



Cheapside United Church

Damaged in Easter Fire Cheapside United damaged in Easter fire

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had held a sunrise service earlier in the morning. The service was followed by breakfast served in the basement.

Reverend Arnold Creaser said a congregational meeting will be held tomorrow to decide what should be done about the fire damage. The church was partially insured, he said.

"We have already been offered the use of five churches in the Selkirk area if we can't get back to ours for some time," Mr. Creaser said. "Everybody has been pitching in trying to help."

At the time of the blaze Reverend Creaser was officiating at a ceremony at Nanticoke. He noticed that something was amiss when

someone came into the service and took a man out who draws water. Later in the service Rev. Creaser's wife came to the front of the church and announced that there had been a fire at Cheapside.

By the time Rev. Creaser got to the church the fire was out and men were clearing up rubble while

women were mopping up the water upstairs. Six firefighters managed to carry the church's nearly new organ out of the smoke filled church.

Two firefighters, Fergie Heastont and Bill Van Brocklin were treated for smoke inhalation.

Rev. Creaser said there were a number of paintings and other items that could never be replaced. The basement consisted of a fellowship room, a Sunday school room and a kitchen.

Recently the presbytery has been studying the situation of mergers. It isn't known now how this fire will affect that.

"It is going to take a lot of elbow grease and hard work to clean up the church," said Rev. Creaser. "The water has taken the finish off the floors and the smoke has stained the windows. We would hope that this hardship will bring

the people of the congregation closer together."

changed into work clothes to return and begin cleaning up the sanctuary.

Fire Chief Dave Otterman said that although the fire was confined to the basement of the 26-year-old brick church there was extensive smoke and water damage to the main floor.

The cause of the blaze attributed to faulty wiring. Although there was no fire in the church when the fire started, the Young People's

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By Dick Houghton

SELKIRK — When members of Cheapside United Church arrived for Easter Sunday service, they found firemen fighting a blaze in the basement of their church instead.

The alarm was turned in at 9:30 a.m. by the pastor of the nearby Brethren-in-Christ Church, who was on his way to his own service, when he noticed smoke billowing out of the basement.

Reverend Charles Byers, who turned in the alarm, said the Selkirk Fire Department was on the scene within 10 minutes.

"If it had been another half-an-hour, the whole church would have been destroyed," he said.

Fire departments from Fisherville and Jarvis also responded for the blaze which caused \$35,000 damage.

Many of the congregation went home,

HALDIMAND EAST W.I. CONFERENCE

THE REGIONAL TELEGRAPH

Mrs. L.H. Alton from Grand River W.I. welcomed approximately 50 ladies to the 1975 Spring Conference.

The conference commenced with the singing of the "Opening Ode". We were greeted by our President Mrs. C. Clark with an Easter poem, after which she thanked everyone for their kind remembrance while she was convalescing from her accident.

Mrs. V. Mowat, our Sect. Treasurer, was called on for the minutes of the Fall Conference which were read and approved. Treasurer's report was given followed by the correspondence being read and dealt with.

The metric system is getting closer. If you would like some help to make the change, booklets may be obtained from the Bank of Montreal free of charge.

Anyone that is interested in Tweedsmuir History, a district workshop is being held for curators on Wednesday, April 25th at Kohler from 10 - 4. Please bring a box lunch.

Please try and keep May 21st free as you are all needed at the District Annual. It takes only a few to plan the event, but everyone is needed to make the day a success. Shall we meet at Kohler at 9.15 for registration?

A bus trip to Mennonite Country was discussed and decided upon. Please let Mrs. Clark know as soon as possible or send word to the planning meeting how many want to go from each branch. The date of the trip being June 26th.

The District has obtained W.I. plates with the map of Haldimand on, for the branches to sell. Each District Director has further information on her branch. If anyone is interested in purchasing one of these plates, contact any W.I. member and she will be glad to help you.

Entertainment was provided by a youth group calling themselves "Joyful Noise". The group was led by Mrs. Parry playing the guitar. They have entertained in hospitals, and homes for the aged. We were very privileged indeed to have them with us.

Mrs. F. Matthews brought us greetings from the F.W.-I.O. She reminded us that 1975 is International Women's Year and June has been designated as W.I. month. Mrs. Matthews is hopeful that each branch will put forth an extra effort to do something special in June to make it a time we will all remember. She also asks the Standing Committee Convenors of the District to get a 100% report from the branch-

es. If convenors at every level do their job, it makes the load lighter for all. Mrs. Matthews suggested if any branch has extra copies of the "Home and Country" please put them in dentists' or doctors' offices so other women may enjoy our Institute magazine.

Mrs. Clark has called a planning meeting for April 14th at 1.30 in the Agriculture office in Cayuga, asking the District Executive and Branch District Directors to please be present. At the same time and place, the Nominations Committee will also meet; the committee consisting of one member from the following branches: Kohler, D & R, and Grand River.

Mrs. N. Knol showed slides

of Yester Year, what the villages of Selkirk, Canfield, Dunnville, Cayuga, Canboro and surrounding areas looked like many years ago. Many thanks were given to Mrs. Knol for sharing her collection with us.

Mrs. V. Mowat presented gifts to those who so kindly provided the entertainment of the day.

Mrs. J. Volick gave the courtesy.

After closing the Spring Conference, Mrs. C. Clark invited everyone to stay and enjoy a social time and a cup of tea provided by the Grand River W.I.

—S. Mumby
Public Relations Officer
Haldimand East W.I.



The founding of the Hamilton area of the Women's Institutes, a quarter of a century ago, took place in the local office of the agricultural representative. Dressed in the styles of the day, Mrs. R. A. Miller from Haldimand Institutes leads the Jarvis historical group in re-enacting that scene at the area convention. They include: From left, Mesdames Earl Stallwood, R. A. Miller, Alfred Marr, Ernest Braund, Alan Lundy and Earl Marr. —Hampson photo.