



St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

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September 29, 2014
Town of Gananoque Heritage Committee
30 King St. E.
Gananoque, ON K7G 1E9

Dear Members of the Committee;

We are writing to ask that our church, St. Andrew's Presbyterian - Gananoque's oldest church - be considered for a Historic Property designation.

A brief History:

Although Gananoque's Presbyterians had been worshipping here since 1837, it soon became evident their small wood-frame churches were inadequate for the growing congregation – the need for a much more substantial edifice was acute.

Land for a new church at the north east corner of Sydenham and Stone Sts. was donated by the Honourable John McDonald - incidentally, McDonald's home serves as our Town Hall today – and construction of a contemporary-styled sandstone building was started in 1851 and completed in 1855.

Sadly, the intervening years have taken their toll on our majestic and beloved old building. Funds are urgently needed to address issues in the steeple, refinishing woodwork in the sanctuary, repairing the tin ceiling in Gracey Hall, repairing and conserving the stained glass windows to name just a few. With an aging and declining congregation and the almost total depletion of our investment fund we are facing the grim reality that our beloved building is on "borrowed time". This building is an important link with Gananoque's past, a living memorial to a time long gone.

For purposes of this appeal we have spoken only of the material aspects of the church but we would not be true to our mission and faith if we ignored the contributions St. Andrew's has made to the faith community in Gananoque – it has indeed played a major role.

A heritage designation and hopefully accompanying funds that this may provide would truly be a blessing as we face an uncertain future.

Sincerely,



Jean Scott, Clerk of Session