

## **How We Got Here**

- 1825 to 1848** Irregular visits were paid to Albion Mines (now Stellarton) by the Methodist ministers stationed at either Wallace, Truro or River John.
- 1861** Wesley Methodist Church and Manse were built on what is now the north-east corner of Foord and Queen Streets.
- 1863** The St. John (Kirk) Church had its origin when it was organized at Albion Mines (Stellarton) in connection with the Presbyterian Church of Scotland (a.k.a. Kirk Church). The first "Kirk Church", was located on the east side of Foord Street, near the present Museum of Industry. From this Church the present Kirk Avenue takes its name.
- 1866** (Feb 19) Sharon Presbyterian Church congregation was formally organized. Prior to the forming of the congregation they worshiped at James Church in New Glasgow. Transportation was provided to and from by the Coal Company's coal cars which were hauled by the old locomotives, Sampson and Albion.
- 1866** (Oct 2) The first Sharon Presbyterian Church was dedicated. The original Sharon Presbyterian Church, was built on the north-east corner of what was MacKay and Queen Streets.
- circa 1884** The St John's Church is physically moved to a new location beside the Methodist Church on the east side of Foord Street, halfway between Queen Street and Bridge Avenue.
- 1889** The second Sharon Presbyterian Church was built on the corner of Stellar Street and Acadia Ave
- 1890** (Aug 17) The second Sharon Presbyterian Church was dedicated
- 1918** The Methodist Church built the Mission Hall on Kirk Avenue
- 1924** (Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>) A fire destroyed the second Sharon Presbyterian Church. While the church burned the congregation literally ripped the pews from the floor to save them. It is these same pews that are in use in the present Sharon St John United Church. Damage to some of the floor fastenings can still be seen.
- 1925** A new brick Sharon church was erected on the same site as the one that was destroyed by fire. The facing-stone used in its construction was obtained from the old historic locomotive shed that once housed the Sampson and Albion locomotives
- 1925** The congregation of Sharon Presbyterian voted to join the United Church of Canada and on June 10 the joining became effective.
- 1926** (Feb 21) The new Sharon United Church was dedicated
- 1926** (May 9) Wesley Methodist joined with St. John (Kirk) Presbyterian Church to form St. John United Church
- 1934** St. John United joins with Sharon United Church to form the present ***Sharon St John United Church***

## **Additional Historical Events**

- 1934 Sharon St. John United Church assumed operation of the Mission Hall on Kirk Avenue**
- 1934 St. John United was sold to William Ross, who conducted a Feed Store.**
- 1959 The Feed Store was destroyed in a disastrous fire which also claimed the Stella Bedding Factory.**
- 1963 Sharon St John erected a church hall for Sunday School and recreation. The sod for the new hall was turned on April 20th, 1962 by Master Colin MacKay, and Mrs Harry Cutten.**
- 1967 (Jan 18) Ecumenical History was made by the church when combined prayer services were held in the Church Hall. They were attended by Rev. George Kane, P.P. of Lourdes; Rev. A.E. Kingsbury, rector of Christ Anglican Church and Rev. Douglas Gass, of Sharon St. John United Church.**
- 1975 The Mission Hall on Kirk Avenue was damaged by a fire and was sold by the Sharon St. John United Church to a non-denominational church group.**

Note: Information used here was partly obtained from "The History of Stellarton" by Aubrey Dorrington, copyright 1976, printed by the Pictou Advocate Printing Co.