

## Cannington Notes 2 – (Leigh Robinson)

Shingling was completed July 25. The damaged/missing bell tower louvres were replaced. We found new and ready-painted louvres in the tower. A previous church warden must have had them made but never found time to install them. We backed them with wire mesh to keep out squirrels and bats. Roof ridge caps were also backed with metal for same reason. The site and interior were cleaned up for the Cannington Fair and Victorian Tea on July 31. Over 360 people attended, and the following week over 900 visitors broke attendance records.

Aug. 1 the backhoe arrived to begin excavating outer perimeter. The buttresses took a week of jackhammer work to remove. Surface crumbling concealed the granite-like hardness of the old cement/rubble composition. In the 1930's the sinking foundations were rebuilt by undermining and removing looser portions of the old stone footings and pouring the new foundation and buttresses together. The integration of the newer foundation and buttresses made their extraction most labourious. Most of the 20 inch by 20 inch foundation had to be removed by hand with a crowbar to prevent damage to structure. Most of the perimeter base logs had rotted where they contacted the footings requiring them to be shaved back to solid wood to accept the treated base plate. In some areas under windows the damage was so severe the log structure had to be replaced with dimensional lumber. The 8 inch joist logs have to be lifted on a separate plate where the perimeter logs no longer provide support. This means that the new foundation has to be thick enough to support the joist ends as well, requiring over 30 hydraulic jacks to be buried in the new foundation as the forms are built. Apart from the raised sanctuary, all joist logs rest on stones on grade. The soils were quite wet around perimeter but just a couple of feet in the soils are dry. Proper grading of site will alleviate future ingress of water.

Lack of lateral support in the north and south gables of the transept has been resolved by rafter ties on the outermost beams. I felt this was necessary prior to any lifting of the structure to prevent further spreading of the walls or structural failure. A temporary brace has also been applied to the exterior.

The new 24 inch foundation with rebar is separated from the treated plate and any old structure by a moisture barrier. Aug. 18 saw the first pour of concrete extending from the NE sanctuary corner to SE corner of vestry. Because the new foundation is completed in stages, the end points are form-keyed with rebar extending 2 feet beyond to tie into the next section. The north end of transept has been raised an average 4 inches. So far the building has taken the lift but we do not want to push it too far. On this project 'level' has become a relative term. On Aug. 24 the second stage of concrete was poured from the NE corner of the sanctuary to the NW corner of the transept. This will provide the necessary stability for lifting the sunken north wall of the nave.

Aug. 26 the north wall was raised nearly six inches and the new foundation poured in the p.m. The bell tower and SW nave corner have been raised and ready for next run of concrete around to vestry corner. The SW nave corner needed extra lifting to correct the sagging where the old furnace and leaking chimney were removed.

Ventilation of the underfloor cavity is provided by installing louvred vents in the east and west ends of the church just above the foundation. The metal vent housings have been given an additional layer of heavy gauge wire mesh to prevent rodent incursion.

Disposal of the extensive rubble piles has been a difficult and costly aspect of the project. Local contractors have little spare time or equipment to volunteer in this oil boom.

The brass chandelier and torchieres were removed to my barn loft on June 26 for restoration and reinstalled Aug.22.