

# **Wooler United Church**

Community of Faith Profile 2020

**Our Mission:** To serve with Faith, Love, Understanding, Acceptance and Kindness all whom we connect with in various ways keeping our vision as primary.

**Our Vision:** To communicate, facilitate and radiate God's Love and Abundance to all.

**Our Purpose:** to offer a spiritual and social haven to our Congregation and the Community, so that everyone may find their mission.

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## **An Overview of Our History**

The Wooler United Church has been a focal point of community life and worship since the early 1800s. In 1805, the Circuit was called Smith's Creak and as a Methodist Episcopal Church in 1817 was part of the Belleville Circuit. The earliest record of a minister is Reverend R. Poole in 1833. The congregation in Wooler actually came into service between 1860 and 1864 as part of the Brighton Circuit and e ministers traveled from Brighton to hold the services in the lodge hall. In 1870, they built the first church for \$725.00.

In 1884, the church joined three other denominations to become the Methodist Church of Canada, and was part of the Wooler Mission, which included Tabernacle lurch (just over from Wooler). Two years later, the Bethel Church in Murray township joined to make the Circuit. The laying of the Cornerstone for what became Wooler United Church happened on Empire Day, May 22, 1903. Bethel, Tabernacle, Codrington Churches have since closed. Their members worshipped and descendants continue to do so in Wooler.

## **THE COMMUNITY**

The Community of Wooler is located in the picturesque Northumberland Hills and the Trent River valley with the Cold Creek flowing through the centre of the village. It is part of the community of the city Quinte West. The Church draws its members from the neighbouring towns of Brighton, Campbellford, and Frankford.

Wooler is easily accessible via the 401 highway (only 10 minutes - 7 km) and is a rural suburb of the city of Quinte West. Larger cities of Belleville and Cobourg are within 40 km. South of Trenton is Prince Edward County, a major tourist hub with attractions throughout the year (Wineries, Eateries, and Beaches).

Quinte West has a major Hospital, many Banks, a variety of restaurants, several supermarkets and chain stores, 3 parks, Sports arena, Farmer's market and a YMCA Rec Centre with an indoor pool. The Quinte West's suburb of Trenton is perhaps best known as the home of Canada's largest military base (CFB Trenton) which recently underwent a major expansion.

There are plenty of options for **Entertainment** in the area for both theatre and music. Our hills are truly alive with the sound of all types of music: the Empire Theatre, Belleville; West Ben, Campbellford; Stirling Theatre, Stirling; The Old Church (theatre & music), Trenton; and Proctor House, Brighton.

With regards to **Education**: Belleville is the home of Loyalist College and Sir James Whitney School for the Deaf, as well as Albert College (world renown Kindergarten to University Private Preparatory School). Quinte West and Brighton have a number of excellent public and Catholic elementary and secondary schools. There are also Christian elementary and Secondary schools in the area. Along with a thriving Home-Schooling community.

Quinte West has a multimillion-dollar City Hall/Library complex along with the expanded and updated Marina. The Trent Severn Waterway system starts at Trenton and is navigational for pleasure craft through to Port Severn on Georgian Bay, total length of 386 km.

There are many excellent retirement and nursing home facilities in the area as well as a number of active senior citizen clubs.

Local **Recreation facilities** include numerous golf courses, curling, bowling, tennis, hiking trails, canoeing/kayaking and dragon boating (Clubs in both Trenton and Brighton), sports fishing in the Bay of Quinte and Lake Ontario, camping in Provincial parks and various Sports Clubs. And in the winter there are snowmobile trails, ice fishing and the local Bata Ski Hill.

Comprehensive free Guide books are available for each town/area giving complete detailed listings.

# **WOOLER UNITED CHURCH**

## **FINANCES/RESOURCES**

### **Investments:**

Wooler United Church carries no debts or mortgage and has sound investments of \$167,350.63 as of 31 Dec 2019.

### **Intra Church Resources:**

- Active Sunday School & Kids programming
- Involved & Consistent congregational volunteer system
- Active United Church Women
- Advanced audio/visual/sound equipment with a complement of technical personnel within the congregation to assist  
Updated phone and internet services and ever expanding Website
- Congregation is a wellspring of enthusiasm
- Secretarial services provided 10 hrs/wk
  
- PAR Program actively used in our Church

### **Property Resources**

- A lovely building that seats 225 persons and is 115 years young. It has a fully accessible sanctuary and Church hall\*
- Addition (2005) housing minister's study, administration office, complete with up-to-date computer equipment and wifi. Along with a well-equipped nursery and bright roomy washrooms.
- KITCHEN offers up-to-date, energy efficient appliances - 2 stoves, 2 refrigerators, 2 deep freezers and a commercial dishwasher and large food prep areas.
- Ample supply of "happy" cooks, prep helpers and cleaners.
- New well and septic systems in 2005.
- Water is potable and treated with UV light and purifier and is tested monthly.

## **Outreach programs:**

- Seniors home ministries — taking our Church to senior's homes for those who are unable to come out to church.
- Monthly Soup & Sandwich Luncheons
- Ability to provide emergency response meals — prepared and frozen to anticipate need in the community i.e. families dealing with loss or illness
- Chuck Wagon Supper - with Musical Entertainment
- Card Parties with Dessert
- Christmas Cookie and Apple Pie baking Bees and Sales

## **Desired outreach initiatives:**

- Music programs for youth and adults
- Winter Yoga/Meditation programs for the community
- Bible Study

## **Missions Wooler has/is participating in:**

- Honduras — supplying clean water, education, food and clothing and a few members who physically go to assist.
- Regular Sharing of Mission and Services activities and fundraising (i.e. Lenten calendar)

## **Wooler United - LIVING FAITH**

Wooler United Church is a close knit community who present with open arms to old and new comers.

When we come together on Sundays we connect with spirit through the word and song. We are educated, motivated, interested and intrigued by the word, it's interpretation and how the spiritually moving music accompanies the message.

Our weekly worship service involves greeters, candle lighters and readers and a time for the Children. We also host a monthly Coffee hour at which we joyfully share a meal and connect.

The congregation has many retirees and others who are enthusiastic and willing helpers for whatever is needed. They live their faith through spreading their resources and care to those around them.

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

Wooler United seeks a half time (20 hours) **Minister** (ordained, diaconal or designated lay Minister) for our one-point charge.

Minister's salary and benefits are based on United Church standards.

We desire a minister who is socially inclined, who enjoys combining theological knowledge and faith with musical inspiration. Wooler United embodies all that is "Country welcome and hospitality" and its members live their faith.

Suggested Work Week based on 20 hours:

- 10 hours for Sunday Service preparation and presentation
- 1-hour weekly Bible Study group leadership
- 4 hours weekly to provide Pastoral Care, through visitation and/or telephone contact
- 4 hours Flex-Time to be used as agreed based on evolving needs of the congregation

The prospective Minister would be able to encourage team spirit. Enjoy visiting and reinforcing connections with our community - targeting/enlarging our young families section of the congregation (the 18 - 35 age groups). Large portions of our membership are seniors who do accept and embrace new families and ideas.

### **In turn you will have access to:**

- A fully accessible building.
- A congregation who embraces working with their Minister.
- A congregation who respects the Minister's time and talents.
- A congregation who embraces new ideas while honouring traditions.
- A congregation who loves music in all forms.

A congregation who possess talents, ideas and energy to commit to their Church/community and to assist the Minister.

An Active committee who assists with planning Worship (activities, music, etc...).

A congregation thirsty for spiritual guidance and challenge.

Changing dynamics and facing challenges has been a consistent aspect of our rural charge. Our faith is leading us to improve, rebuild or re-evaluate our future to see where we are being led.