

Cavan Church

Location: Winthrop, Ontario
Year built: 1907

RESIDENTS OF WINTHROP petitioned the Presbytery of Huron in 1875 for the organization of a congregation in the area. The request was granted and Rev. T. G. Thompson, pastor at Duff's Church in Walton, was instructed to form a congregation. For a time, services were conducted in Andrew Govenlock's home, until the first frame church was opened in December of 1875. Professor Cavan of Knox College, after whom the church was named, conducted the service.

The present brick church was built in 1907, the cornerstone being laid and dedication made in 1908. Rev. David Carswell was the minister at the time. The congregation supplied the brick, gravel, sand, seating and glass bringing the total cost of the building to almost \$6000.

In 1875, Andrew Govenlock was the first Sunday School superintendent. He served in this capacity for 25 years. Thomas Dodds followed him and served for 45 years.



A Women's Association was formed in 1900 with Mrs. Musgrave as president. This group later joined with the Women's Mission Society. The Young People's Organization was formed in 1905. A Mission Band was started in 1931.

The first musical instrument was a tuning fork. An organ was installed in 1895 with Nellie Henderson as the first organist.

Several memorials have been placed in the church over the years. The Baptismal Font, collection plates, and a plaque were all donated.
