

Holy Rosary Church, Ballantynes Cove

A place of worship for over a 100 years

by Bonnie MacDonald

For over 100 years, Holy Rosary Church has served as the gathering place for spiritual health in the community of Ballantynes Cove.

Around 1887, a group of residents in the Cape George, Ballantynes Cove and Cape George Point areas decided they needed a mission church. Served originally by the Roman Catholic parish of Lakevale, it became a hardship for parishioners to make the six-mile journey to the Lakevale church.

A committee of fishermen and farmers assumed the responsibility of organizing the construction of their church. Led by Hugh Donald MacInnis, committee members included John Hugh MacInnis, Hugh Colin MacInnis, Daniel J. MacInnis, John W. MacInnis, Alexander MacInnis, Captain Hughie

MacEachern, Captain Alex MacDougall, Captain Angus MacDonald, Ranald A. MacEachern, John (Teacher) MacEachern, Donald Duncan MacDonald, Duncan John MacDonald, Dan Beaton, Ranald Louis MacEachern, Danny Ranald MacInnis and Hughie Sandy MacDonald.

Work began in 1887. The first Mass at the church named Our Lady of the Holy Rosary took place November 12, 1891. Bishop John Cameron led the celebration, which attracted 150 parishioners. Parish priest at the time the congregation was organized was Father Alexander MacGillivray. The pastor at the time of the completion of the church was Father Joseph Chisholm.

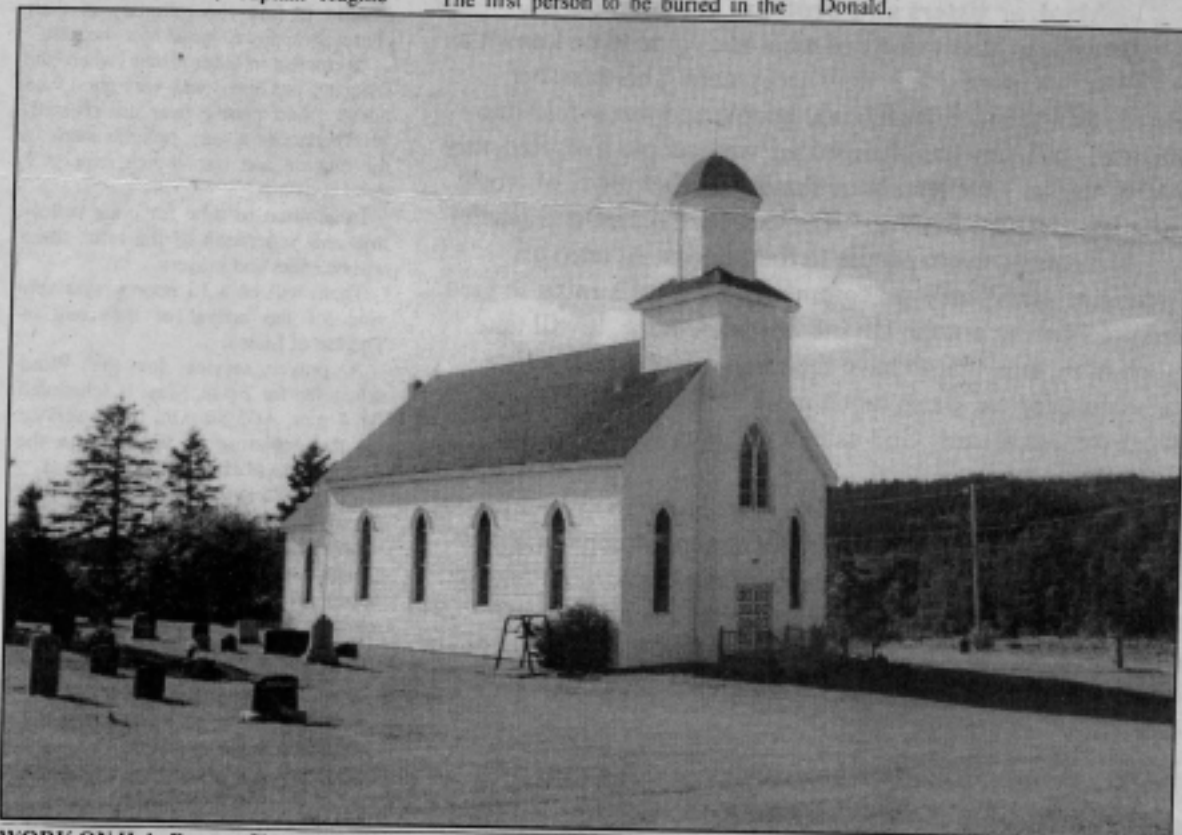
Father Donald Beaton served the Ballantynes Cove parish for 34 years.

The first person to be buried in the

cemetery of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary was John MacEachern, who died March 31, 1895, at the age of 28. The first baptism took place March 28, 1895 when Theresa MacDonald, daughter of Duncan and Annie MacDonald of Cape George Point, received the sacrament.

An interesting story centres on the bell of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary. Secured from a Presbyterian church in Prince Edward Island, the dome and spire were built in 1910. In 1921, at the funeral of Danny Ranald MacInnis, the bell from the belfry fell, hitting Dan Beaton and knocking him out. Despite severe bruises, parish records note he "came out of it all the none the worse for wear."

Current pastor of the Ballantynes Cove church is Father Daniel MacDonald.



WORK ON Holy Rosary Church in Ballantynes Cove began in 1887. The first Mass was celebrated on November 12, 1891. Since that time it has been a place of worship for the people of the community.