

# Friends of St. Alban's Adolphustown STRATEGIC PLAN December 2020

## OUR VISION

*To transform St. Alban's into a vibrant community hub while continuing to preserve, commemorate, and celebrate its unique heritage*



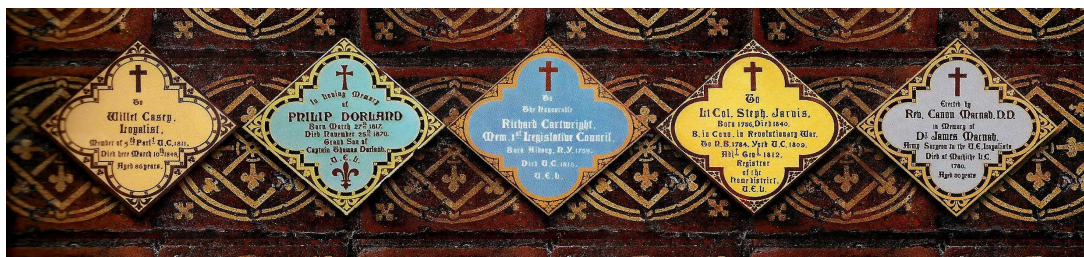
## OUR BEGINNINGS

We began as a small group concerned for St. Alban's after the church closed in 2018. Now, *Friends of St. Alban's* is an incorporated not-for-profit organization and a registered charity.

## OUR PAST

Adolphustown was established in 1784 with the arrival of United Empire Loyalists in June of that year. They overcame early hardships and went on to build a thriving village boasting a district courthouse, a tavern, St. Paul's Church, a school, and later, hotels, taverns, blacksmiths, stores, a tailor, a dressmaker, a barber, and a post office. The 1800s brought a new town hall and a new church—St. Alban's replaced the old St. Paul's, which then became the parish hall. In the 1900s, the church and both halls were the centre of village life, hosting community suppers, dances, euchre parties, and political gatherings. Today, only St. Alban's Church, the Town Hall, Allison House (now a museum and research centre in the UEL Park), and several smaller houses remain.

Visitors to St. Alban's are treated to rare and beautiful 19<sup>th</sup> century memorial tiles, elaborate stained-glass windows, replicas of the Queen's Rangers Colours (carried in the American Revolutionary War) and even a small bronze bell manufactured in England in 1690, perhaps the first bell used in Upper Canada. This diminutive stone Gothic Revival church, built with the vision and passion of Reverend R.S. Forneri, served Anglican congregations for 128 years from 1890 to 2018. As well, it has been an important community gathering place for weddings, funerals, music, strawberry socials, plant and yard sales, bake sales, and the annual UEL Service and Loyalist Tea.





## OUR FUTURE

Our vision will be achieved through the following strategic initiatives:

- Complete the purchase of St. Alban's and the rectory.
- Implement a communications and community engagement plan, including:
  - attracting a broad base of individuals to become involved in the organization as members and volunteers.
  - creating a website with growth capability to administer mailing, membership, and donor lists; manage membership sales and renewal; process donations; and sell event tickets, books, and other merchandise.
  - promoting activities through local and social media.
- Promote and celebrate St. Alban's history by conducting open houses and tours for schools, seniors' groups, and other special interest groups.
- Host 5 to 10 events each year appealing to a broad range of interests, including family, community, and performing arts events; guest lectures; the Annual UEL Service; and Thanksgiving, Remembrance Day, and Christmas activities.
- Implement an annual operating plan for a small café and drop-in centre, including providing visitor information and promoting other local tourism sites.
- Promote and facilitate St. Alban's as a rental venue for a variety of uses such as weddings, anniversaries, memorial services, book launches and other special events.
- Promote and facilitate use of St. Alban's for local clubs, organizations, and activities.
- Maintain a chapel/meditation space.
- Implement a plan to fund annual operations from memberships, events, church rental, annual donation commitments, and grants.
- Develop a joint working relationship with the Quinte Branch of the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada, Old Hay Bay Church, and the Adolphustown-Fredericksburgh Heritage Society for potential shared activities, including marketing, the use of the Adolphustown Old Town Hall, event scheduling, and staffing.
- Complete the following capital projects:
  - 2021/22
    - Waterproof the roof on the bell tower.
    - Install new signs.
    - Upgrade the electrical system.
    - Repair the masonry on the bell tower.
    - Create a small café, drop-in centre, and tourist information area by adding a movable coffee counter inside St. Alban's or a coffee cart/food truck outside.
    - Construct a picnic/patio area.
    - Replace the furnace.
  - 2023 and beyond
    - Determine whether to make improvements by adding water, washrooms, a kitchen, or additional community space; and if so, complete the necessary construction.
- Implement a capital fundraising campaign to raise sufficient funds to finance the capital projects noted above.

## OUR NEIGHBOURS

St. Alban's is located near several other significant heritage sites—all worthy of celebration, and together telling a many-faceted story of our rich local history.

**Adolphustown Town Hall**, originally a courthouse, was built in 1796, and served both as administrative centre for the township and as a site for the District Court of Quarter Sessions. A new Town Hall was built on the foundations of the old courthouse in 1864. The Town Hall continued as a centre for municipal governance and community events for more than 200 years until municipal amalgamation in 1998. Having received municipal heritage designation from the Town of Greater Napanee in 2015, the hall is currently owned by the Bay of Quinte Branch of the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada and is still used occasionally for community purposes.

**United Empire Loyalist Park**, also owned and operated by the Bay of Quinte Branch of the United Empire Loyalists Association of Canada, is the site of the June 16, 1784 landing of the first United Empire Loyalists. This 72-acre park includes the Loyalist Cemetery, established in 1784, and the oldest monument to the Loyalists in Canada, erected in 1884.

**Allison House**, a Victorian mansion built in 1876 by D.W. Allison on the Adolphus Reach, is now owned and administered by the Bay of Quinte Branch of the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada. The house, situated within the UEL Park, has been protected since 2003 as a heritage site under a conservation easement by the Ontario Heritage Trust, and is now in use seasonally as a museum and heritage resource centre.

**Old Hay Bay Church**, erected in 1792 along the south shore of Hay Bay by early settlers, including United Empire Loyalists, is the oldest surviving Methodist building in Canada. It was designated an Ontario Historic Site in 1957, re-designated an American Methodist Church in 1992, and a National Historic Site of Canada in 2001.

