

A photograph taken from the perspective of someone standing on a wooden covered bridge. The bridge's dark wooden truss structure frames the view. In the background, a red brick church with a gabled roof and a steeple is visible, surrounded by trees. A road curves to the right in the foreground. The text "A Brief History of St Andrew Church" is overlaid in white on the image.

A Brief History of St Andrew Church

Cowichan Station

November 2013

At the Turn of the Century

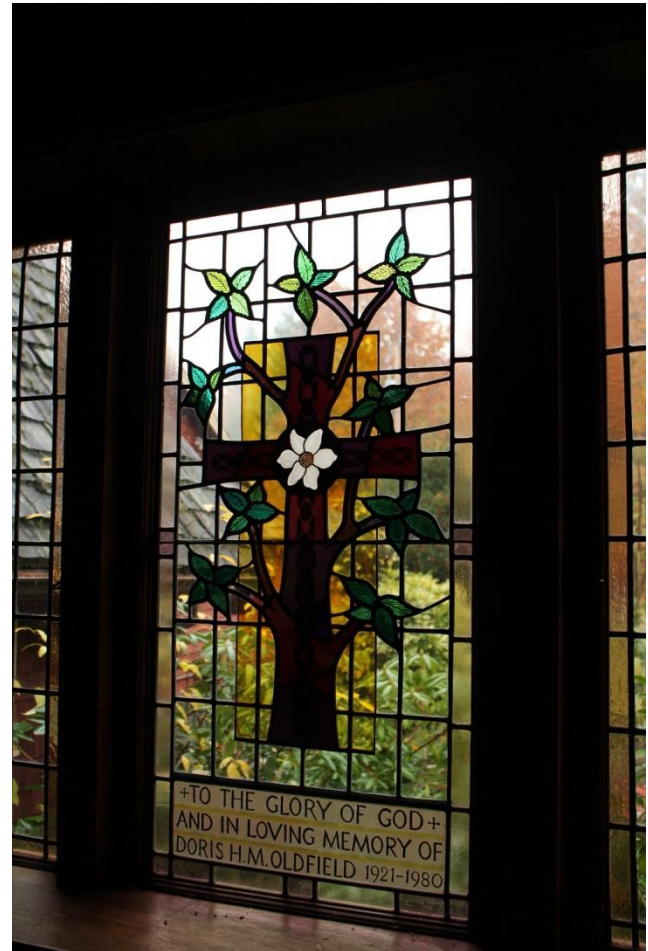
- McPherson's was a bustling village – hotels, butcher shops, shoemaker, boarding houses, sports halls
- Bridge was built in 1876
- Railway opened 1886
- Hub for farmers, loggers, and miners
- McPherson's was renamed Cowichan Station when the post office arrived to avoid confusion with the Maritime McPherson



Community Effort

Church was built by the broader community:

- Land was donated - Arthur Parry and Ada Cook received \$1 each for their portion of the 6/10 acre
- Construction happened through community fund raising (a dance and concert) and volunteer labour
- Rock for the font was donated from the local Koksilah Quarry Co.
- The Bell was donated by the E&N crewmen



Through the Years

- 1912 church enlarged for a growing community - fund raising for a parsonage began
- 1914 Cowichan Station school opened
- 1921 Burials in the churchyard began
- 13 district men who lost their lives in WWI were commemorated in a church window and a bell tower was built to house a new thanksgiving peace bell.
- 2 stained glass rosettes and parts of a lectern were rescued from church ruins in Europe and incorporated into the church
- 1931 church lighting
- 1956 church hall and in 1963 it was extended to include a kitchen
- 1979 Cowichan Station lost its post office
- 2007 lost its school
- 2010 lost its church



Ups and Downs But Always Self-Supporting

- Church has waxed and waned over the years as has the village. **and inspiring....**
- Throughout it was always self supporting – this was not a missionary parish.
- The community gave generously to its church – e.g., Clarence and May Ross provided the toilets for the expansion of the hall in the early 60s.
- and to the Diocese – e.g., A rectory was purchased in 1992 for \$120,000 in Eagle Heights. In 2005 it sold netting \$140,000 for the diocese.



Diocese Chose Closure 2010

- Anglican diocese conducted a broad study resulting in the decision to close many small churches in favour of regional churches.
- St Andrew was closed in 2010.
- A building inspector, at that time, assessed -
The buildings have a few deficiencies - some of which are significant.
e.g., Roofing, electrical, septic, structural/drainage issues among others were identified.
- Community members also identified that general use and marketability of the property may be negatively affected by the:
 - Institutional Zoning
 - Lease from Island Corridor Foundation of the parking area & SE corner
 - Existing easements – well is on an adjacent property
 - Cemetery

Future Possibilities????

