

MS 24

THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCHES OF LAKE COUNTRY

BY
MICHELLE FIVCHUK
CHALLENGE GRANT 92

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Anne Land
Mrs. Champion Taylor
Mrs. D Witty
Rose VanderGluck
Adam _____ (Camp Hatikvah)
Karen Hamm
Peter Short
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Terry Lamb
Marg Madison and the Calendar office.

Thank-you for the help and support,
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Left to right. →
Doug MacColl
Archdeacon Charles Wilkins.
Fred Battison
- Rev. Charles Patterson
Virginia Bunbury (in front of
? Rev. Patterson)
Daphne Houlden
Audrey Marshall
Win. Little
Judy Wallace
Gwen Smith
Joan James, Winn.
Winn. Bernau, Hugh Bernau
Rev. Sloboda



St. Mary's - OYAMA
↑ PARISH OF WOODSDALE





All Saints Anglican Church
Now OK Centre Hall Community Hall
1992



1992 St Mary's Anglican Church
on St Now a private home
by a rd





ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH
NEW OR CENTRE COMMUNITY HALL
1992



1992 ST MARYS ANGLICAN CHURCH - OYAMA RD.
NEW A PRIVATE HOME

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF WOODSDALE

ALL SAINTS CHURCH - Okanagan Centre

The first organized ministry of the Anglican Church began in Okanagan Centre in 1909 with the Arrival of Rev. Owen Bulkeley. The Synod of the Dioceses of New Westminster of that same year had reported that two clergymen were needed immediately in the Keremeos and Okanagan districts. Okanagan Centre was chosen as the Okanagan region's clergy representative base because of its expected growth potential. At the time the Centre was a thriving community, lake boats continuously stopped here on their frequent trips up and down the lake. There was a fairly large fruit industry based around the Rainbow Rancho and the Okanagan Valley Land Company packing house.

The Okanagan Centre "All Saints" Anglican Church construction was started in 1910 under the supervision of Rev. Bulkeley. The corner stone, which is presently located at Eva Seaton Hall, was laid by Bishop De Pencier in October of 1910.

The Vicar of the Anglican Church parish covered an area which extended from Oyama, to the area known as the Commonage southward to Ellison, which is the present location of the Airport. In addition the Vicar was also responsible to scattering of small communities across the lake, including Ewing, Ceasear and Wilson's landings. The boundaries as described ran, approximately 20 miles east and 21 miles west

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of Okanagan lake. It also included service to Woods and Long (Kalamalka) Lakes and any settlements in between.

In 1911 Rev. Bulkeley was replaced by Rev. D.E.D. Robertson. He remained Vicar till 1913 before being transferred to an eastern Diocese.

The construction of the church continued and by 1912 it was reported by the rural Dean that the parish had 6 to 8 stations on both sides of the lake. The church at Okanagan Centre was ready for flooring and was expected to be in use by that summer. Rev. Robertson expressed concern over the lack of church attendance at the Centre. No reasons or remedies were given for this decline in the numbers of the congregation.

During this same time Rev. A.V. Despard, a retired minister volunteered his services to the Oyama, Ellison, Okanagan Centre and Winfield areas. He began taking services in the homes of Oyama Anglican parishioners.

By 1913 it was realized by the Synod that the settlement of Okanagan Centre was not growing as expected. The Rural Dean at this time made an application for grant for the completion of the interior of the All Saints church. When it didn't arrive, Mr Glead the owner of the Okanagan Centre general store, donated 3 small hand made windows. The windows were colored sheets of paper between two sheets of glass. They were removed from All Saints and later installed in St. Margaret's Anglican Church in Winfield. They were eventually replaced in 1961 by a window dedicated

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to the memory of Rev. Adas Lett. Mr. Gised had previously donated the land for the All Saints church.

By the start of World War 1 there were reports of severe storm damage to the church. In addition, the young men of the congregation were leaving in large numbers to join the military. These two factors, plus the fact that the new highway and railway in gave alternate routes of commerce and helped to speed the development of Winfield and Oyama, appear to have led to the decline of the Okanagan Centre church. From 1914 to 1918 there is no mention of the OK. Centre church in the Dioceses reports. The church itself was never consecrated and eventually permission was given (1922) to sell the church building. It was turned into the present community hall. There is a brief mention, in 1919 that Rev. Despard tried to hold services there twice or three times that year.

ST MARY'S - Oyama

In Oyama the Church Of England began efforts around 1905 to organize. Rev. Robertson and Rev. Despard were already holding services in the old school. Despard also used his home and the Agricultural Hall for services. In 1920 the Anglican Church Guild was formed and a small building was built on Oyama Road near the present cemetery. The Rev. Brisco, who served Lumby also began holding services there. Weddings were performed in the Methodist Church and services were held there after church union.

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In 1920 the land for the former St. Mary's church was either bought or donated. The church was built in 1929 on Oyama Road and was consecrated May 3rd 1931 by Bishop Doull. The Vicarage was bought from the late Col. McKay in 1925. In 1942 additional land was leased from the C.N.R. and a parish hall annex was added to the church in 1949. In 1950 the old vicarage was sold and a new one was built on church grounds. St. Mary's was sold in 1991 and is now a private home.

By 1922 the parish of Woodsdale was comprised of Oyama, Winfield, Ellison and Okanagan Centre. In 1925 the Rev. Humphrey Pearson took over the Parish. He was ordained in 1927 and became the priest in 1928. At this same time the parish of Woodsdale was reorganized with Humphrey Pearson as Vicar. The parish now included Lumby with the occasional visit to Ellison and the Commonage.

ST MARGARET'S - Winfield

Beginning in 1920, services were being held in the Winfield School house and Community Hall. St. Margaret's church was built in 1931, dedicated by Archdeacon Greene on September 27th 1931 and consecrated on June 4th 1933 by Bishop Doull.

In 1935 the outstation of Lumby separated from the parish. At this same time Ellison disappears from the parish records and becomes the responsibility of St. Aiden's Church in Rutland.

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In 1961, stained glass windows arrived from France for the church. These windows were designed by Mr. E Rault and made in his studio at Rennes especially for St. Margaret's. These windows were dedicated in the memory of Rev. Adam Lett. These windows replaced the window made by Mr. Gleed for the original Okanagan Centre Church.

In 1982 and 1983 the Eva Seaton Hall was built in conjunction with Saint Margaret's. In May of 1988 St Margaret's Church was torn down due to the fact that the Highway widening through Winfield made tenancy impossible. The new highway would cut off parking and access to the small church. Eva Seaton Hall was sold and the congregation of the Parish of Woodsdale (St. Mary's and St. Margaret's) are presently (as of June 1991) holding services at the St. Edward's Roman Catholic Church on Okanagan Centre Road East.

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 (resident at Okanagan Centre)

THE REV. D.E.D. ROBERTSON 1911 - 1913
 (resident at Okanagan Centre)

THE REV. A.V. DESPARD 1910 - 1925
 (resident at Oyama)

THE REV. J. BRISCO 1920 - 1931
 (services in Oyama as an extension of Lumby)

THE REV. H PEARSON 1925 - 1937

THE REV. C.A. WRIGHT 1937 - 1940

THE REV. ADAM R. LETT 1944 - 1954

THE REV. R.W.S. BROWN 1954 - 1958

THE REV. C.S. LUTENER 1958 - 1959

THE REV. J. ALAN JACKSON 1959 - 1963

THE REV. W. EDINGTON 1963 - 1967

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ST. EDWARD'S ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH.

The original catholic parish began in the early 1920's in Oyama and Winfield parishioners homes. Mass was first held every three months in homes and in the old community hall by Father Carlyle, the missionary Priest. He was assisted by Father Aiden Angle and Father Codey.

By 1940 a small church was built in Oyama overlooking Wood Lake. The construction of the "Sacred Heart" Church was under the direction of Father Miles. The actual construction was carried out by the parishioners. This church was heated by a wood stove and lighting was provided by coal lamps.

Father Miles was replaced by Father McEvoy, who only stayed a short time before being drafted into the military. He was replaced by Father Jansen.

The Sacred Heart Church was closed around 1948 and the building was moved to Sicamous where it still stands (as of 1985). The last Baptism in this church was of Lawrence Haber, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Haber, on May 16 1948.

In 1949, under the direction of Father Jansen, St. Edwards church was built by volunteer labour in Winfield on the corner of Lodge Road and Highway 97. It was named in Honor of St. Edward the Confessor. The construction was paid for with money raised from Card parties, bake sales and donations.

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The church, like Sacred Heart, was heated by wood, then oil and finally gas. The wood was supplied by the attending families.

The blueprints for this church are kept by Mrs. Frank Holitzke whose husband helped to build it.

The bell tower was built separately on the ground and then pulled up by rope and set into place. The bell which was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Allison of Okanagan Centre, was rung each Sunday by the men of the Congregation.

The first mass was said in St. Edwards on Christmas day 1949. The first Baptism was of William James Brown on June 11th 1950.

The first wedding held at St. Edwards took place August 22 1950, between Miss Mary Magdalen Holitzke and Mr. Leopold Tessier; Father Paul Jansen Officiated.

St Edwards, located at the junction of Highway 97 and Lodge Road was closed in 1985. It was retired due to problems with the electrical wiring and plumbing, problems of parking and access due to the road changes in association with the highway construction and finally the congregation itself had outgrown the small church. The ladies' associations wanted a hall and kitchen for their catering and they needed more seating and parking in general.

The Old St. Edwards is now owned by local artist Rose Vander Gulick. She and her brothers and sisters were baptized and married in the old church. She plans to convert the church in to a studio gallery. She and her

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husband moved the church from its original location to their property on Lodge Road on June 7th 1992.

The new St. Edwards is located on Okanagan Centre Road East. It is much larger building than the former St. Edwards. It has a large gravel parking lot, kitchen, hall, attached rectory and a large area of worship.

The present parish consists of approximately 215 families. It is an involved church and helps run several community help programs in conjunction with other local churches.

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PRIEST HISTORY

FATHER CARLYLE / FATHER AIDEN ANGLE / FATHER CODEY

1920 - 1940

- They were the early priests of the parish which was known more as a mission. Mass was said in different parishioners homes when the priests would come out from Vernon each week.

FATHER MILES (Monsignor Miles)

EARLY 1940

- He was born in Derbyshire, England in 1905. He was ordained on April 1, 1933 and celebrated his 50th anniversary April 1, 1983. He passed away September 30 1983.

Monsignor Miles took on the building of the first catholic church in Oyama, the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church. ~~The site was just above the Anglican Church (St. Mary's) Church.~~ It was moved sometime in 1948 to Sicamous B.C. where it still stands as of 1985.

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before being drafted into the military to serve in World War II.

FATHER PAUL JANSEN

1943 - 1949

- Was an elderly priest that supervised the construction of the St. Edward's church in Winfield. He came from the St. Theresa Parish every Sunday to take mass at St. Edward's.

FATHER DUNN

1955 - 1957

- Father Dunn served the parish out of Vernon for several years after the Old St. Edward's church was built. He helped out in the parish again in the 1970's.

FATHER BENEDICT SCHEITZER

1958

- Father Schweitzer served the parish for a few months in 1958. He is remembered for giving each of the small children a present for Christmas Mass.

FATHER NORMAN KENNY

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FATHER GERRY BIOLLO

1965 - 1970

- Father Biollo worked hard during his stay in Winfield to increase the number of Parishioners. He was a "handy-man" with the tools and built the cupboards in the Sacristy of the church.

FATHER JERRY DESMOND

1970 - 1975

- Was born in Kamloops B.C. and ordained there. He served the parish for just over five years. He established the first parish council. He was as of 1985 in Vernon at St. James.

FATHER SISON

1976 - 1980

- Father Sison was born and educated in the Philippines and came to the parish at the request Bishop Exner and stayed until September 1980. He also became a Canadian citizen while here. Father lived in the rectory by the church and served as the head of the Lakes Indian missions each week.

The first tabernacle was installed under the direction of Father Sison in 1977.

He was the founder of the legion of Mary in the Parish.

In March of 1977 he celebrated his 25th anniversary with a great celebration with the parishioners that lasted all day.

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FATHER STANLEY URBANOSKI

1980 - 1981

- Father came from Saskatoon and stayed only ten months. He belonged to the Oblates of Mary Immaculate Order. He had a new constitution for the church written, and spent most of the week visiting his parishioners. He was recalled to Saskatoon in 1981.

FATHER JOHN DOHERTY

1981 - (7 MONTHS)

- Father Doherty was a native of Ireland and served in missions all around the world. He came to St. Edwards' for seven months in 1981. He amused young and old alike with his stories about his world travels. He served in the Nelson Diocese. At present he serves in the Sacred Heart Church in Kimberly, B.C.

FATHER KENNETH FARRELL / FATHER GREGORY SCHNEIDER

1982 - 5 MONTHS

- They took turns serving the parish from Immaculate Conception in Kelowna. They came out for special events, Christmas parties, meetings and special masses.

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He was ordained June 12 1942 in St. Mary's Cathedral in San
Francisco as part of a group of 59.

While in residence at St. Dominic's in San Francisco he
was Bursar of the Western Province of the Dominicans'.

FATHER KENNEDY STEPHENS

- Is the present (92) parish priest

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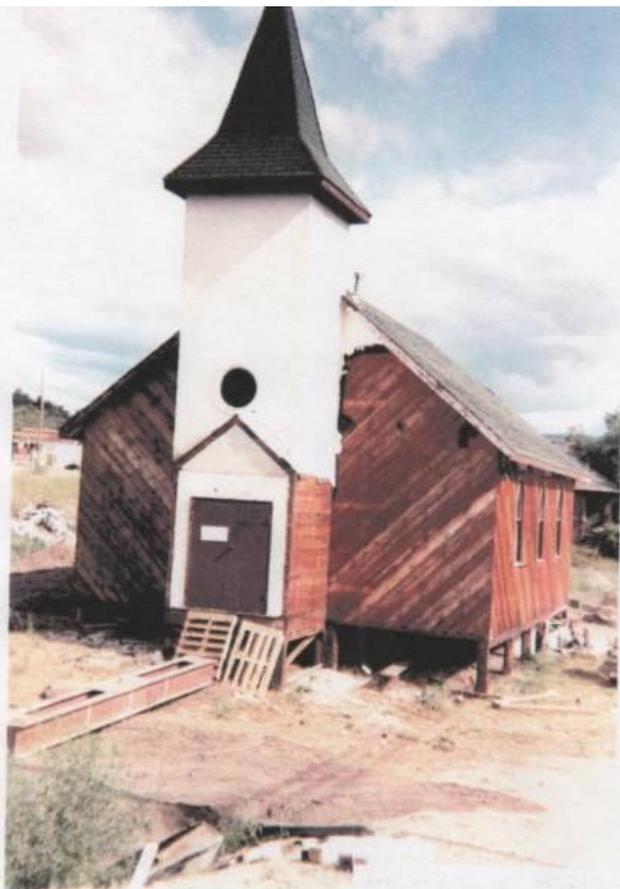
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LIKE A BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATERS, this temporary structure will be used some time this week to ease the move of the former St. Edward's Catholic Church across a stretch of the Canadian National Railway to its new resting place on the Van der Gulik property along Lodge Road. The church was moved from the corner of Highway 97 and Lodge Road, and through several paddocks over the past weekend. For more on the move see page 5



New St. Edwards 1990



THE WINFIELD MISSIONARY CHURCH

The Missionary Church was started in Winfield in 1948, when Mr. and Mrs. Swalm of Didsbury took a Vacation trip to the west coast. The district Superintendent, A. Frey, had asked them to be on the look out for an area where a church could be established. On their way through the Okanagan Valley, the Swalms stopped in at Winfield to visit some old friends. These friends were anxious to talk about the possibilities of establishing a church in the area. They convinced the Swalms to stay overnight and discuss their ideas with other concerned families.

After much consultation and investigation the Conference Executive decided to establish the United Missionary Church in Winfield, the first of its denomination in British Columbia. Pastor Donald Taylor and his wife, the former Joyce Finlay, held the first services in a home on November 21st 1948. At a conference several months later, the Taylors reported a congregation size of approximately 40 parishioners.

In April of 1949, A.B. Dyck, a carpenter, expressed his willingness to help build a church and parsonage on the recently purchased one acre of land. It was decided that the church would be 42 feet by 28 feet. The church was built under the supervision of the Pastor and Mr. Dyck with

THE WINFIELD MISSIONARY CHURCH

The Missionary Church was started in Winfield in 1948, when Mr. and Mrs. Swalm of Didsbury took a Vacation trip to the west coast. The district Superintendent, A. Frey, had asked them to be on the look out for an area where a church could be established. On their way through the Okanagan Valley, the Swalms stopped in at Winfield to visit some old friends. These friends were anxious to talk about the possibilities of establishing a church in the area. They convinced the Swalms to stay overnight and discuss their ideas with other concerned families.

After much consultation and investigation the Conference Executive decided to establish the United Missionary Church in Winfield; the first of its denomination in British Columbia. Pastor Donald Taylor and his wife, the former Joyce Finaly, held the first services in a home on November 21st 1948. At a conference several months later, the Taylors reported a congregation size of approximately 40 parishioners.

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the help of the congregations' men. The church and parsonage were built out of cement blocks and valued at \$8000. The Conference had given them a grant for a majority of the costs and the balance was raised by the congregation. The Church was dedicated on May 27th 1951.

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In 1957 G.W. Dedels took over from Pastor Annett. While he was here, the heating system was improved by the addition of two oil drums for the approximate cost of \$5.00. A root cellar was built for the parsonage, in addition the parsonage was enlarged to better accommodate the pastor's family.

The attendance of the church soon began to grow and by 1950 it had more than doubled its original attendance.

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At present the Missionary church membership is still relatively large and is greatly involved in sponsoring missionary work around the world.

THE PASTORS

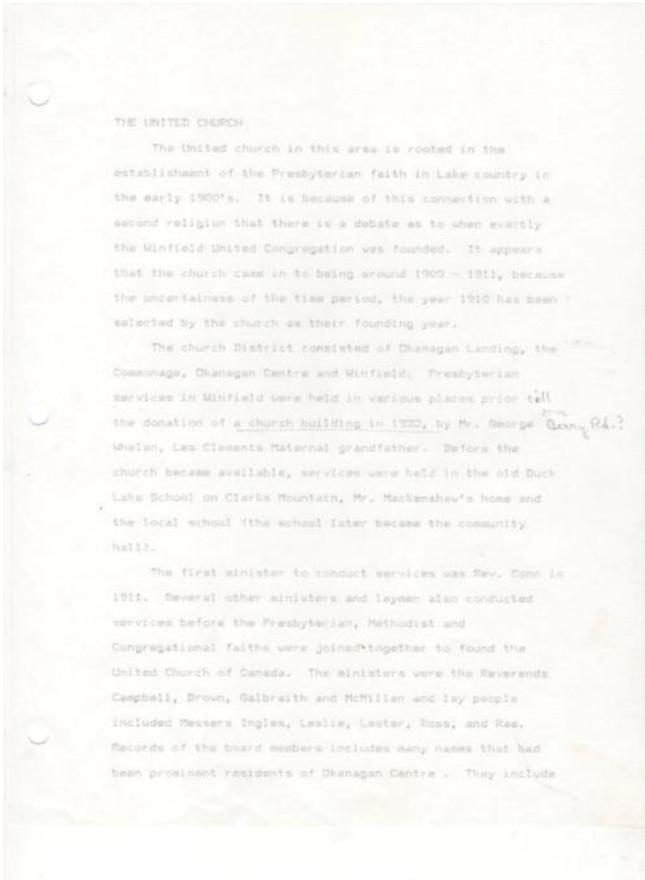
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W.D. ANNETT	AUG. 2/52	TO	JUNE 30/57
GORDON DEDELS	JULY 20/57	TO	JULY /60
RAY SHANTZ	JULY /60	TO	JUNE /62
A.B. NEUFELD	JULY /62	TO	JUNE 30/67
VIRGIL STAUFFER	SEPT. 1/68	TO	JULY 30/71
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THE UNITED CHURCH

The United church in this area is rooted in the establishment of the Presbyterian faith in Lake Country in the early 1900's. It is because of this connection with a second religion that there is a debate as to when exactly the Winfield United Congregation was founded. It appears that the church came in to being around 1909 - 1911, because the uncertainty of the time period, the year 1910 has been selected by the church as their founding year.

The church District consisted of Okanagan Landing, the Commonage, Okanagan Centre and Winfield. Presbyterian services in Winfield were held in various places prior to the donation of a church building in 1932, by Mr. George Whelan, Les Clements Maternal grandfather. Before the church became available, services were held in the old Duck Lake School on Clarks Mountain, Mr. Mackenshaw's home and the local school (the school later became the community hall).

The first minister to conduct services was Rev. Conn in 1911. Several other ministers and laymen also conducted services before the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational faiths were joined together to found the United Church of Canada. The ministers were the Reverends Campbell, Brown, Galbraith and McMillan and lay people included Messers Ingles, Leslie, Lester, Ross and Rae. Records of the board members includes many names that had been prominent residents of Okanagan Centre. They include

in no particular order : the McDonalds, Johns, Edmonds, Bridges and Petries, Messers Mackinshaw, Fowler, Clark, Shanks, Doak, Georges, Cresswell, Robinson, McDonagh and Reading. Over the years Mrs. Shanks (1916 - 1922), Mrs. Cresswell, and Mrs. McDonald played the organ for the church.

OKANAGAN CENTRE

The St. Pauls Presbyterian Church was originally located on land wanted by the Okanagan Centre Packing House. The area now is the cold storage building behind the Okanagan Centre Store. The first minister was Rev. Campbell Brown. He and his wife had both been missionaries in China before coming to the Okanagan. They lived between Oyama and Vernon at Crystal Waters.

Rev. Brown would walk to the Centre from his home to Okanagan Centre for morning services, then he walked or if he was lucky, was driven, to Winfield for an afternoon service. In addition to being a house of worship, St. Pauls was also used as a school room, and as a theater of sorts for Christmas concerts and musical operettas.

The Okanagan Land Company required the land that the church sat on for their packing house operations. Therefore in about 1949 the company, in exchange for the land, dismantled the church and rebuilt it using the original materials, including the windows, on Maddock road near where the Okanagan Centre Hall is now located. The

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After amalgamation with Winfield in January, 1963, Crystal Taylor bought the Church and converted it in to a private home. It still serves as that today. The sign from the church resides in the Lake Country Museum.

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Three families were mainly responsible for the erection of the Church in Oyama. Mr. Young, provided the land, Dr. Irvine, provided the money, and Mr. McClure, provided the construction skills. Even before the Union it was called the "Union Church" because it served as a house of worship for other denominations including the Anglican Church.

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Rev. Mallet succeeded Rev. Crysdale and during this time Mr. Hembling canvassed for donations to reshingle the church roof. The Main family of Oyama took a particular regard in the beautification of the church and its grounds. (After the amalgamation of the Winfield and Oyama church a Colorado Blue spruce tree was planted in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Main in an area just east of the Winfield church.)

The congregation began to dwindle so much in the late fifties early sixties that the Oyama church was closed down during the months of July and August. Interested members began to worship in Winfield, and this, along with improved roads, resulted in talks of uniting the two churches together. The amalgamation became a reality in 1971. The board of trustees accepted an offer from the Oyama Fire Department for the church and it was converted into a fire hall which is still used today. The money from the sale was used for the upgrading of the Winfield church. The sign from the Oyama United Church also resides in the Lake Country Museum. The three community churches were now one, The Winfield United Church.

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In 1932 an empty church from the Ellison district was brought in to the site of the present Winfield Church. This building had originally been donated to the Ellison district by Les Clement's maternal grandfather, Mr. George Whelan. It was dismantled under the direction of Mr. John Arnold, each piece was marked carefully, then loaded onto a stone boat and pulled by horses along the then gravel highway to the site in Winfield where it was re-erected. During the reconstruction, Rev. J. Little-King fell through the rafters; fortunately he was not hurt.

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In the spring of 1948, just after the arrival of Rev. Stuart Crysedale, the Winfield church was burned down to the ground. That very same day a meeting was held and plans were made to rebuild the church. Until the new church was completed in 1950 the congregation used the Anglican Church in Winfield, ST. Margarets. In September 1950 the present church was dedicated.

At this time Winfield was part of a five point charge including Rutland, Benvoulin, Okanagan Centre and Oyama. In 1961, with the coming of Graham Dickie, a student from the Nanawats Training Center, the circuit was reduced to three, Winfield, Okanagan Centre and Oyama.

In January of 1963 the Okanagan Centre Church joined with Winfield.

It was in 1970 under the ministrations of Layman Wannops that the thrift shop, originally called the What-Not-Shop, was built. It was a suggestion of Peggy Lowe that

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By 1975 the work on the landscaping of the area around the church was finally completed. Many willing members helped with the project in order to get the area ready for the 50th anniversary to the Union of the Churches. Also at this time the inside of the church was renovated. In 1980 new church doors were installed in memory of Ella and Fred Sneesby.

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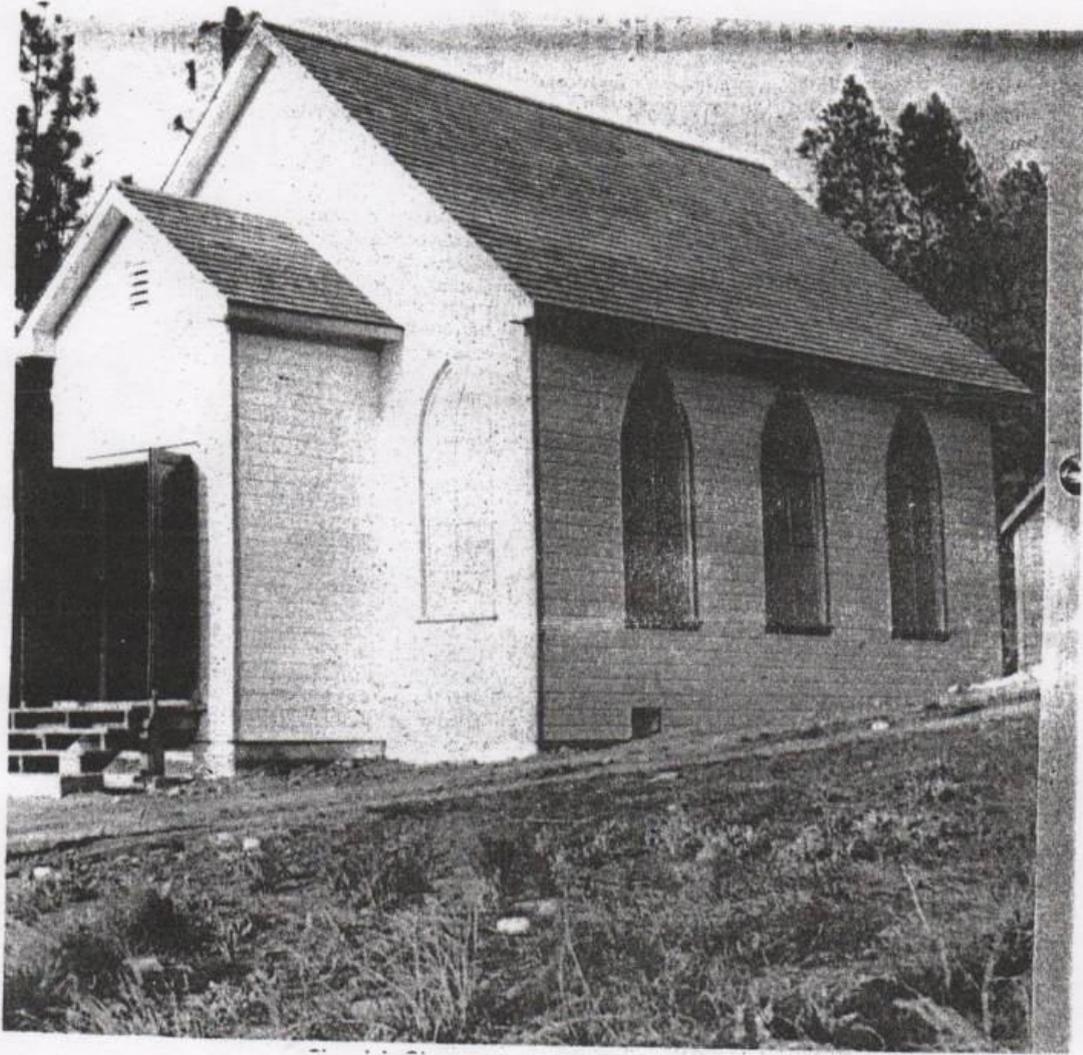
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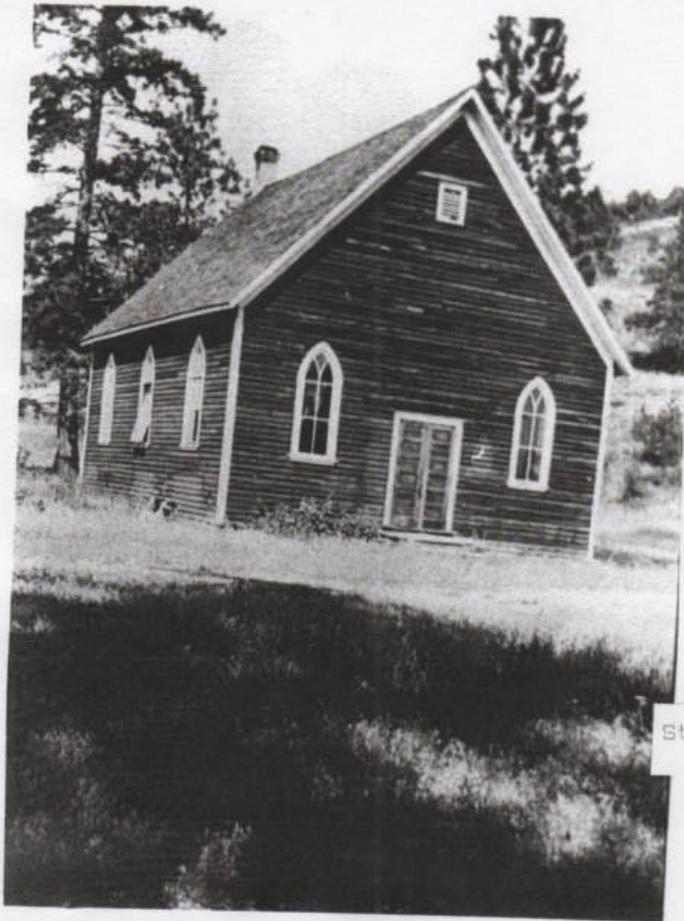
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St. Paul's United (presbyterian)
- as seen on second site



also used
for the school
and as the
community H

St. Paul's Presbyterians
- Original Site
Behind the store



St. Paul's United
- converted to home



Winfield Hall/School
- used as church by United + Anglican



Winfield United Church.
- Berry Road



Oyama United Church Location

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

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On February 10, 1951 the new church home was dedicated. According to an account by Verna Moser: "the church was tastefully decorated for this special occasion with daffodils and ferns. Special music was given by Clara Reimche Ritchey... The choir also did a number."

Pastor W.A. Nelson, president of the Canadian Union Conference of SDA Gave the dedication Address. H.A Shepard the Canadian Union Treasure gave the scripture reading and prayer. Pastors R.A. Smithwill and E. Rasmussen were also present for the services.

In 1951 the church membership was at 94, with Pastor George Maclean running the services. Head Elder was Herbert Reimche, head deacon was George Reiswig and church clerk was Anne Samchenko.

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The School operated from 1947 to 1961. According to Verna Moser it was closed due to the fact that fourteen families with children attending the school moved out of the area in '61. These families had been working in the lumber industry and several mills had closed down at this time due to lack of timber.

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Original Seventh Day Adventist Church
- 1951, Bottom Woodlake Road



New Seventh Day Adventist Church
- 1991, Bottom Woodlake Road

METHODIST CHURCH / PINE GROVE CAMP

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The church itself was closed down sometime in the early to mid 60's due to lack of congregational interest. Many members had drifted off to other churches such as the Missionary (Methodist) church and the United. Other interested members started to commute to Kelowna for services. Although its Winfield branch was winding down, the Church built a retreat camp, the Pine Grove Methodist Camp, on Seaton/ Dyck road. The Pine Grove Camp grounds were built a few years after the Church, the buildings and ground facilities were completed in 1967.

Two acres of land and two cabins for the camp was donated by Mr. Paul Chase, a local orchardist. Under the direction of Rev. Charles P. Stewart and Paul Chase, the camp was built by volunteer labour and most of the cabins were built and paid for by church members, such as Paul Chase, Ed Patterson, Al Swanson and Kimmie Takanaka. Rev Stewart was also a carpenter and was in charge of the construction. It was used over the years for Methodist group retreats. When it was not being used by the Church members it was rented out to other Churches and groups such as the Girl Guides.

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The group started in Winfield in 1988-89 at the Kokanee beach Resort/Hotel and they held classes in the morning at the Woodlake Inn. They moved to the camp because it was quieter, roomier and out of the way but not isolated.

The Camp was renovated by the group in 89-90 and the cost was split between the Methodist Church and YWAM. The camp caters to all ages from teenage to late 40's.

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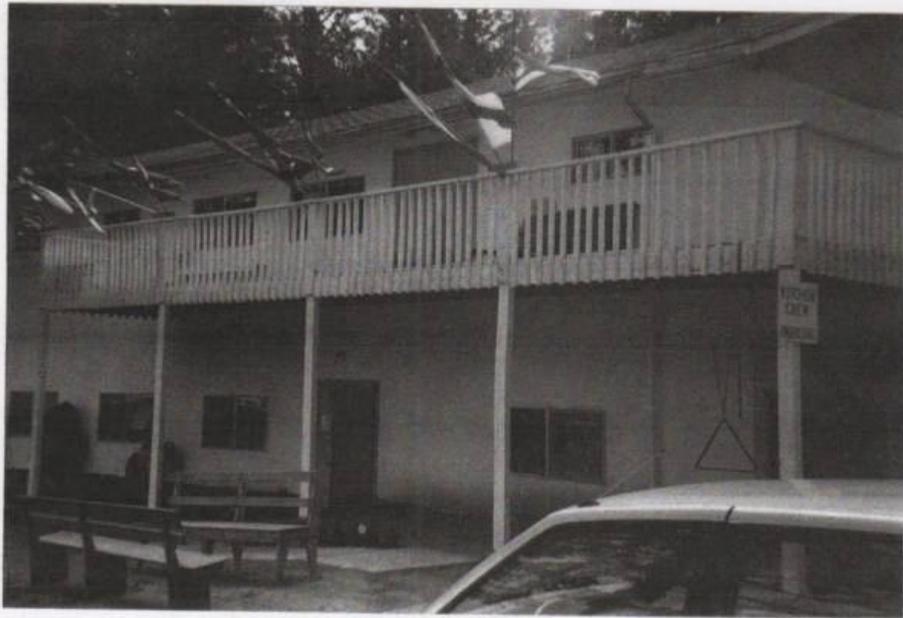


Free Methodist Church
- Hill Road, now apartments

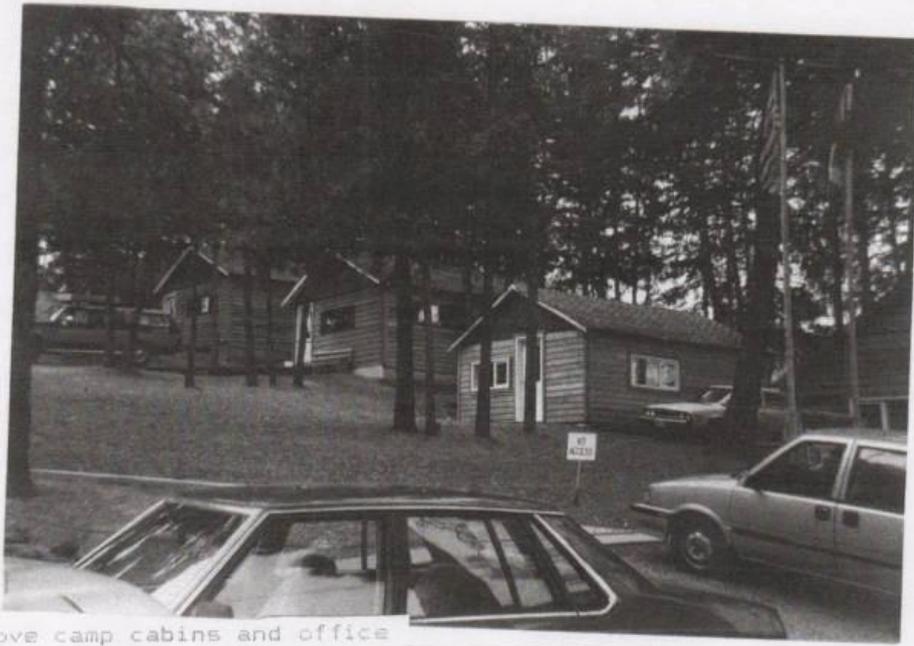




Pine Grove camp, meeting hall
Chase RD.

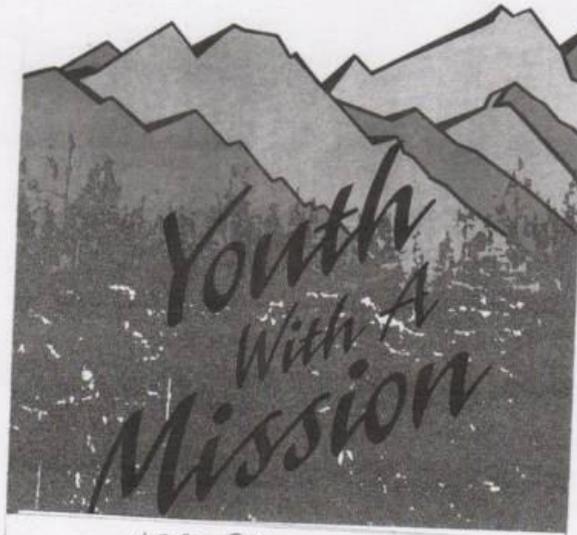


Pine Grove camp dining Hall



Pine Grove camp cabins and office

MISSIONS & TRAINING PROGRAMS



766-2387
P.O. Box 922, Winfield, B.C., Canada V0H 2C0
(604) 766-3838 Fax (604) 764-2912



LAKE COUNTRY ALLIANCE CHURCH

It had become the goal of the Kelowna Alliance Church and the vision of several families who attended there, but lived in Winfield, to plant a daughter church that would serve the Winfield, Oyama, Carr's Landing and Okanagan Centre Areas more efficiently than the Kelowna church could. A steering committee was struck and Rev. Graham Clark, with his wife, Vi, was called to establish this church and to serve as its first pastor. The first service was held on September 12, 1982 in the Seventh Day Adventist Fellowship Hall situated behind their Sanctuary on the corner of Reimche Road and Bottom Woods Lake Road in Winfield.

The new church was granted its charter from the Christian and Missionary Alliance on February 20, 1983 with twenty nine charter members and the official name of Lake Country Alliance Church.

Rev. Clark led the church through the early stages of acquiring property and erecting its first structure, and on October 9, 1983, thirteen months after its first service, Lake Country Alliance Church moved into its own building, a cement block, multi - use facility on Ocoala road. Moveable furniture allowed this versatile building to accommodate various gatherings and activities. The dedication service was held on October 16, 1983.

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Having set into place a full slate of programs and the necessary administration to keep them running smoothly, Rev. Clark had successfully completed the job of establishing the new congregation and resigned in November of 1985. Rev. Rick Nichel filled the pulpit on an interim basis until a new pastor was found.

Rev. Dave Martens, with his wife, Linda, took up pastoral duties in June of 1986. By this time the congregation had outgrown the space available in the multi-use facility and it was very evident that a proper sanctuary was needed.

At the same time, Trinity Baptist Church in Kelowna had also outgrown their sanctuary and, planning to build a new one on the same property, made available their old sanctuary to the Lake Country Alliance at a cost much lower than building one themselves. The arched beam structure with a seating capacity of four hundred was dismantled in Kelowna and moved in sections to Winfield where it was reconstructed and joined to the cement block building on Oceola road.

Pastor Martens led the congregation through this second phase of the building project and served as pastor until January 1992. During the following transition time Rev. R. Munro serves as interim pastor.

On September 13, 1992, on the tenth anniversary of Lake Country Alliance Church, Rev. Gerald Gould, with his

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Lake Country Alliance Church
oceloa road Winfield



Jehovah's Witnesses - Their History in Winfield

When Walter and Esther Forsbloom arrived in Oyama in 1945, there were very few Jehovah's Witnesses meeting together to study the Bible in private homes and attending meetings in Vernon and Kelowna. Soon they were joined by Dick and Grace Lamb and their two children, Keith and Marilyn. By 1947, many new families move into the area. LJ and Agnes David, with their two girls, Janice and Beverly, George Enns with his large family along with the Fairas Dooley, Edith and son Clifford. The Brotens Hiemstras, Skroves and Walls also moved in around this time.

Soon the need was seen for a Kingdom Hall in Winfield. In the spring of 1948 the first Kingdom Hall was constructed on land located on Newene Road, which was anonymously donated, where Wood Lake Book Inc. is now situated. It sat on the east side of the present building at the basement level.

The building was constructed on a large cement slab out of cull lumber and finished with grey imitation brick siding. Some of those that had a share in the building project were Wieb Hiemstra, Olaf Broten, Orval Skrove, LJ David, Dick Lamb, Henry Betz, Dooley Fair, George Enns and Louis Youngberg. To finish off the inside many helping hands painted not only the walls but the cement floor. To help make it look like linoleum they crumpled newspaper or used sponges, dipped them in grey paint and textured the rust coloured floor with it creating the effect they wanted. Lou Skrove, Edith Fair and Agnes David recall doing this. The building was heated by a cast iron wood stove at the back. This meant someone had to go early and start the fire. There were times when it was just getting warm when it was time to go home. "Pa Skrove" made the benches which were used for over 20 years. Orval and Lou Skrove still have one they use on the deck at their home. Margaret and Helen Enns donated their organ. It was very hard to pump so Dooley Fair was the only one who could play it. Music was supplied from time to time by Dooley on the banjo accompanied by a violin and guitar. Later a book room was added on the north side.

Newene Road was not only the sight of the new Kingdom Hall, but many families, the Forsblooms, Davids, Lambs, Fairas, Walls and Enns, built their homes on the hillside, prompting the locals to call it "Jehovah's Heights".

An important date each year in the lives of Jehovah's Witnesses is the annual celebration of the Lord's Evening Meal. In 1949, for the first time, this Memorial of Christ's death was celebrated in the Winfield Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses with close to 100 attending.

Over the years the size of the Winfield Congregation has fluctuated up and down, partly because of the lack of work in the area. A few of the early families are still in the area. Names like Skrove, Fair, Trippel, Brun and McDonald. Some have returned such as Esther Forsbloom and Agnes David.

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The first Kingdom Hall served its purpose but in the middle 1960's the need was seen for a larger more modern building, having the conveniences of indoor plumbing and a better heating system. This Kingdom Hall was built just west of the first one which remained in use until the new one was completed. Bob Eisler recalls standing on the roof of the old Kingdom Hall while Jake Schneider was painting the siding of the new Kingdom Hall. When it was completed Clifford Fair tore down the old building for salvage and the cement slab was broken up and buried in a small ravine directly at the back of the new Kingdom Hall. A dedication of the new Kingdom Hall took place March 29 & 30, 1969. Frank Tadie, Bruce Lester and Gordon McBrine shared in the dedication program and Circuit Overseer Victor Rohatynsky gave the dedication talk.

Chairs were now used for seating, some wooden and some padded vinyl. Sometime around 1982 or 1983 arrangements were made with several other congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses to work together in the construction of new chairs. These were constructed of a metal frame holding three chairs together with upholstered seats and backs and wooden arm rests. Many from Winfield went to Westbank where construction was taking place, to weld frames, cut out and sew upholstery and to sand and stain arm rests. Out of this combined effort, the Winfield Congregation received 150 beautiful and comfortable new chairs.

In 1984 land on Bottom Wood Lake Road was purchased from Wilf Gelhorn for the construction of a newer larger Kingdom Hall. For two years money was saved. In the spring of 1986 work started on some of the landscaping and fencing of the property. In the spring of 1988, work began in earnest on the building itself. Excavation was done and the foundation was poured. Back filling completed, it was now time to pour the floor. From then on there was always something happening on the site. Then came Saturday, August 20, 1988, the big day! With volunteers from throughout the Okanagan, Kootenays, Vancouver, and Alberta, hundreds worked all day Saturday starting at 7:30 a.m. At the end of the day, the building was framed and the roof was on and shingled. The weekend of September 10 & 11, 1988, everybody came together again to complete the building. With the drapes hung, decorated with beautiful dried flower arrangements and chairs all in place, the first meeting, a study of the Bible, using the Watch Tower magazine was held at 7:00 p.m.

During the previous six months many meals were provided for the volunteers. This in itself required a lot of preparation. The ladies of the Winfield Congregation gathered together in small groups making pies, cakes, loaves and cookies. Thousands of perogies were made ahead of time. For a nominal fee, the Winfield Community Hall kindly made available for use as a kitchen the building that is now the Winfield Food Bank. Here thousands of meals were prepared for the hundreds of volunteers not to mention the many many coffee breaks. At one point food was prepared right through the night as work was being done. Pancakes and eggs were served for breakfast, 500 pounds of hamburger was

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A cordial invitation was extended to the Winfield community to attend the Open House of the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses during the week of September 12 - 19, 1988. All who came were invited to sign the guest book. Some of the visitors came from as far away as Japan and from all provinces of Canada.

The old Kingdom Hall on Newene Road was purchased by the Wood Lake Book Inc. in June of 1988 and it was rented back from them for about two months. They moved in the beginning of August, making it necessary for Jehovah's Witnesses in Winfield to hold their meetings in Vernon for a few weeks.

On Saturday, October 1, 1988 the Dedication program was held. A history of Jehovah's Witnesses in Winfield was presented with interviews of Marion Brun, Orval and Lou Skrove, Agnes David and Edith Fair, all of whom attended meetings in the first Kingdom Hall. All of the above except Marion Brun have assisted in the building of all three Kingdom Halls.

The program also included slides and experiences of construction and the Dedication talk was given by Larry Gray, a former Travelling Overseer, and presently caretaker of the Okanagan Assembly Centre of Jehovah's Witnesses in Vernon.

The 3,600 square foot building accommodates a main auditorium, a library, multi purpose room, nursing mothers room, and washrooms. It is also wheelchair accessible. The needs of the Winfield Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses will be filled in the years to come as these fine facilities provide room for growth and expansion.

Of those who have associated with the Winfield Congregation over the years, some have gone into the missionary field in Africa and others have served the needs of other Jehovah's Witnesses across Canada as Travelling Overseers.

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On Saturday, August 20, the Winfield Jehovah Witness, along with members from other valley congregations, began constructing the first stage of their new Kingdom Hall



CAMP HATIKVAH

Camp Hatikvah is a private Jewish summer camp in Oyama. It caters to children 8 to 15 years of age. These children are divided into three sections, 8 to 12, 12 and 14, and 15 year old councilors in training.

The camp property was bought in 1954, and the camp itself was operational by 1955. It was bought after a long search of several British Columbia sites by a Search Committee which had been organized by the Jewish Council of Vancouver.

The Oyama location was chosen due to the mild climate of the area and by the fact that the site is surrounded on three sides by Kalamalka Lake and across the road from the Camp is Wood Lake. The property itself used to be a private ranch and orchard. The office is an converted farm house.

The purpose of the camp is to "foster the perpetuation of the state of Israel and ...the education of youth in the Jewish way of life (from the camp constitution). In other words the camp is there for two purposes. One, to teach the children about their religion and Heritage and two, to provide the children with a fun summer getaway.

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The staff is trained in June and the camp is open to registered campers in July and August. Camp Hatikvah is then rented out in the Winter months.

The Unusual aspect of this camp in comparison with the other religious camps that exist or had existed in the area is that it preceded the construction of any main building of worship. The first Jewish Temple and community center was built in Kelowna on Glenmore Road in the spring of 1992.

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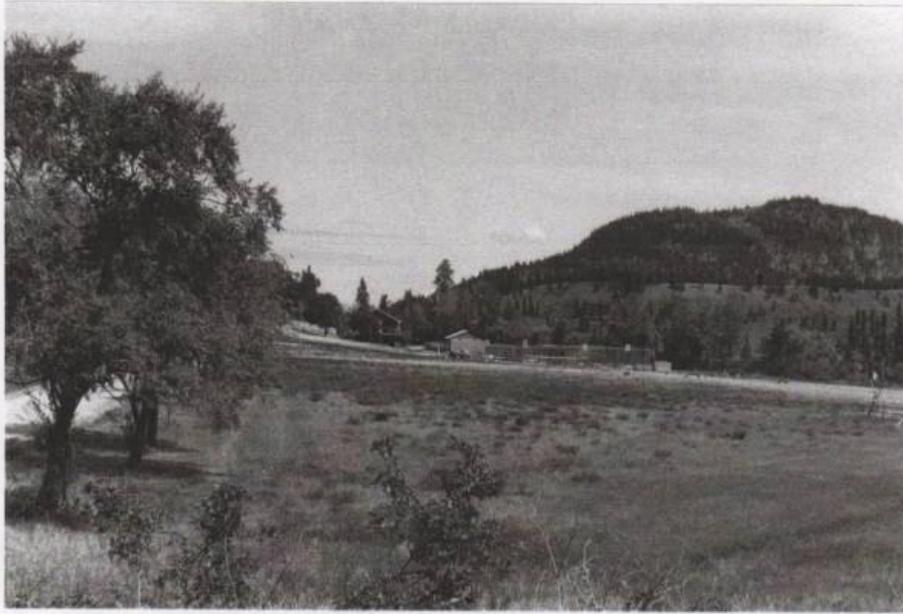
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Camp Hatikvah - Oyama





THE HARVEST TIME FELLOWSHIP

The Harvest Time Fellowship is a Christian group that is located in Winfield. It does not have a church but conducts its services in homes, halls and resort areas. Its services are conducted upon request and they can be located by phoning Jack York of Winfield. It has an 85 home membership and is not planning to build a permanent place of worship.

THE WINFIELD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

The Winfield Christian Fellowship is a new church to Lake Country. It started taking services in May of 1992 in the Okanagan Centre Community Hall. Already it has a congregation of over one hundred members. The Leader of the Church is Terry Lamb. He and his family are recent arrivals from the coast.

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BAHA'I

The Baha'i group has been in Lake country for several years starting in the early 80's, it had a re-emergance in 1987 with the arrival of Hank and Regina Jonkers. More members moved to the area in the following years and the group as a congregation size of 11 adults and 9 children. The group also as a branch in the Kelowna area with approximately 60 members.

The group meets in houses and there are no plans for the building of a permanent structure.

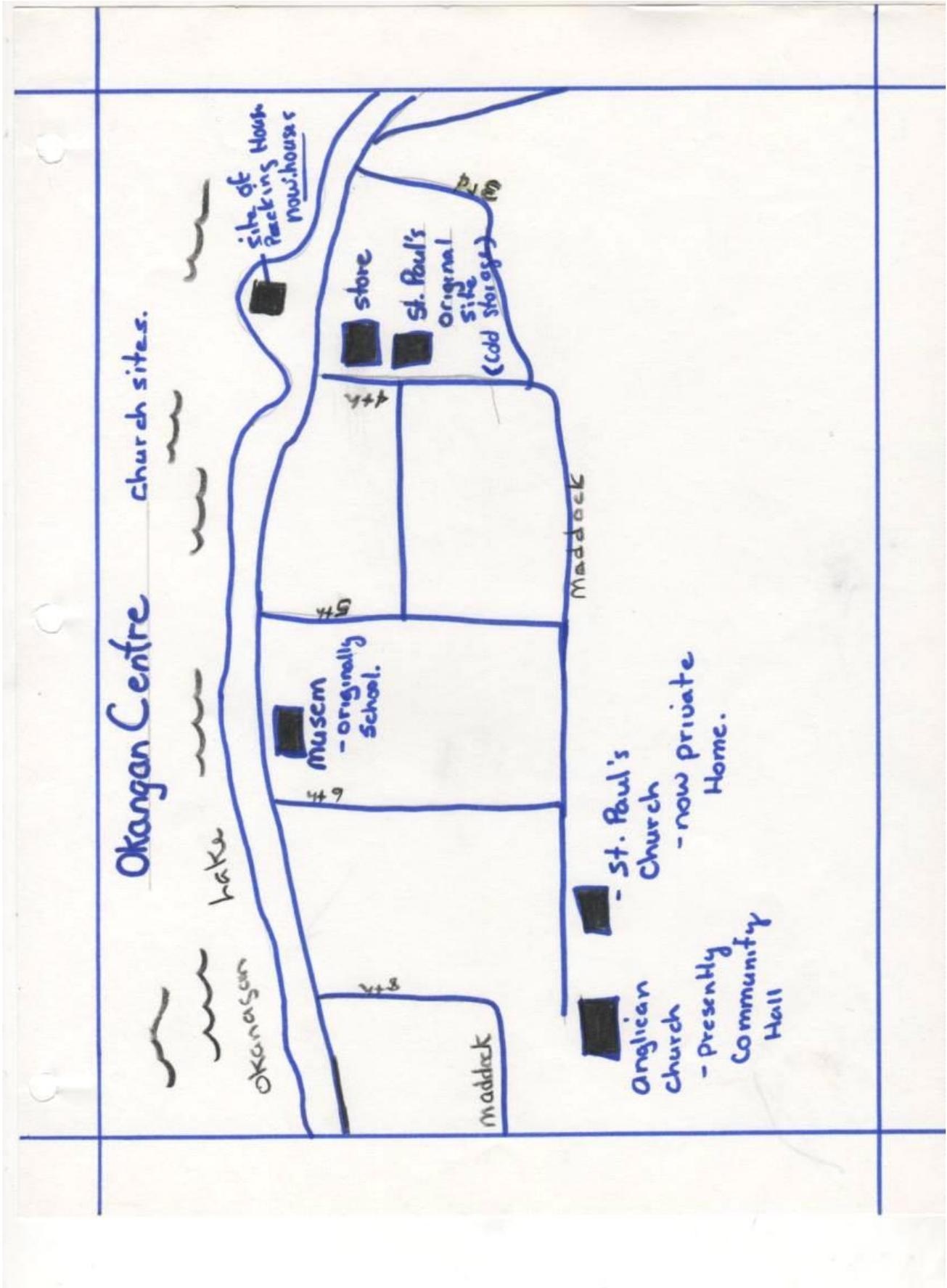
The Baha'i group is community minded when it comes to children, they have created a banner of Unity and Diversity that the children draw on. When it is completed it will be donated to a school or library.

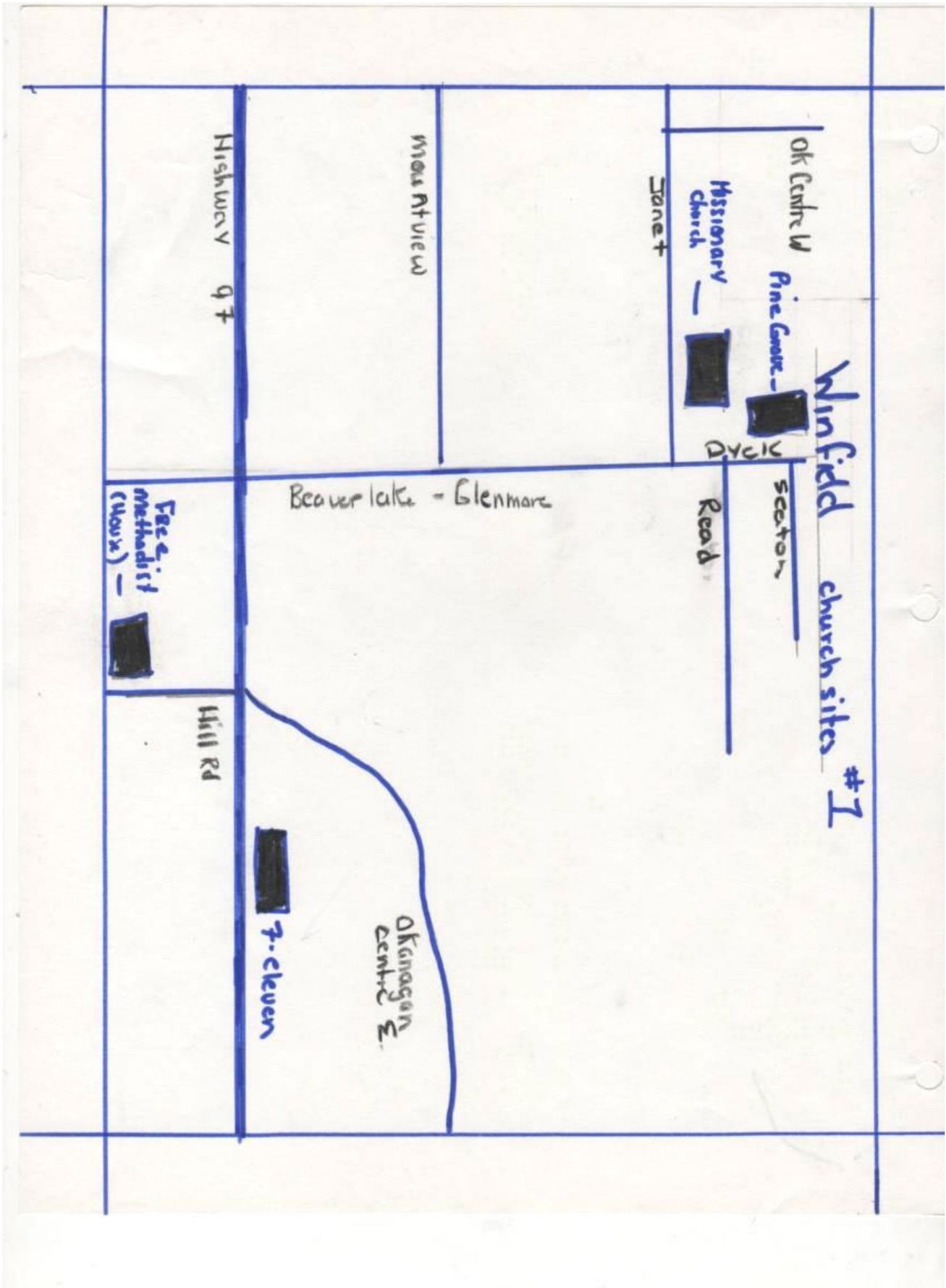
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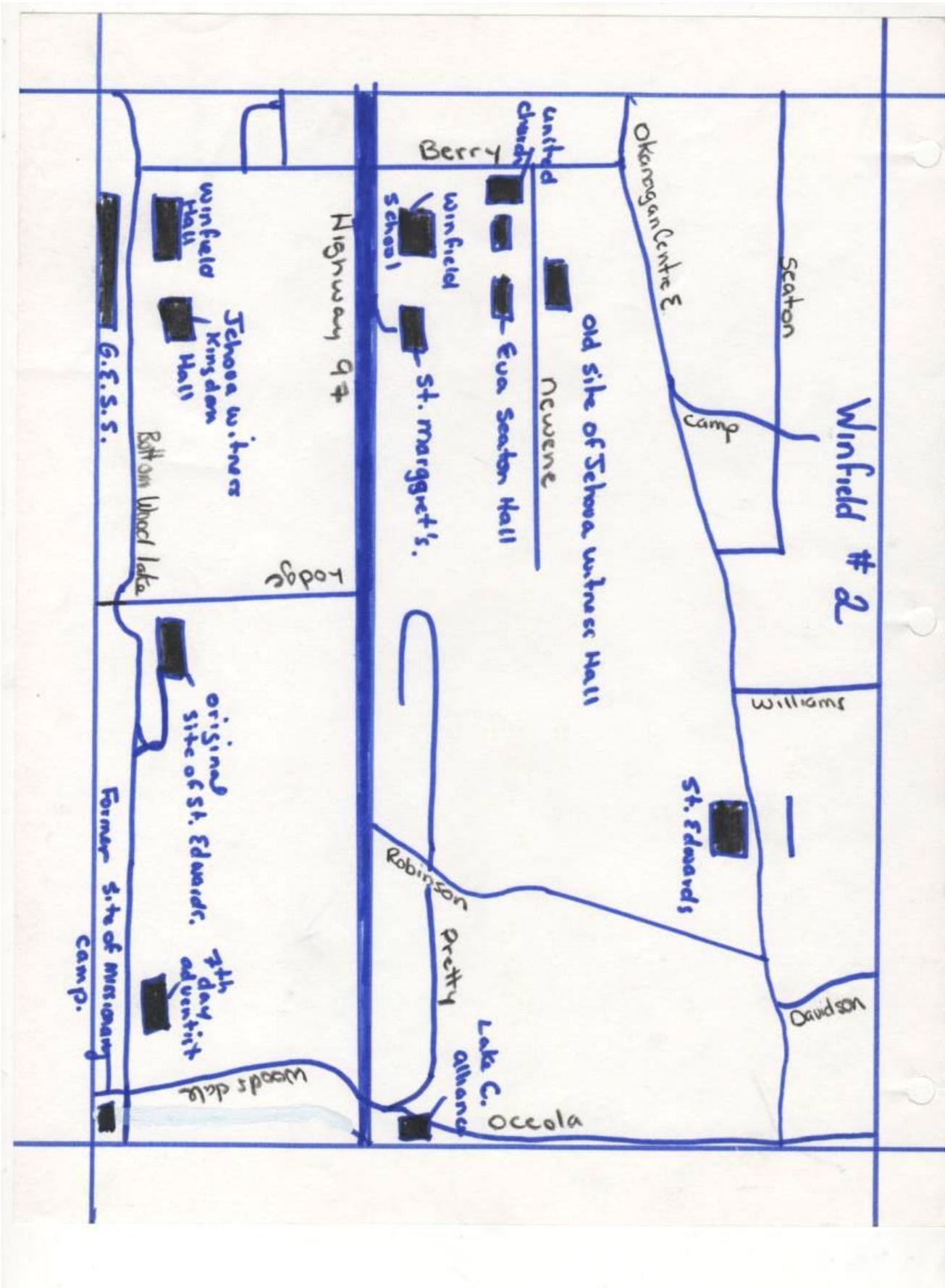
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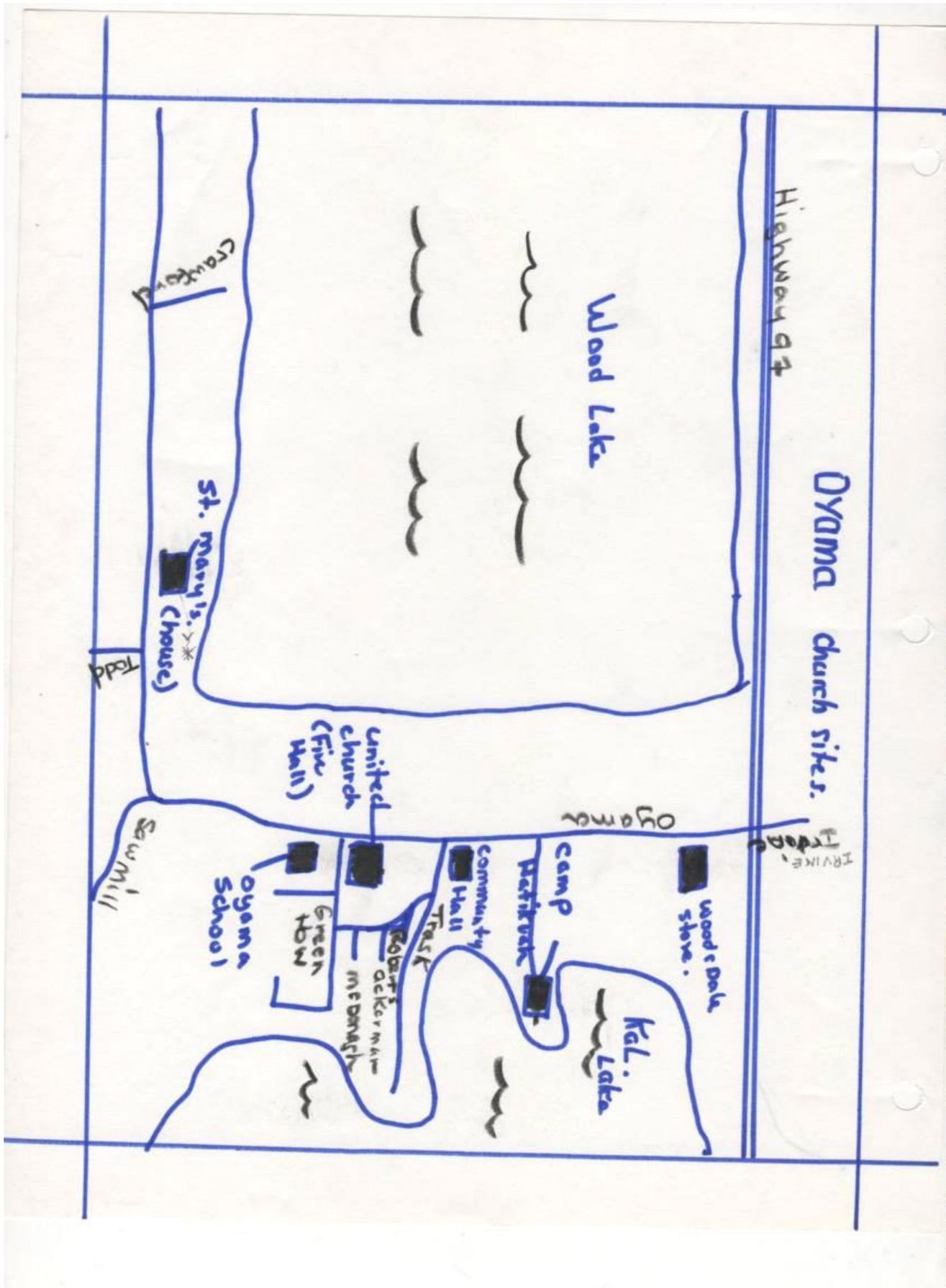
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Methodist And PINE GROVE



SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST



UNITED Church



MISSIONARY Church



ST. EDWARDS
CATHOLIC
CHURCH



THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF WOODSDALE

