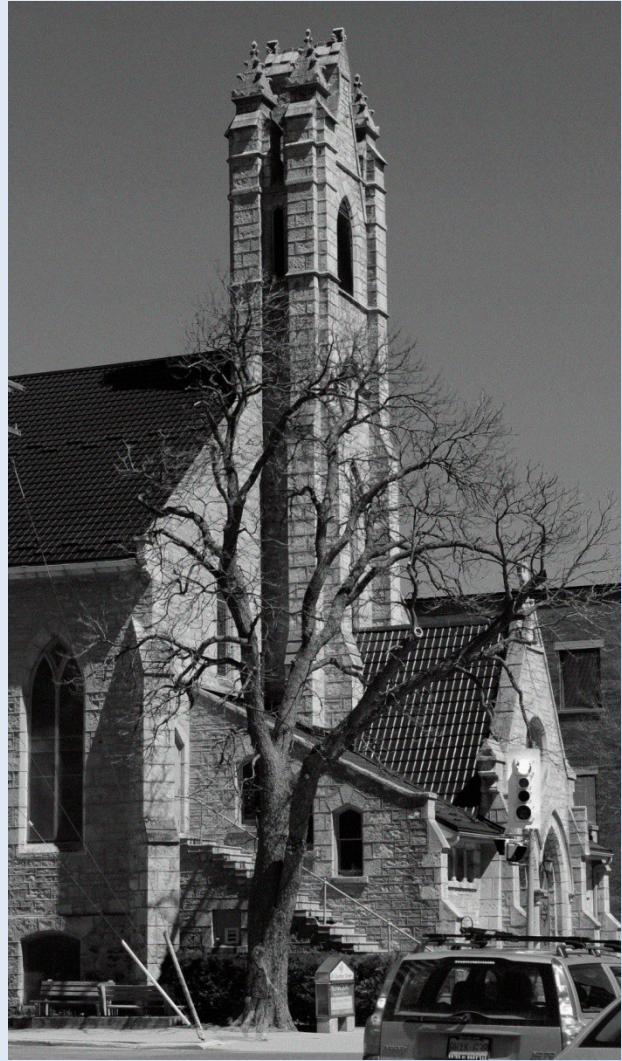


The Stone Churches of Downtown Guelph

Royal City Men's Club
Thursday, December 7,
2017

The project



Preserving history

- These churches represent the beginnings of Guelph's church history.
- These churches represent the best in 19th century church architecture.
- Downtown churches—and in some cases—church architecture are fast disappearing from the Canadian landscape. _

In the beginning...

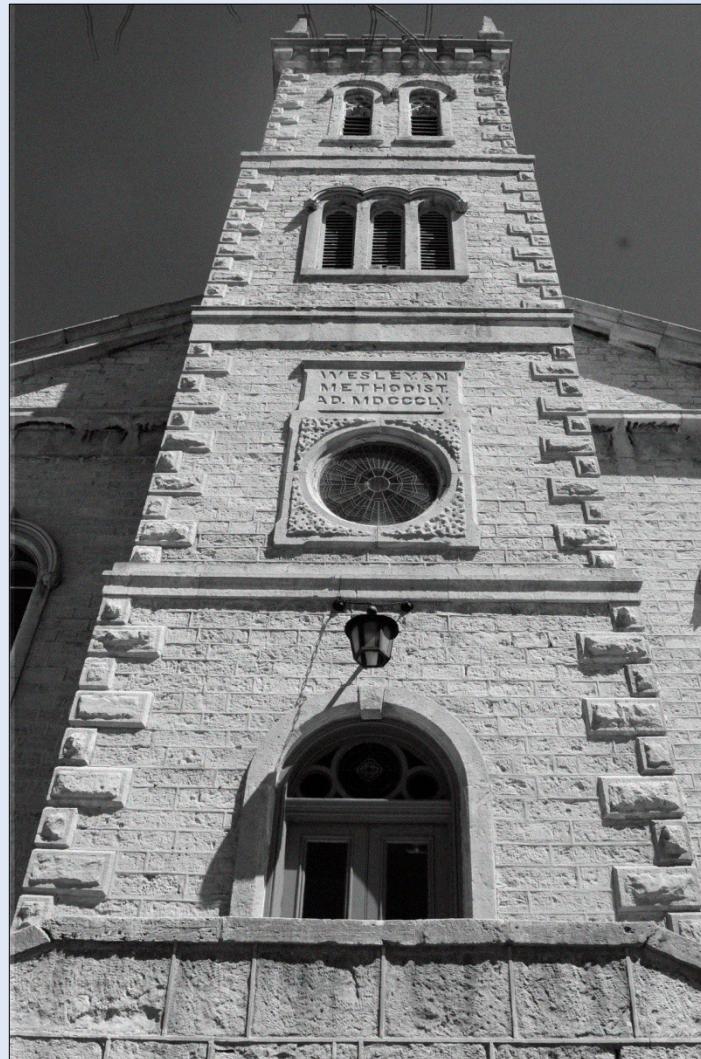


Governors-General, apprentices & artists



Guelph Lakeside Downtown

built 1855

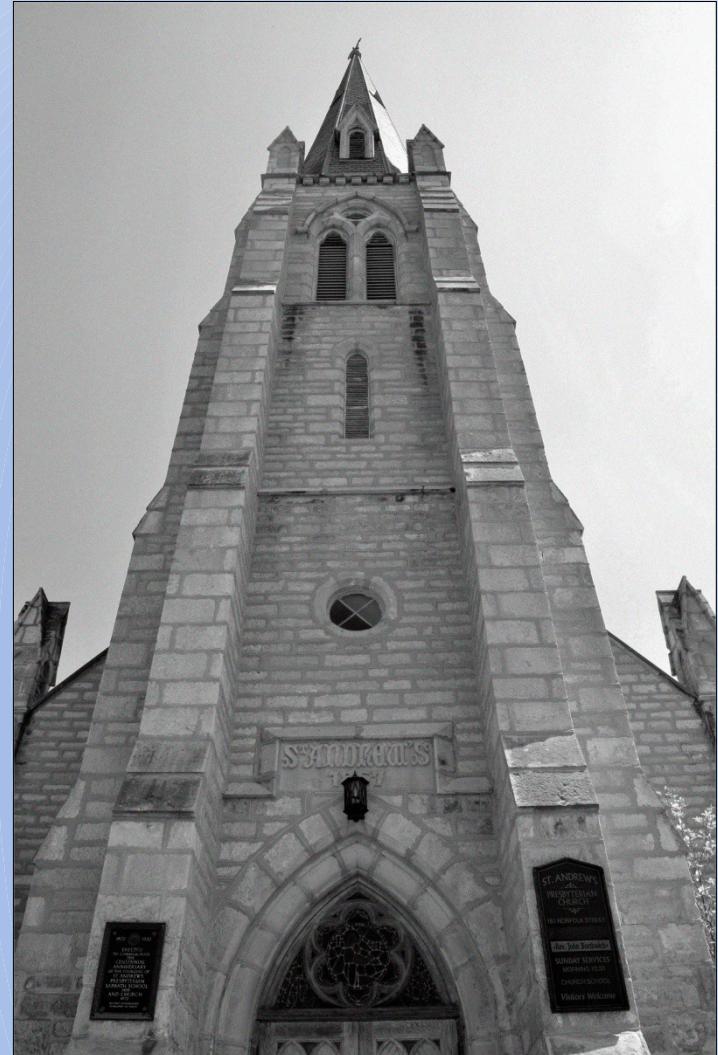


- The cornerstone for current building—one of largest in southwestern Ontario at the time—was laid on April 23, 1855
- 1925 – Wesleyan Methodist, after formation of the United Church of Canada, church becomes known as Norfolk Street United Church.
- 2012 - the Norfolk Street United Church congregation sells building to Lakeside Church for HOPE House community outreach program.
- 2014 -Lakeside Downtown congregation launched.
- 1917 to 1921 – Rev. Edwin Pearson, father of Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson, served as pastor.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

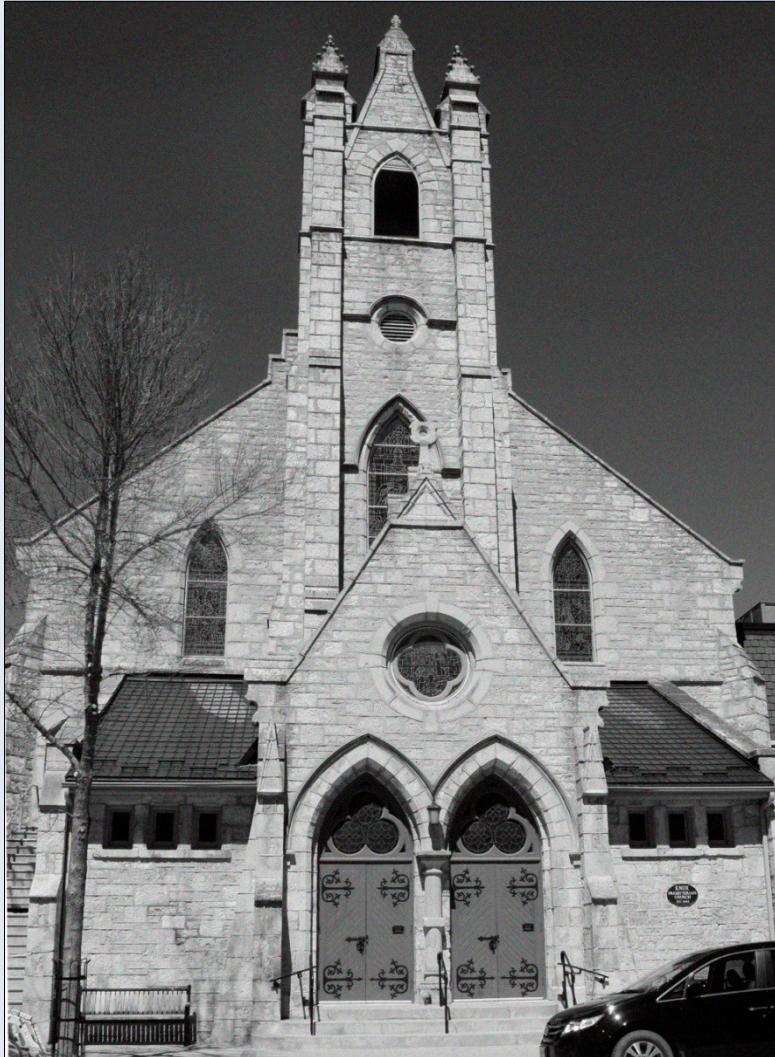
built 1857- 1858

- Home to the oldest congregation in the city – began in 1828.
- Construction on the current Gothic-revival building, designed by William Hay, began in June 1857.
- 2017 – an August lighting strike hits steeple. Fire causes iron rooster weather vane to fall off, vestibule suffers water damage. Rooster replaced in November.
- Home church of the McCrae family, including Guelph native Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae, author of “In Flanders Fields.”



Knox Presbyterian Church

built 1868

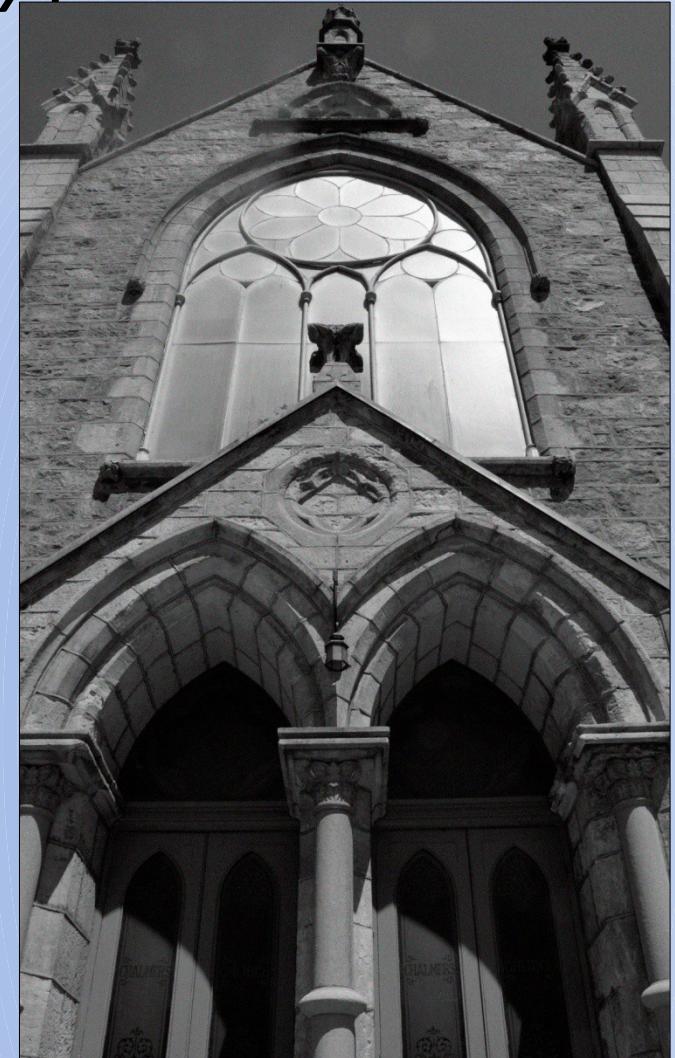


- 1843 – Reverend Thomas Chalmers and around 400 members leave St. Andrew's Church in disagreement around church principles and practices.
- 1868 – construction begins on building, designed by architect James Avon Smith of Toronto.
- 1901 – renovations include installation of a new pipe organ (rear of the building pushed back to accommodate it), new floor , gallery front, circular seating and gas lighting.

Royal City Church

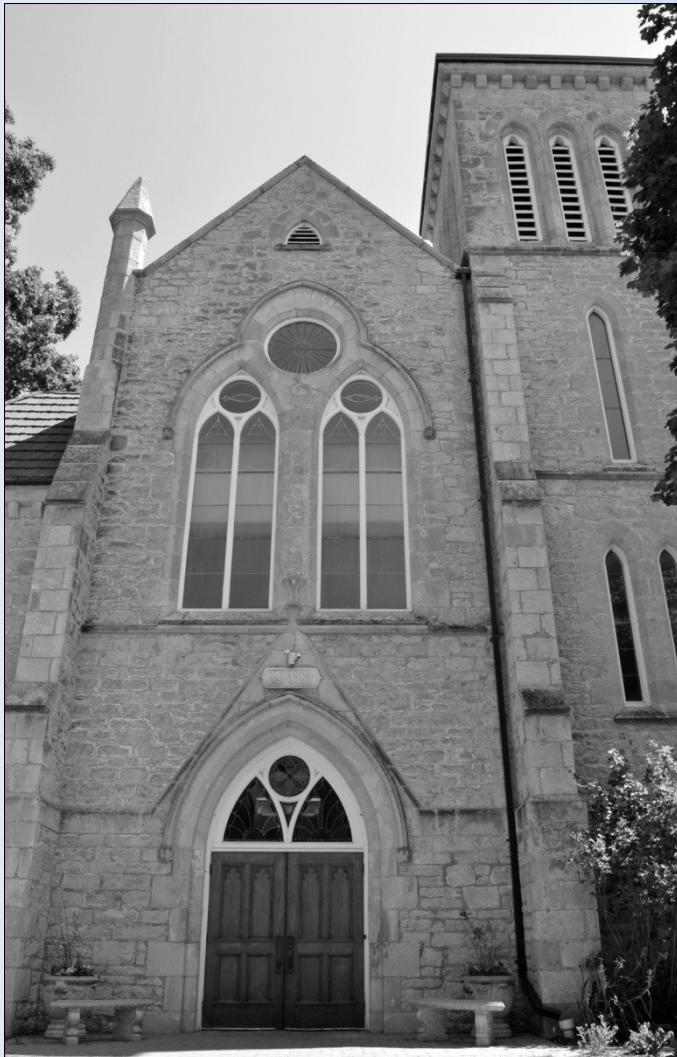
completed 1871

- 1860s – began when members of Knox Presbyterian Church, upset over a divide in the church union , left and hired architect Henry Langley to design and build a new church.
- Two unique requests: 1) members wanted Langley to model new church after Knox Church in Montreal; and 2) use matched grey granite for the church's façade instead of limestone.
- 1925 – became one of the Presbyterian congregations to join the United Church of Canada when it was formed



First Baptist Church

built 1872

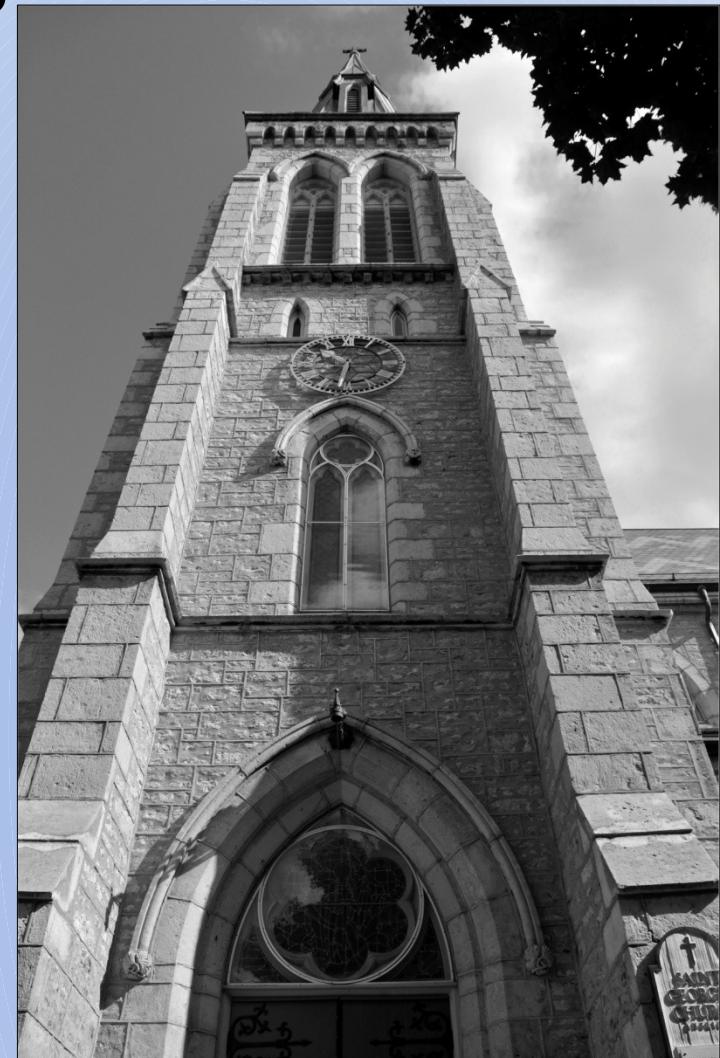


- 1872 – land purchased and cornerstone laid. Services began in the church basement in 1873 and by 1875 the building was completed and dedicated.
- 1959 – steeple was removed after inspection revealed deterioration inside the beams. A flat roof was constructed to cover the top of the stone tower.
- 1963 – a fire in May destroyed the sanctuary, including a two-manual Casavant organ that had been dedicated in 1920, and damaged the rest of the building.
- 1964 – rebuilt church, including an installation of a new 3-manual electronic Allen organ, the largest of its kind in Canada at the time, is rededicated

St. George's Anglican Church

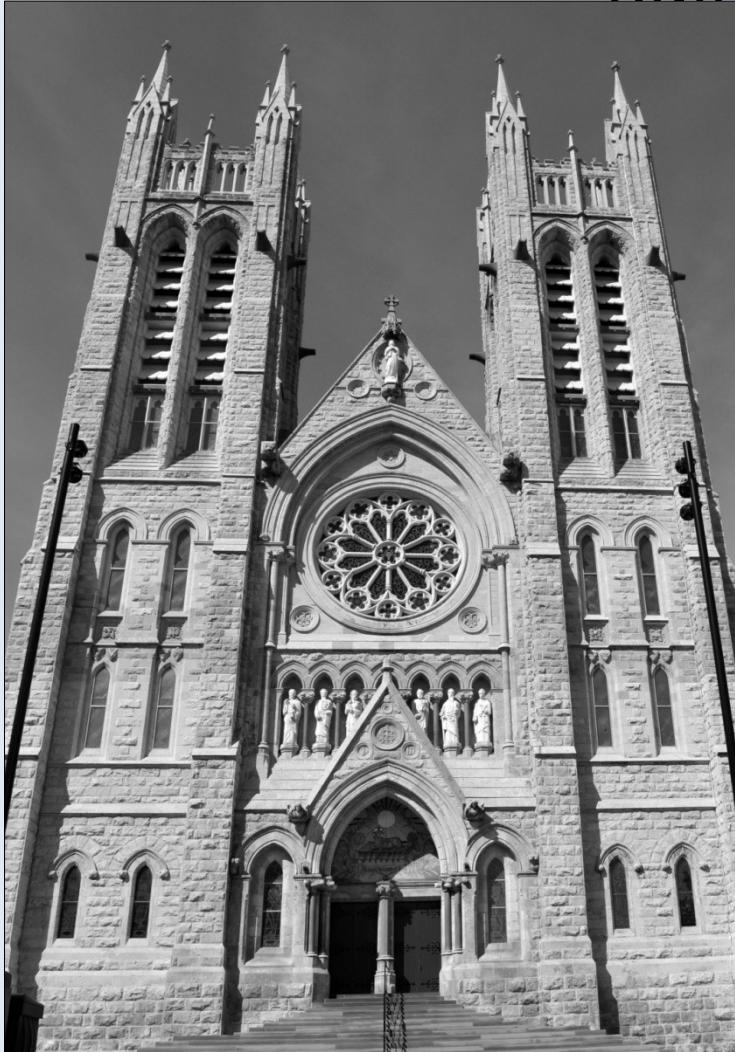
built 1873

- 1862 – congregation moved from building on St. George's Square to site ordered by Woolwich Street and the Speed River. Church designed by prolific Toronto architect Henry Langley in a High Victorian Gothic design.



Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate

built 1877 to 1926



- 1860s – Construction for a larger building begins but abandoned after a \$20,000 debt accumulates.
- 1874 – architect Joseph Connolly was appointed to design the Church of Our Lady Immaculate. Sod turned in July 1876 and cornerstone was laid a year later.
- 1888 – the Church of Our Lady Immaculate was dedicated.
- 1908 to 1926 – altar erected, walls painted with murals and stained-glass windows installed; Casavant Frères organ added in 1919; and the exterior of the church was finished in

Q & A

Thank
you