

the fathers were lodged in the school, until a house could be built for them. The pupils moved into the church on week days, and for a few months the building served as school as well as church. This did not last long, however, and soon the church and sacristy were returned to their proper use.

Little by little, as funds permitted, the interior of the church was furnished. Father Péran, who had replaced Father Camper as Pastor, and Mr. Calixte Richard, built the altar, Mr. Richard being responsible for much of the wood carving, on the crenellated outer and upper edge, as also for the miniature turrets on each side of the altar-top. Mr. Legoff did a very fine job on the painting of the interior of the church. The walls of the nave and the ceiling were painted in blue and white. The walls were also painted with a colored design, as were the pillars. The St-Laurent church was noted, in the Interlake as one of the most beautiful in the area.

Father Péran had acquired a beautiful bell. As there was no steeple at the time, a wooden belfry was built. It was twelve feet high, and stood, just outside of, and on the north-east corner of the cemetery. It has not been possible to find the date of the christening of the bell, but its inscription bears the date: 1898. It reads as follows:

St-Laurent, 1898

Maria, Josepha, Adelarda, Antonia, Laurentia

Sonet vox tua in auribus nostris
Vox enim tua dulcis. (Cant.)

McShane Bell Foundry, Baltimore, Maryland

At its christening, the bell was given several sponsors, namely: Mr. and Mrs.: Cuthbert Ducharme - Ernest Trudel
Cornelius Connelly - John Connelly

While the construction of the church was going on, other important events occurred in St-Laurent. One of these was the erection of the Municipality of St-Laurent. This happened in 1881, when it was separated from that of Woodlands. At the time there were not many white people in the village, most of the people being Métis or Indian. In 1888, an Englishman from Woodlands (1) moved in to St-Laurent. He was a very enterprising gentleman, and on his arrival, he opened another store. He took quite an interest in municipal affairs, and when the elections came around, he opposed Brother Mulvihill for the Reeveship. This happened several times; but the Brother always won the position.

1. Error: Mr. Hepworth had lived at Lake Francis for two years before coming to St-Laurent.