

QUEENSWAY'S HISTORY

In the fall of 1878, some Free Methodists from the Buffalo area came across the river and held services in the home of George Huff in the nearby community of Chippawa, but it was not until 1880 that A. C. Leonard from Hamilton came to the area and organized the Chippawa and Clifton Society of the Free Methodist Church. This was the beginning of what is now the Queensway Free Methodist Church.

In early years the congregation outgrew several smaller buildings, until in 1926, a “very fine brick church” was built on Huron Street to house a church family of believers, passionate about reaching their neighbours. In 1939, records show the church helping to finance a tent meeting at Thorold. In 1943, a baptismal service was held at Dufferin Islands. Sixteen people were baptized that day. By the mid 60’s, the Huron Street church was too small and the decision was made to relocate to a growing area of the city and by 1967, the congregation was worshipping in the current building. A major renovation in 2001 saw the addition of space, functionality and accessibility.

For the last 25 years, the church has become known for the annual “Live Nativity”, the church’s gift to the city, seen by hundreds each Christmas. Well known as the friendly church, the congregation has had a special ministry to those who come to Queensway from difficult personal or family circumstances. The gospel message and this group’s love of people have touched many lives through 130 years.