

BANNOCKBURN COMMUNITY CHURCH
ON BANNOCKBURN ROAD

SINCE
1921

T H E

BANNOCKBURN

Backgrounder

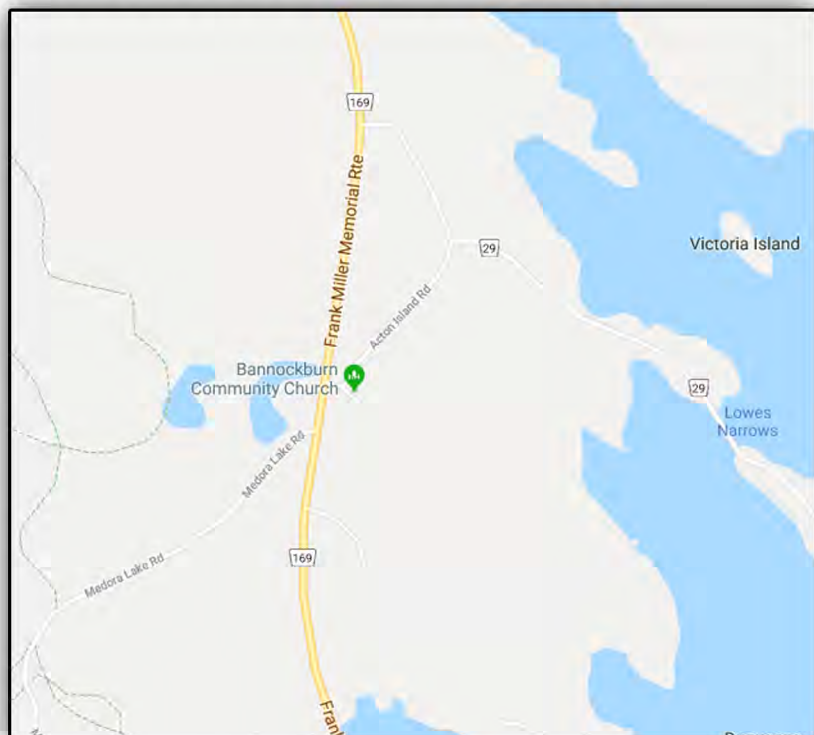
S U M M E R 2 0 2 6 E D I T I O N



HYMN SING: 10:15 AM - SERVICE: 10:30 AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL & REFRESHMENTS FOLLOWING
- - - **EVERYONE WELCOME** - - -

**BANNOCKBURN COMMUNITY CHURCH, LAKE MUSKOKA,
c/o BOX 101, BALA, ON, CANADA POC 1A0
SEE INTERIOR PAGE FOR DIRECTIONS!**

START YOUR WEEK AT BANNOCKBURN...



TRAVELLING BY ROAD:

If coming from the south: go about 4 km north of Bala, turn right on the Acton Island Road at the sign and turn right again at the Bannockburn Church sign, and drive about 1/2 km to the church.

If you are coming from the north, drive about 2 km south from Glen Orchard and turn left at the south Acton Island Road sign and then turn right at the Bannockburn Church sign and drive 1/2 km to the church.

TRAVELLING BY WATER:

Bannockburn is directly across from the Acton Island Bridge.
Dock facilities are available!

Services are non-denominational & casual attire is welcome!

WELCOME

We are delighted to once again extend a warm welcome to new and familiar congregants as Bannockburn opens its doors for the 2026 summer season.

Returning to Muskoka each summer reflects a markedly different pace of life than many of us are used to: we take in the majesty of the trees, the vastness of the lake, and the crisp, fresh air. We marvel in the moments of quiet and the awe of a loon's call, and welcome the opportunity to slow down our pace to appreciate the incredible beauty of creation.

While many things have changed over the years, we find the steadfast presence of Christian community and fellowship here at Bannockburn to be a welcome constant. As we go to our cottages to rest, recharge, and reconnect, it only makes sense to spend focussed time worshipping our Creator and intentionally pausing to worship, meditate, celebrate, and listen to what He would have us learn, as we seek to deepen our personal relationships with Him.

Whether this is your first or five hundredth visit to Bannockburn, we hope you feel at home here. We hope you find a welcoming community, a peaceful setting, and that you encounter God's love in a real, meaningful way.



SUMMER SCHEDULE

JULY 5



PREACHING: Rev. Das Sydney

First Baptist Church (Interim Minister) London, ON

Rev. Das Sydney was born in India, grew up in Africa, and had his university education in Ghana, Canada and the United States. He is the Past-President of the Canadian Council of Churches and a past president of the Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec. He has served as an adjunct at Acadia Divinity College and McMaster University. He is the Minister Emeritus of Highland Baptist Church and serves on the Board of Directors of "Indwell," which offers supportive housing for vulnerable populations. He is married to Angela (retired RN) and they have three adult children and six grandchildren. He was recently awarded the King Charles III Coronation medal. He is serving as an interim minister at First Baptist Church, London, ON.



MUSIC: Ian Davies

Ian Davies sings bass in the Canadian Celtic Choir (since 1997) & London Pro Musica Choir (since 2022). He is a past President of London Pro Musica, and the Concerts & Promotions Chair for the Canadian Celtic Choir. Ian and his wife Kay have one daughter, Julianna Cecilia ("Cecil"). Ian keeps busy organizing and promoting local music events and festivals, and frequently travels to Europe to attend music conferences and showcases. He is the founder of the Ken Palmer High School Music Bursary that awards two \$1,000 bursaries annually to graduating London and area high school music students going on to post secondary music education in Ontario. In 2024 Ian was inducted into the London Music Hall of Fame for Lifetime Achievement. The Davies family has been coming to Muskoka since 1925 when Ian's grandparents Reg & Mabel Whittemore bought land on Acton Island and built a small cottage there in 1926.

JULY 12



PREACHING: Rev. Rebecca Jess

Presbyterian Minister, Toronto, ON

Rebecca is a minister in the Presbyterian Church. She began her ministry in the world of Presbyterian camping, eventually serving as Co-Executive Director of the Cairn Family of Camps in Muskoka. She loves working with children, youth, and young adults, which continues to shape her ministry today. Rebecca sits on the board of Evangel Hall Mission through which she has developed a growing passion for finding sustainable and affordable housing solutions in Toronto and beyond. Outside of ministry, Rebecca enjoys singing harmony lines, canoe tripping, reading fiction, and spending time with her husband and young daughters.

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JULY 12 continued



MUSIC: Paul Lynham and Rev. Rebecca Jess

Please see previous page for Rev. Jess' credentials!

Paul has been coming to Muskoka for 60 years. He and his wife, Brenda, have had a cottage on Medora Lake since 2000. He has been playing the piano for 60 years and has been a piano teacher for 35 years. He has played for weddings, children's choirs, recitals, parties, and worship teams for various churches.



JULY 19



PREACHING: Rev. Dale Rose

Retired Pastor with Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec

The Reverend Dale Rose was the Minister of Pastoral Care at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church in Toronto from 2012 to 2021. Prior to that, he pastored churches in Nova Scotia, Quebec and was the Senior Pastor at Lorne Park Baptist Church in Mississauga for 16 years. Dale retired from full time ministry in the fall of 2021, but continues to assist churches in transition as an interim pastor. In the spring of 2024 he completed three years as the interim pastor at Kingsway Baptist Church in Etobicoke. Dale served as the President of the Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec for 2025-26, and continues to serve on the CBOQ Board. Dale and his wife Donna now reside in Burlington, Ontario where they enjoy spending time with their grandchildren and biking various trails around our province.



MUSIC: Paul Lynham

Paul has been coming to Muskoka for 60 years. He and his wife, Brenda, have had a cottage on Medora Lake since 2000. He has been playing the piano for 60 years and has been a piano teacher for 35 years. He has played for weddings, children's choirs, recitals, parties, and worship teams for various churches.

JULY 26



PREACHING: Rev. Paul Ivany

Norval United Church (retired), Georgetown

After 30 years as the lead minister at Norval United Church in Georgetown, Paul retired on July 1, 2023. One of his special interests in retirement is his involvement in a newly formed Interfaith Community in Georgetown. Paul has deep roots in Muskoka. His great-grandfather bought a cottage on Lake Muskoka in 1918. He first preached at Bannockburn in 2005.

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JULY 26 continued



MUSIC: Mike Brine

Mike Brine is from near St. Mary's, Ontario. He has been coming to Muskoka since 1985. He first sang at Bannockburn more than 15 years ago. Mike considers music to be a lifetime hobby. He plays in a Praise Band at Granton United church on Saturday nights and lives on a farm with his wife Patty. They have two children, Matt and Kim.

AUGUST 3



PREACHING: Rev. Dr. Trevor Brisbin *St. Stephen's On The Hill, Mississauga*

Rev. Trevor Brisbin lives in the heart of Toronto, with his partner of 25 years, and is a father of three. He is the minister at St. Stephen's On The Hill United Church in Mississauga. His spiritual journey has been shaped by significant time in the Catholic Church, as a minister in an Evangelical church, and now with the United Church of Canada. He holds a doctorate from Claremont School of Theology in Southern California. When looking to connect with Trevor, you're likely to find him at the local hockey rink where he volunteers for youth hockey development, or at the dog park, with the family bernadoodle, Millie.



MUSIC: Rezonation Quartet

We are Rezonation Quartet; lead Lisa Thompson, baritone Dianne Ritz, bass Sheri Frey and tenor Claudia Stewart. We enjoy competing with SAI Region 16 and have travelled to such exotic locations as Orillia, Burlington, and Dearborn, Michigan. All we need is a pitch pipe and an audience to have a blast! Find us on Facebook or email lisasings4@gmail.com.

AUGUST 9



PREACHING: Rev. Johanne Hills *United Church (retired), Bracebridge.*

Johanne Hills is a retired United Church minister who has served congregations across Muskoka for over thirty-five years. Prior to that, she and her husband Rev. Ralph Hills were overseas ministry personnel in Zambia. For twenty five years she regularly wrote a column with a spiritual perspective, for the Muskoka weekly newspaper. In retirement, she has volunteered with Corrections Canada at the Beaver Creek Federal Institution. She is the mother of three grown sons, and grandmother of four.

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AUGUST 9 continued



MUSIC: Steve Cairns

Steve Cairns brings music to Bannockburn from his summer roots as a camper. Campfire classics inspire audience participation and everyone is welcome to join in! Steve enjoys Muskoka in all seasons with his family in Bracebridge.

AUGUST 16



PREACHING: Rev. Dr. Susan Eagle *Grace United Church, Barrie*

Rev. Dr. Susan Eagle is the minister of Grace United Church in Barrie and chair of ISARC, a provincial interfaith coalition that advocates for social policy reform. Formerly, she served the Delaware-Kilworth Pastoral Charge and the ELUCO community outreach ministry in London. She was a London City Councillor for four terms, from 1997 to 2010, working on homelessness and affordable housing policy. She has also worked on the Board of the Canadian Council of Churches and the Church and Society committee of the World Council of Churches. Locally, she serves as past chair of the Busby Centre Board which provides shelter and supportive housing in Barrie.



MUSIC: Cathy Morrow & Norm Nurmi

Catherine is a soprano soloist and her husband Norman is a bass soloist, song writer, hymn writer/arranger and choral director. Several hymns written or arranged by Norman have been introduced at Bannockburn, and Norm has written a hymn called "Bannockburn" for the late Jim Gilmore using Psalm 23, "The Lord is my Shepherd," as inspiration. He also composed an original tune to "Lord Now Let Us," from the Anglican hymn book.

AUGUST 23



PREACHING & MUSIC: Rev. David Thomas *Blythwood Road Baptist Church, Toronto*

Rev. David Thomas became Senior Pastor at Blythwood Road Baptist Church in Toronto in September 2015, after serving as Associate Pastor from August 2011.

David graduated in May 2012 from McMaster Divinity College with a Master of Divinity. He has an MBA from the Schulich School of Business and an undergraduate degree from the University of Toronto majoring in English and French language and literature. David lives in Toronto with his wife Nicole. He loves music and cooking outdoors. It was once said of him "There goes David again - always talking God, guitars, or bbq!"

AUGUST 30



PREACHING: Rev. Janet Borneman

Clergy Support Memorial Church, Parry Sound

Rev. Janet Borneman has been married to her husband, Rick Borneman, for 37 years. They have two children, Evangeline (36) and Jordan (35). In lieu of grandchildren, they have three dogs. Janet was ordained at Clergy Support Memorial Church in 2019. Her ministry areas include weddings, funerals, baptisms, and pastoral care. While she is ordained with CSMC, she assists with Sunday services in a lay capacity at Trinity Anglican Church in Parry Sound.



MUSIC: Linda Gilbert

Linda has played music since she was old enough to sit on a piano bench. Her mother, Mary, was a piano teacher and church organist for 75 years. Linda started flute in elementary school and played throughout her school years. She continued on to university on a music scholarship. Playing flute in the symphony orchestra is her first love. Ever since her Bannockburn Road neighbour Jim Gilmore (Past Chair), discovered that Linda was a musician, she has been providing music in many forms; flute, vocal soloist, hymn sing leader, and even at the piano.

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL POTLUCK
SOCIAL FOLLOWING THE **AUGUST 30** SERVICE!**

"Because of Bannockburn, Muskoka not only means beautiful scenery but also the renewing of our spirits. This is just one of the blessings we receive and hopefully share with one another."

- Reverend Harold Wright

CONGRATULATIONS 2026 Graduates



HENRY CAIRNS

Henry Cairns, grandson of Jim and the late Shirley Cairns and Neil and Maureen Cubberley; son of Mary Claire and Steve Cairns, celebrated his high school graduation from Trinity College this past spring. Henry will be attending Queen's University in the fall to study Biology and Psychology. This summer, Henry is returning to Kilcoo Camp in Minden, Ontario to take on a new role as counsellor.



JULIANNA DAVIES

Julianna Davies will be graduating from Fanshawe College (London) with a Paralegal diploma in August. Her placements at two London firms have gone extremely well with great reviews. In the fall she will write her Ontario exam in order to become a licensed Paralegal. Her parents are very proud of her accomplishments! Pictured: Ian Davies, Julianna Davies, Kay McIntyre Davies



EMILY GILBERT

Emily Gilbert, daughter of Randall and Linda Gilbert, is currently working on her Master's in Environmental History at the University of Waterloo. She is supervised by Dr. Steven Bednarski and is a member of the DRAGEN Lab. This summer, she is returning to Herstmonceux Castle, in East Sussex, UK, to aid in archival work and work on her thesis centred around the castle's construction in 1441 by Sir Roger Fiennes.



LISA HURLBURT

Lisa Hurlburt, youngest daughter of Paul and Marion Hurlburt, and a granddaughter of John and Marlene Hurlburt, completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing through St. Lawrence College this past winter. She will continue to provide exceptional patient care and advocacy wherever she may work.



DR. TIMOTHY HURLBURT

Timothy Hurlburt, youngest son of Paul and Marion Hurlburt, and a grandson of John and Marlene Hurlburt, obtained his Doctorate of Optometry from the University of Waterloo this Spring. He has been hired by an Optometry practice in Orillia, ON and looks forward to getting to know his colleagues, patients, and neighbours in his new town. Pictured: Paul Hurlburt, Timothy Hurlburt, Marion Hurlburt

2025-2026 HIGHLIGHTS

On Saturday, August 9, 2025, Avery and Reid were married at beautiful Bannockburn Community Church. Their choice of Bannockburn as the place to celebrate their wedding was rooted in their connection to the Muskoka area and family history with the church.

Reid's grandparents lived in Port Carling for many years, and Reid spent summers in the area as a child and teenager and attended services at Bannockburn. Interestingly, Reid's great-grandfather, Robert Wood Campbell, contributed funds toward the original building of Bannockburn Community Church and settled in the area. Reid's family has been fortunate to call Muskoka home.



Reid and Avery Marshall



Avery shares, "When Reid initially suggested the church for our wedding and showed it to me for the first time, it was easy to see why he holds it so dear."

Congratulations and best wishes to Avery and Reid on their marriage and continuing connections to Bannockburn and Muskoka!



IN MEMORIUM

ROBERT JAMES WRIGHT

September 5, 1929 - September 26, 2025



With thanksgiving for a long life, well lived, we announce the passing of Robert James Wright, at his home in Dundas Ontario, on September 26, after a brief illness.

He was predeceased by his loving wife, Helen with whom he shared 68 years of marriage, his half-sister, Irene Irving and half-brother, Richard Wright.

Left to cherish his memory are his three daughters, Nancy Mann (Robert), Anne Wright-Gedcke (Mark) and Carolyn Parker (Jim), his grandchildren, Heather, Ruth (Eric), Richard (Olivia), Elizabeth (Tashkin), Barbara and Shauna, great-grandsons, Isaac and Nathan, his half-sister, Eleanor Heard (Glenn) and his brother-in-law, Ross Tarlton (Helen Kindree).

Robert was born in Hamilton, Ontario to parents Richard and Ada Wright. He attended Westdale High School and McMaster University, where he completed a B.Sc. in Chemistry in 1951. Bob, as he was commonly known, met his wife Helen at McMaster University while they were students there. They enjoyed many dances and attended many sporting events together and were married on August 8, 1953. After spending their first two years in Peterborough where Bob began his teaching career, they moved to Hamilton, to be close to extended family.

After a year of teaching at Westdale, he was invited to be the Science Department Head at Nelson High School in Burlington, where he continued his teaching career until he retired in 1986.

Hamilton was Bob and Helen's hometown and remained home for them throughout their lives. Bob was actively involved in his community in many ways. His strongest connection was to his church, Binkley United, where he served for many years on the Board of Stewards, sang in the choir and began a men's fellowship group. He was an active volunteer at Wesley and was a founding member of the Hamilton Chapter of Habitat for Humanity in 1991.

Bob inherited a small cottage in Muskoka, where eventually he and Helen purchased land of their own. Bob supervised the building of their dream cottage, completing much of the work with his own hands. Cottage life revolved around the water, and Bob taught himself and his children to sail and waterski. He could always find a little project that he needed help with, thus engaging the next generation in the ongoing upkeep of the cottage. Bob and Helen enjoyed spending their summer holidays with their family in this beautiful, natural place. It has become a well-loved vacation spot and continues to be a place for ongoing family connections.

During his retirement years, Bob and Helen enjoyed curling and bridge games with friends, as well as travels throughout the world. Bob especially enjoyed singing with the Albertones and the Twenty Place Choir, as these very much enriched his life.

When the time seemed right, Bob and Helen moved to retirement living at Amica in Dundas. They continued to attend church, concerts and theatre performances as long as their health allowed. After Helen passed away in 2022, Bob continued to engage in the various activities that Amica offered as he was able. He was grateful for every person who extended a hand of friendship to him. The generous support provided to Bob by the staff at Amica, especially during his final days, was a great gift to our family.

Bob has lived a full life and leaves us with wonderful memories. His daughters remember him as a devoted family man who arranged for many family outings and holidays for the family, as well as being actively engaged in their daily lives. We are thankful to God for his long and full life.

This obituary was originally published in the Hamilton Spectator on September 27, 2025

FAMILY UPDATES

HURLBURT MILESTONES: John and Marlene Hurlburt celebrated 70 years of marriage this Spring, together with their five children and their spouses (pictured together below). After meeting while cottaging on Lake Muskoka as children, their eventual romance, marriage, and partnership has led to many years of loving, giving, and caring for each other and those around them. They are the proud parents of five children; as well as grandparents to 17 and great-grandparents to 20. Marlene will also celebrate her 90th birthday this summer; joining Johnny in enjoying their 90th decades. Many congratulations to this kind, generous, caring couple and wishing them all the happiness in the world. We thank God for your beautiful example of partnership and love for each other.



BANNOCKBURN CONNECTIONS ABROAD: Ian Davies was in Manchester, England in March for a music conference and was able to visit with John Barker at his farm just outside of Cambridge for a couple of days afterwards. Ian notes, "John was a wonderful host and it was great to have some time to relax in the country before returning home." He has included some photos of John's farm and animals.



SERMON NOTES:

CONNECT WITH US:

WEBSITE:

www.bannockburnchurchmuskoka.ca

BY EMAIL:

bannockburnchurch@gmail.com

info@bannockburnchurchmuskoka.ca

ON FACEBOOK:

[@bannockburnchurch](https://www.facebook.com/bannockburnchurch)

Photo Credit: Daniel deGelder

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Bannockburn Community Church, through the generosity of its members and participants, is pleased to have been able to provide financial assistance to four worthwhile organizations.

West Muskoka Food Bank, providing food for those in the local community who are food insecure. Ontario food banks provide assistance to 2.2 million people every month. (Food banks Canada 2025)

Parry Sound Sexual Assault Services, offering care and support for those who have experienced gender-based violence, through advocacy, awareness, healing and supporting associated legal challenges.

El Hogar Projects (Canada) is a registered Canadian Charity raising funds for a day and residential school in Honduras. Established in 1979, the school has graduated over 1,000 children, providing them with a High School diploma and skills training to become responsible, productive Honduran citizens. The program also provides funds to assist those students who wish to carry on with higher learning to succeed in post secondary education.

Neema Children's Project raises funds to provide a home and education to orphaned and impoverished children in Uganda. Neema brings talented young people to North America to share cultural song and dance, share their stories and to raise awareness of the difficult circumstances experienced by many children living in Uganda.

by Sue Franklin, Outreach Coordinator

ABOUT BANNOCKBURN

Bannockburn Community Church is wholly supported in its efforts as a congregation by the voluntary efforts and financial support of participants.

A church building was erected by early settlers around the year 1890 on the west side of Whiteside Bay beyond Victoria Island, and was used until 1912. The ministers, usually Presbyterian students, travelled to the church by canoe or horse.

While the three White brothers owned the surrounding land, the Church was (at the time) located on Mr. Wm. White's property. A post office, store, wharf and freight sheds were below the church, with a sawmill beyond on the point, known as Whiteside. When the families relocated, the church building stood idle for several years, but the Samuel White family on Acton Island held services conducted by students and visiting clergymen on their porch and lawn for several years.

The present site was gifted to the church by Albert E. Gordon. He built a large house on the hill beyond. The church was named Bannockburn at his request. The construction began in 1921 by Mr. Drehman of Bala, and the first services were held in 1922. Evening sing songs were a popular activity held with people in boats on the lake. A second lot was purchased in 1930 to provide extra parking for cars and dockage space for boats.

In time, ministers of several denominations summering in the area offered their services to vacationing congregations. Different ministers for each service were also arranged for and scheduled by the church committee. In 1938, the congregation elected to become a non-denominational church and the name became Bannockburn Community Church.

We continue this tradition today.