

Baddeck had no settled minister until the year 1857, when the Rev. Kenneth MacKenzie took charge of the field. For some time prior to that date, James MacDonald, a man of great religious enthusiasm, held meetings for prayer in the village and surrounding districts. This talented man was however cut down in his prime, while prosecuting his studies in Halifax. During these early days when there was so much religious destitution young MacAulay, without any reward except the gratitude of his hearers and the approbation of his own conscience, kept up religious services usually either at Red Head or at Baddeck Bay. He was elected an elder probably as soon as the congregation had a settled minister if not before. The closest intimacy always existed between him and his minister, to whom he was a faithful counsellor and firm friend. Mr. MacKenzie after a worthy ministry of 34 years in a large and scattered field retired in 1891. In the following year Mr. MacDougall accepted a call and served the congregation faithfully until his retirement in 1907.

Mr. MacAulay died on the 6th day of August, 1886, in the 67th year of his age. Up to the end of his life he was an active worker for the Master. His Sunday evening meetings were always enjoyed by those who thirsted for the sincere milk of the word. At the summer communions throughout the island no speaker was in greater demand. None of the "men" of his day surpassed him in eloquence; few were his equals. The writer often felt it was no small privilege to sit at his feet and listen to his counsels so rich in wisdom and so impressively spoken. His soft,