

The Murray Bay Protestant Church for Fifty Years.

The year 1917 marked the fiftieth anniversary of the existence of the Murray Bay Protestant Church. It was in 1867 that services were first held in the just completed building which is still our church home here. From about 1861, however, the English speaking Protestants, who were passing the summer at Murray Bay, used to meet together for worship, as Mr. S. H. Blake has described it, "in rude fashion in an unfurnished house," which was the property of one Forgues, and was situated on the Chemin du Roi. Mr. Blake further described these meetings as "simple, pleasant and refreshing" and added "I believe we had God's blessing."

In 1865 opposition to the holding of Protestant services was made by Père Ducet, curé of St. Etienne de la Malbaie, who forbade M. Jean Warren to rent his premises for that purpose. This opposition acted as a spur to the Protestant residents who, on August 14th, 1865, met together and took steps towards the erection of a house of worship of their own. The minutes of that first meeting do not state who were present except in the case of J. M. Ferres, Esq., and John Lang Morris, Esq., both of Montreal, who acted as chairman and secretary of the gathering. But it is probable that among those attending were Rev. D. R. Wilkie and C. P. Champion, Esq., of Quebec, who were chosen as the first trustees, the Hon. Edward Blake, and Samuel H. Blake, Q. C., of Toronto, Dr. Reddy and D. C. Thompson, Esq., of Quebec, Wm. Bushby Lambe, Esq., of Montreal, and Col. Reeve of the Mount Murray Seigneury, all of whom were deeply interested in the undertaking. Another leader in founding our church was the late Sir David Wilson of Toronto. A series of resolutions were adopted, regretting the action of Père Ducet, which was characterized as intolerant and illiberal in spirit, and declaring that it had