

on wet mornings all would tightly squeeze under the roof, standing tightly against each other. Though no seats were provided on the sand floor, all came appropriately dressed for Sunday Mass. The men with their shoes all shiny and in well pressed suits; the ladies in their best Sunday dresses. Even the children had to take a walk to the lake on Saturday night with a bar of soap in hand and have a bath.

I recall going to Mass at the chapel on warm, even hot summer mornings and hearing the rustling of the lilacs as the breeze coming off the lake trickled against their leaves. In those days Catholics were obliged to fast from midnight before communion. Oh, could we smell the fragrance of bacon frying and the bouquet of coffee being perked in some nearby cottage. Father would be in the middle of his homily which he had prepared especially for his summer parishioners when he too would get a whiff of a nearby breakfast! One might suspect a few of his well-thought out lines were hastily removed! I wonder if the neighbours knew the suffering their breakfast was inflicting on us poor Catholics?

The Sacred Heart of Jesus chapel also served as a community centre, always being available for meetings and fund-raising events. In the summer of 1937, the first meeting of the Beckley Beach Cottager's Association was held under its roof. Saturday night bingo and housie were common happenings in the 1930s and 1940s.

By 1969, with paved roads and modern cars, St. Michael's was only a few minutes away. Catholics now had the option of attending Mass on Saturday evening thus easing the Sunday morning rush. In the June 29, 1969, Sunday bulletin, Fr. John O'Reilly announced -"It is impossible to provide Holy Mass on Sundays at the Beach Chapel this summer. . . and Fr. Michael O'Reilly will be alone and required at St. Michael's. . . We regret this of course, and trust all understand that the extreme shortage of priests causes this change from former years."- The previous Sunday, Fr. John informed his parish that "Fr. Michael has been appointed pastor at St. Michael's as of July 1, 1969".

If you have items, you wish written about or pictures you would be willing to lend, please drop me a note. Let me know how you feel about these articles. William (Bill) Arthur Warnick 180 Rosslyn Ave. South HAMILTON, ON L8M 3J5 e-mail [wwarnick@interlynx.net](mailto:wwarnick@interlynx.net) Phone 905 549-6086.

**Caption could read** Sacred Heart of Jesus Chapel at Beckley Beach, August 1933. This photo was taken the first summer the chapel was opened. The walls were added a few years later.