir members augmented St. Mary's choir to help make the celebration a joyous one. Following the service coffee and donuts were served in the school gym.



109-YEAR-OLD St. Mary's Church in Maidstone is getting a facelift

## Church glory restored

**MAIDSTONE** — Not everything old is worth keeping.

But an old church which has accumulated the grace of St. Mary's is worth not only keeping, but also restoring to its best.

It's not the biggest church in Essex County — River Canard is much larger. Nor is it the oldest — Assumption is older. But, St. Mary's is still a beautiful church attended by the descendents of the pioneers who built it.

And, on the flat county horizon, it is a focal point for the Irish Catholic community which settled the Maidstone area a century and a half ago.

Rev. Linus Bastien says the parishioners of the 109-year-old Roman Catholic Church made a commitment about five years ago to revive the aging brick building.

**SINCE THEN**, Fr. Bastien says close to \$400,000 has been invested in the church, on both structural necessities and esthetics.

The list of projects includes such fundamentals as new shingles on the massive roof, to a new heating system. Three years ago, the beautiful lead-lined stained glass windows were taken down and restored.

Inside, pews were stripped and refinished and a new heating system was installed. Local artist George Kaltika was hired to revive the mosaic which adorns the ceiling, and the interior of the church was repainted.

But the most-ambitious restoration work was done this year. This spring the church hired a private contractor to reinforce the large, wood trusses which hold up the roof. After a century of wear, the trusses were cracking, and in danger of letting the roof collapse.

**THIS SUMMER**, 12 people have been employed under a \$137,000 federal/provincial makework program cleaning and repointing the mortar on the exterior

or brick. That work is about four weeks from being finished, but it has not been without its controversy.

While most parishioners seem to favor the grant program, parishioner Don Flood said it is "unprincipled" to accept money from a federal agency.

"The parishioners are well able to pay for it," he said. "And if the parishioners can't afford to save it, it should have been torn down, and they could put up something they can afford."

**"THE PARISHIONERS** were very interested in restoration," he said. "We considered applying for a historical grant, but we had to do something right away."

Fr. Bastien said the stained glass was literally "falling out" before it was restored.

"There's a lot of community pride here," he said. "The building was built by these people's ancestors, and the stained glass was donated by their ancestors."

**THE PARISH**, in fact, is 137 years old. It started in a log church built by parishioners in a barn raising-style bee a little way down the road from the existing structure.

By 1848, it was clear a bigger church was needed. A small brick church was built, but needed replacing again within about 25 years.

The cornerstone for the new church was laid in 1874, and the plot for a new cemetery chosen. The church cost \$14,000 back then, and was built with clay made at an Essex County farm.

The Roman Catholic community has grown, too. A two-room school built behind the church in 1960, has expanded into eight rooms, and is now part of the county separate school system.

While the village of Maidstone has diminished into a hamlet, it appears as though the church will remain as a dominant part of the community as far into the future as one can see.

JULY 23/2000

# Irish settlers honoured in stone

## Celtic Cross remembers Emerald Isle pioneers

JULY 2000

By BOB STEWART  
STAR COUNTY REPORTER  
LAKESHORE

Irish eyes may be smiling — as well as welling up with tears — Sunday when a nine-foot granite cross is unveiled at St. Mary's Catholic Church in the former village of Maidstone.

The project is nearing completion thanks to the hard work of Tim McGuire who, Irish roots aside, wants to do something to commemorate the legacies of the 159 Irish pioneer families who settled in the Maidstone area and helped establish the Catholic parish there.

"People from as far away as New Jersey are going to attend," he says.

The idea of erecting a memorial to the Irish settlers was first hatched by Christine Quinlan-Gordon who visited the Maidstone church 33 years ago to view the graves of her great-grandparents.

She was disappointed that she could only find her great-grandfather's grave marker.

"She's coming back," says McGuire "to pay tribute to her great-grandparents."

### Vermont granite

Made from Vermont granite which was shipped to Quebec to be cut and then to Kitchener to have the Celtic design carved into it, the cross will be erected upon a granite epigraph block bearing the names of the 159 founding families.

McGuire adhered to a strict criteria to determine what names are included.

Using church marriage, baptismal and burial records from between 1846 and 1910, McGuire included the name if it was found in two out of three sets of records.

Sextons, Shanahans, O'Neils, McCarthys and the McGuire family name itself, were just a few of the pioneer names discovered.

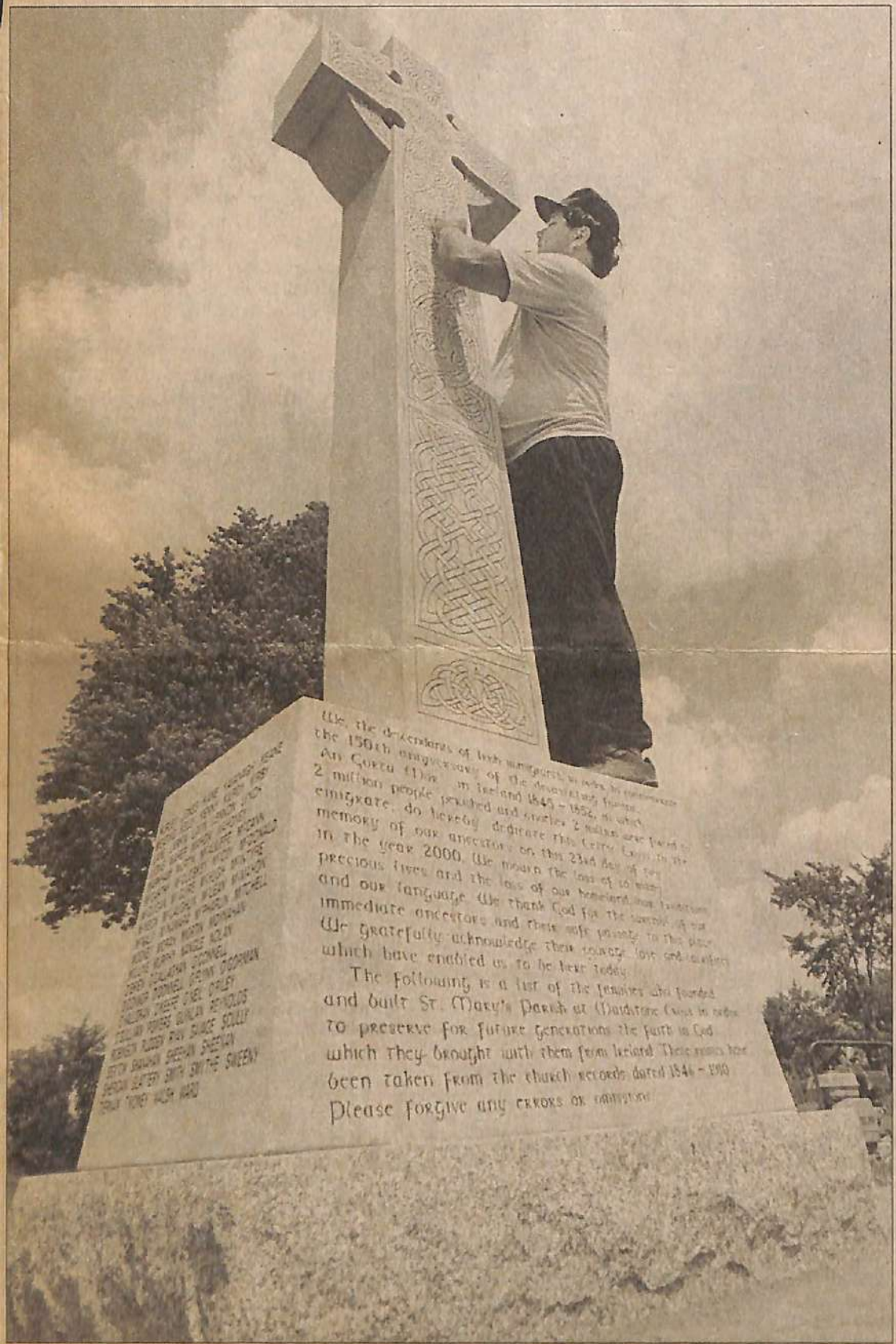
Pioneer life was tough and needs to be honoured, said McGuire. "Pioneers had to make decisions back then as to whether or not they were going to pull their nine-year-old child out of school to help on the farm," says McGuire. "It happened to my grandfather. His last will and testament was signed with an X."

Funding for the \$18,000 memorial, set on an 18 by 18 foot landscaped plot which includes planters and benches, came in the form of a grant from the Canada Millennium Partnership, contributions from the parent advisory council at St. Mary Elementary School, the Maidstone Knights of Columbus, the Irish-Canadian Culture Club, the Windsor Celtic Festival and private donations.

"We want this monument to show that this generation recognizes and appreciates the hardships of the past," says McGuire.

The unveiling will be at St. Mary's cemetery at approximately 1:15 p.m. following Sunday mass.

Afterwards a celebratory social will take place in the church hall.



Dan Monaghan of Hailmark Memorial Co. polishes a Celtic cross Thursday after it was erected at St. Mary's Catholic Church cemetery in Maidstone.

Star photo: Dan Janisse

# Celtic cross raised as symbol of past

by Richard Parkinson

The potato famine, which struck Ireland in 1845, lasted two years and resulted in the death of an estimated one million people.

Furthermore, and much more importantly to our area, it caused another million Irish to pick up and leave their homeland to seek out a new life in new lands.

The foundation of the community of Maidstone Cross is one that is solidly Irish - with most names having a Celtic flavour to them.

Many of the descendants of these founding families can trace their roots back to ancestors who left Ireland during the potato famine and came to North America, Essex County

specifically, to start anew.

On Sunday, St. Mary's church held a special service in remembrance of the An Gorta Mor (the Great Hunger) and dedicated a newly erected Celtic Cross to the memories of the Irish descendants (and all descendants) of the Maidstone community.

Curiously enough it was an American who spear-

headed this particular initiative.

Kathleen Quinlan-Morand, a New Jersey resident, whose family roots are buried deep in Maidstone soil approached the St. Mary's congregation some time ago to see if they would be interested in this sort of a venture.

The congregation responded enthusiastically and through a Herculean effort they managed to raise the \$22,000 needed to purchase the twelve foot granite monument which is beautifully engraved and includes 159 family names taken from church records, dated from 1846 - 1910.

Quinlan-Morand hoped that the Celtic Cross itself will stand not only as a symbol of the "sacrifices that people made when they came to this country" but also as a "wonderful historic legacy left in stone so that the ones that come after us can appreciate it".



Last Thursday, an impressive, twelve foot, Celtic Cross was erected on the grounds of the cemetery at St. Mary's in Maidstone. The cross is a part of a monument that honours the memory of the founding families of St. Mary's Parish and the community of Maidstone Cross. The monument is engraved with 159 family names which were drawn from church records by Tim McGuire. The parish held a special dedication service last Sunday in honour of the occasion.

## *The Founding Irish Families who helped build St. Mary's Parish - Maidstone Cross*

Allen, Austin, Barrett, Barry, Battersby, Beahan, Brady, Brazil, Brennan, Broderick, Brown, Burke, Butler, Byrne, Cahill, Carroll, Casey, Chittle, Clancy, Cole, Collins, Connelly, Conroy, Conway, Costigan, Cunningham, Curney, Daly, Daniher, Daugherty, Dawson, Deehan, Delaney, Dennison, Devlin, Dillon, Dixon, Dolan, Donaghue, Donnelly, Donovan, Dooley, Doran, Downing, Doyle, Driscoll, Dunn, Fahey, Fallon, Farrell, Ferry, Fields, Fitzgerald, Fitzpatrick, Flanagan, Flannery, Furlong, Gallagher, Gaughan, Geary, Graham, Grant, Green, Greenaway, Haley, Halford, Hamilton, Haugh, Hayes, Healy, Henchey, Hennessey, Henry, Hickey, Higgins, Hogan, Houlihan, Hughes, Hurley, Jones, Kane, Kavanagh, Keane, Keating, Kelly, Kenny, Kilroy, Kirby, Lane, Larkin, Lavin, Lennon, Lynch, Lyons, Maher, Mahon, Mahoney, Markham, Martin, McAuliffe, McCann, McCarthy, McCloskey, McCoy, McDonald, McGuigan, McGuire, McHugh, McIntyre, McKeon, McLaughlin, McLean, McMahan, McPharlin, Mitchell, Mortin, Moynahan, Mullins, Murphy, Nangle, Nolan, O'Brien, O'Callaghan, O'Connell, O'Connor, O'Donnell, O'Flynn, O'Gorman, O'Halloran, O'Keefe, O'Neil, O'Riley, O'Sullivan, Powers, Quinlan, Reynolds, Robinson, Rudden, Ryan, Savage, Scully, Sexton, Shanahan, Sheehan, Sheenan, Sheridan, Slattery, Smith, Smythe, Sweeny, Tiernan, Twomey, Walsh, Ward.

*Please forgive any errors or omissions.*

*Note: These names were taken from church records dated 1846-1910.*