

Notes of the History of St. Paul's Barachois West, Quebec  
( prepared by Rev. Hugh Matheson)

**Clergy of the Malbay Mission from the founding of St. Paul's in  
Barachois West**

George Radley-Walters	1893-1914
Sidney Radley-Walters	1914-1928
William C. Dunn	1928-1934
John Comfort	1934-1936
<i>vacant</i>	1936-1938
William T. Gray	1938-1939
Macklem Brent	1939-1941
Edwin Parkinson	1941-1944
Hugh I. Apps	1945-1957
Ian Brockus	1957-1958

Morley Thomas	1959-1962
John Robson	1962-1964
Capt. Garnet C.A.	1964-1965
Gordon S. Peabody	1965-1968
David Belden	1969-1972
Rae Fletcher	1973-1976
William McMillan	1976-1983+
Gary Nicolosi	1984-1986
Alisa Spackman	1986-1993
Stuart Pike	1993-2000
Hugh Matheson	1993-2000
Susan Hutchison	2000-2005
Ellen Rutherford	2005-2009
Jason Pollick	2009-

## **1895 Synod Report**

### **Reverend Mr. Radley-Walter's reflection on the first year of St. Paul's from the Report to Synod of that year:**

The Lord Bishop<sup>2</sup> consecrated the Grave-yard and the Church when here in July last. I have been very much interested in establishing this little Church at Barachois, and am glad to find the congregation beginning to take quite an interest themselves. Since opening for Service, the attendance has been regular and very good. I try to give a Service every Sunday afternoon, except when Holy Communion is celebrated, then I give a morning Service. All are supplied with Prayer and Hymn Books, and I can notice a marked improvement in the singing and responding, and reverence is shown for God's House. When I compare this with the Services which I conducted so long in the miserable old School-house near-by, I feel I may take courage for the future. Twenty candidates were confirmed<sup>3</sup> in this Church, whose ages varied from twelve to seventy-five years. The Services were well attended at both the Consecration of the Church on Saturday<sup>4</sup> and the Confirmation on the Sunday afternoon. At both Services the Bishop preached very interesting and earnest sermons, making quite an impression for good upon all present. Thus we have now a neat, well built Church, standing upon its own consecrated and enclosed ground, insured and free of all debt.<sup>5</sup> (...) I would

tender my best thanks to all who in any way helped me in this work at Barachois, and especially the families of Robertson, and John McCallum, who have helped in many ways by their generosity in giving lumber free of cost.<sup>6</sup>

Our efforts at Barachois are now centered in raising funds for a bell, and stain and varnish, for the interior of our Church. I would here thank...the ladies of the congregation for their trouble in getting up a capital Tea, whereby the sum of \$91.00 has been raised.

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<sup>2</sup>Bishop: Andrew Hunter Dunn 5th Bishop 1892-1914

<sup>3</sup>The names and ages of 19 of the 20 have been located: William Ross;67, Ernest Hodgins; 18, Alfred Hayden; 18, Henry Hayden; 22, Edward Lemesseurier; 21, Zerubbabel LeMeasseurier; 33, Albert Robertson; 29, William Ross Jr; 26, Alfred Ross; 24, Edom(?) Girard; 10, Mary Ross; 11, Laura Ross; 12, Maud Langlois; 13, Mary Jane Hayden; 13, Martha Hayden; 13, Elizabeth Ross; 39, Margaret LeMesseurier; 30, Mary Amiee; 75, Elizabeth Robertson; 33

<sup>4</sup>July 21, 1895

<sup>5</sup>Geo. R-Walter's notes indicate that the Church cost \$1,050.00

<sup>6</sup>We may also include the names of Thomas John Touzel, who built the church structure, and of Fred Hodgins who completed the interior. Many other contributions are anonymous due to the passage of time

## **Minutes of the First Vestry**

**The first vestry meeting of “St. Paul’s Church” was held in the church on the Thursday in Easter Week 1896.** Present: W. Ross Sr., W. Ross Jr., James Ross, Albert Ross, Alec Robertson, Albert Robertson, William Robertson<sup>7</sup>, Thomas McCallum Clarence McCallum, Thomas DeVouge, Edwin Girard, George Buckley, Fred. Hodgins.

Proposed by Albt Robertson, and seconded by Thos. Buckley that W.W> Ross be appointed Church Warden. W. Ross accepted. Rev’d Mr. Walters appointed Mr. John McCallum as his Warden. Mr. Walters then read the duties and explained them of Church Wardens. Statements of Accounts paid were then laid before the meeting and accepted. Mr. Walters thanked all for their contribution and helping in various ways in the Church building.

M.T.C. Alywin Esq. of Quebec was proposed by W. Ross and seconded by Mr. Albert Robertson as a delegate to the Synod and elected thereto.

There being no other business before the meeting, it was then adjourned after the collects had been said.

Geo. R. Walters, Minister

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<sup>7</sup>Alexander, William, and Albert, were all sons of the first settler of Bridgeville: Duncan Robertson; who settled from Gaspé in 1826

## **1898 Synod Report**

At Barachois, the small congregation intend building a suitable horse-shed, and have, I believe, most of the material cut for that purpose. To Mr. William Ross I owe much for the interest he continues to take in behalf of the Church as its Warden. Here too, have the congregation, with some little effort, succeeded in repainting the exterior of their Church, making it look quite pleasing to the eye.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup>Financial reports state \$25.00 was required for the task

## **1906 Synod Report**

We have lost but a few members by death; but a great many of our young people have gone from us in search of domestic employment in our larger cities, Montreal and Toronto. At Barachois an iron gate has been purchased for entrance to Church lot, the intention being to provide a neat iron fence so soon as sufficient funds for the purpose can be raised. The Lord Bishop of the Diocese visited us during the past summer and confirmed at each station – at Mal bay 25 Candidates, at Corner Beach 4, at Barachois 9, and by his words of loving exhortation helped and encouraged all to live the higher life.

## **1921 Synod Report**

**The following is from the Report of the Reverend Mr. Sydney Radley-Walters to the Synod of the Diocese in 1921.**

I am indeed very sorry to report, that the past summer has been a very poor one for the larger portion of my people, who depend upon their success in Cod fishing; the catch was a small one, and the price a little more than one-half of last summer's sale, and worst of all, the fish buyer to whom a large number sold their fish, failed, causing a loss to these poor people of their entire summer's catch, not realizing a penny for their years work, with the result, that at this moment of writing many families are in great distress, poverty, and not a few, I regret to say, starving, existing on potatoes, without flour or any other kind of food. On behalf of the poor people of my parish I gratefully and thankfully acknowledge receipt of the splendid donations of our good Bishop and Dr. John Hamilton, of Quebec, with which to buy flour and other food for these poor people.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>9</sup>In spite of these hard times Barachois still raised \$180.30; a respectable sum and \$38.51 more than in 1914, the year of the Great War



## **Further recollections leading to a clearer feel for life in the Congregation:**

There were many obstacles to travel and these were felt by clergy as well. There was no road between Barachois and Corner Beach until 1926. This meant that a priest had to get to Barachois by road, but to Corner Beach by boat. Macklem Brett (39-41) came to Barachois by dog sled: The first pavement was not laid until 1951 and the roads were not plowed in the winter until the 1970's. Hugh Apps (45-57) hired people to drive horse sleighs to 5 services each Sunday. Among those who served in this capacity was Stewart Duncan of Malbay. Morley Thomas (59-62), who had white van, was forever getting stuck in the snow on the way to Barachois for Service.

During the incumbency of Mr. Hugh Apps, the Barachois members began a Bridge Club. People would travel all the way from Malbay to Corner Beach to join in the fun. When there were not enough players, sometimes older children would be asked to lend a "hand". Members included Anna & Hugh Apps, George & Edna Robertson, Rupert & Hazel Girard, Esther Robertson and her daughter Leslie, Reggie & Louena Mabe, Irving & Marianne McCallum, Stanford & May Chicoyne, Anne McCallum, and others. The Bridge Club wound to a close soon after the Apps left in 1957.

In early years there was a Methodist congregation at Barachois West. After it closed the building was purchased by St. Paul's and used as a Parish Hall for many years. The hall is long since gone, but there are yet a few graves to mark the site. St. Paul's Barachois remained one of 3 congregations in the Malbay Mission until the opening of the L'Anse a Brilliant Church during the incumbency of Sidney Radley-Walters. The Mission remained in this configuration until 1992, when the congregations joined with 2 other parishes to make a new parish: The Greater Parish of Gaspé.