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The Willoughby Evangelical Church located in the Willoughby Township has celebrated its 107th birthday. Work of the Evangelical Church began in Pennsylvania and in 1839 Missionaries from that state came to Black Creek where a small mission was started which later developed into the present congregation. Early work in the area covered a circuit extending sixty miles and most of the preachers or missionaries as they then were called came from East Pennsylvania Conference of the Church. In 1863 land was conveyed to the Willoughby Congregation upon which a church was erected. There followed this a succession of ministers most of whom in the old days remained but one year. In 1883 a new church was erected which stands to-day as the place of worship although much in the way of improvement has been done since that date. For many years this church was known as "Sauer's Church" due to the fact that the original land was conveyed by William Sauer to the church trustees. The field continued as a mission being linked up with the Pelham Church until 1908 when it became a unit by itself.

The congregation now is comprised of 21 members over a ten-mile radius. The present Pastor Mr C. T. Houck is now serving his third year in addition to this has just completed his thirty-first consecutive year as Sunday School Superintendent. The church is characterized by the large number of young people in its membership roll as well as a highly co-operative spirit in every angle of the church life.



CHRIS HOUCK NIGHT AT WILLOUGHBY

reported by Bob McClellan and
Mrs. Gordon McLaren

The esteem in which C. T. Houck is held in his own community and in the Canada Conference of the Evangelical United Brethren Church was in evidence Sunday evening, June 7, when he was honored in Willoughby EUB Church.

The occasion was "Chris Houck Night", a special service commemorating his 20 years of service as lay minister of the Willoughby congregation. Mr. Houck was active in the life of the church prior to that time, as his 40 years as Sunday School class leader and 35 years as superintendent testify.

The church and adjoining fellowship hall were filled to overflowing as friends from adjoining churches in the community and throughout the Canada Conference joined the Willoughby congregation in paying tribute to Mr. Houck.

Many travelled considerable distance to be in attendance, including members of Mr. and Mrs. Houck's families. Members of at least 15 different denominations were among the many present from many places in Ontario and the United States.

The highlight of the program was a presentation and address of appreciation to Mr. Houck which was capably carried out by John Collinson, present S.S. Superintendent. He cited the "deep gratitude" the congregation felt towards Mr. Houck for his 20 years service as pastor, leader and friend.

"Each person who has had the privilege of knowing our pastor," Mr. Collinson said, "has individual experiences that have endeared him to their heart.

—Niagara Falls Review Picture

If each of us were to record these expressions of gratitude the results would indeed be volumes of praise."

Mr. Collinson concluded by pointing out that the scriptural passage, "well done, thou good and faithful servant," could certainly be applied to Mr. Houck.

Mr. Houck, in reply, claimed he did not deserve this wonderful tribute. "I am deeply touched by this expression of appreciation," he said.

"I have found it a great joy in working for the Master and have enjoyed your fellowship and co-operation," he told the large gathering. "Tribute should first be paid to God who has led, blessed and helped us so much through the years."

His reply was also sprinkled with many brief reminiscences and his keen sense of humor. Recalling his start as lay minister, he noted he had agreed to a conference request "to help out in this way for about a year".

"It's been a short year," he said. He continued, "I had no theological training . . . I just love folks."

Mr. Collinson presented Mr. Houck with a book containing the signatures of all his friends in attendance and a framed picture of the church. Mr. Houck has been associated with this church for 46 of its 81 years' existence. Mrs. Houck received an orchid corsage, presented by Miss Marjorie Sauer.

EUB ministers who have had some connection with the Willoughby Church through the years were also on hand. These included Rev. A. S. Caughell and Rev. E. N. Mohr, former Hamilton district superintendents; Rev. J. W. Siebert and Rev. J. V. Dahms, former Willoughby pastors, and Rev. T. E. Dahms, pastor of Willoughby's closest EUB neighbor, Pelham Centre.

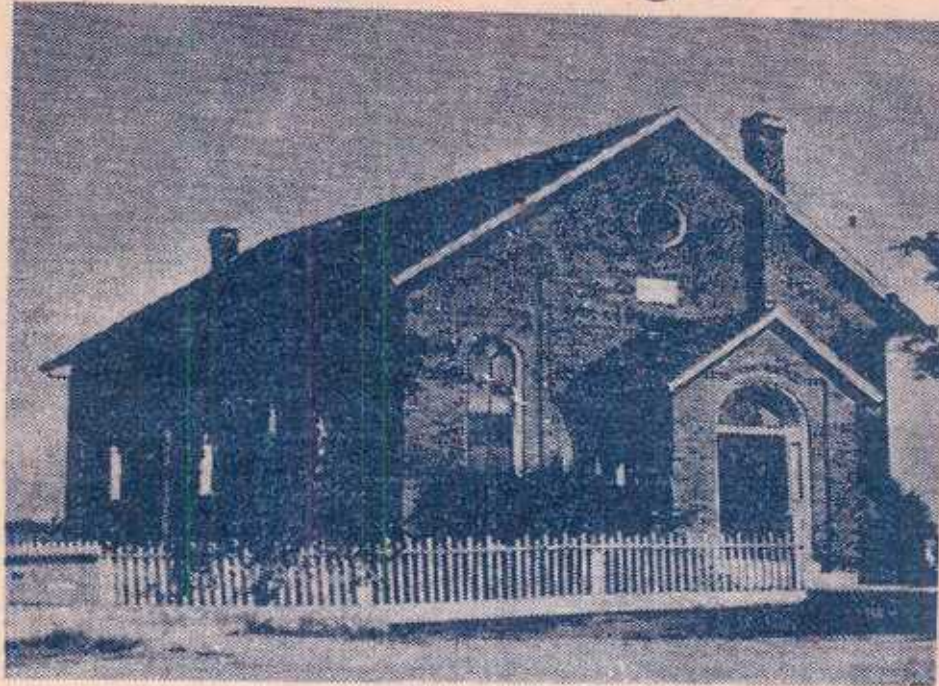
Dr. E. E. Hallman, superintendent of the Canada Conference, pointed out that Solomon said "one man in a thousand will stick closer than a brother." To the congregation of Willoughby EUB Church, such a man is their beloved pastor, Chris T. Houck, he said. He also remarked that Mr. Houck is, contrary to Biblical tradition, a prophet with honour in his own community.

Special music was provided by the Wainfleet Gospel Four, a noted Niagara District quartet which has made several records of gospel songs.

Robert Heximer was chairman for the evening. Jack Stevenson welcomed the large turnout and Gordon McLaren introduced the speaker, Dr. Hallman. Miss Linda Sauer was at the organ while her sister, Marjorie, was the pianist. George Bukator, MPP for Niagara Riding, was also in attendance.

Mr. Houck is the twin brother of the late William Houck, former popular mayor of Niagara Falls and member of parliament at both the provincial and federal level. Lovely floral arrangements were placed in the church for the service, two of them by the players on the old baseball team sponsored by William Houck with whom Chris is attempting to maintain the contacts enjoyed by his brother.

Willoughby Evangelical



—Photo by F. H. Leslie—Review Engraving

40 Years In Sunday School Mrs. C. T. Houck Is Honored

The Pastor

WILLOUGHBY — Mrs. C. T. Houck of Niagara Falls was the guest of honor at a dinner at the Park Hotel this week. Mrs. Houck will shortly complete 40 years of teaching a Sunday school class at the Willoughby EUB Church.

Six of the thirty guests present were members of Mrs. Houck's original class and were seated at the head table. Mrs. Walter Lapp was the M.C.

Mrs. Albert Heximer reminisced about spiritual and social highlights of the past years.

Mrs. Houck was congratulated for her untiring devotion over the years and letters were read from many former class members who were unable to be present.

A guest book was given to Mrs. Houck and the ladies made a presentation as a token of their appreciation.



MRS. C. T. HOUCK



C. T. HOUCK