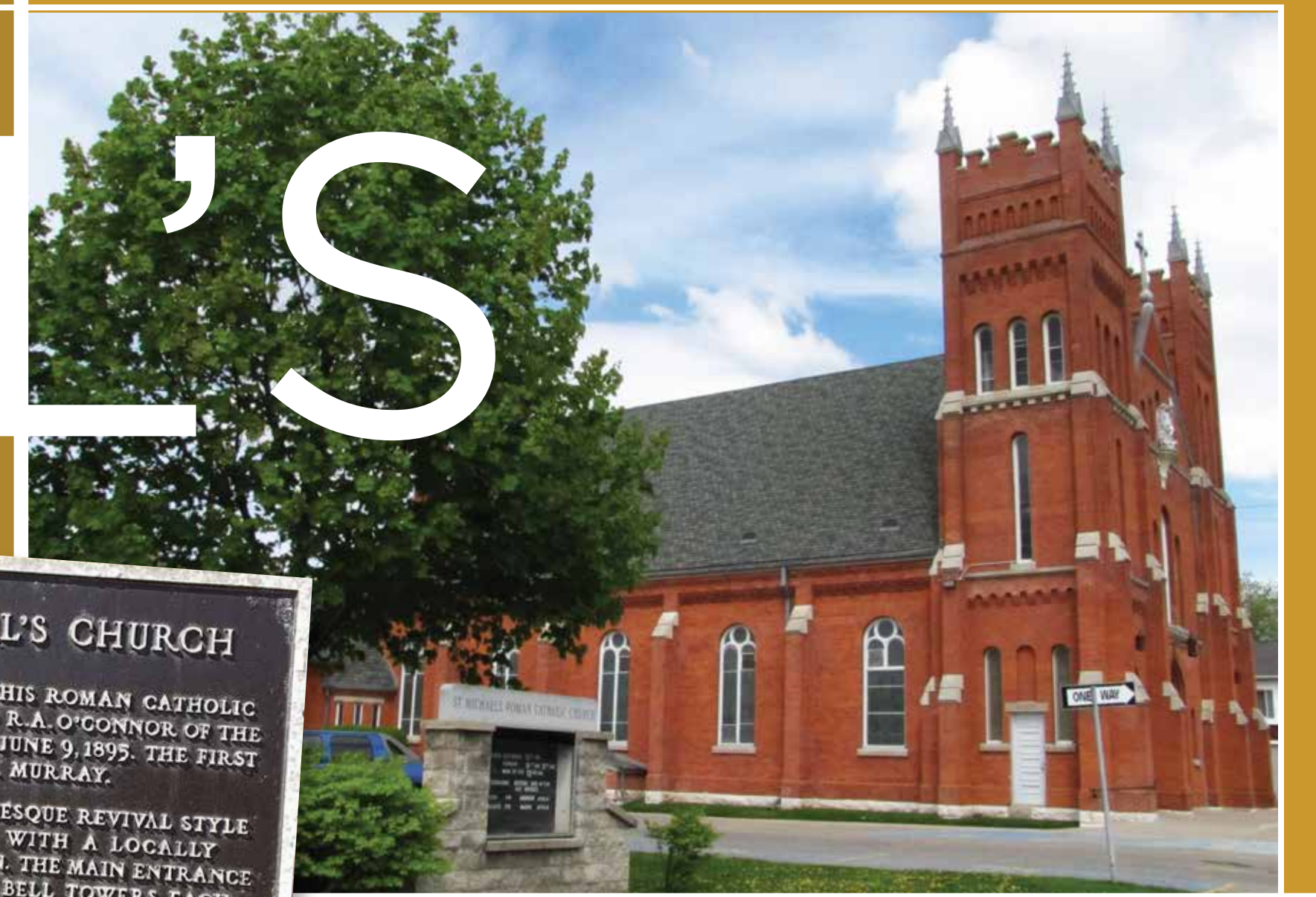


# ST. MICHAEL'S

## ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



**SAINT MICHAEL'S CHURCH**

THE CORNERSTONE OF THIS ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH WAS LAID BY BISHOP R.A. O'CONNOR OF THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESE ON JUNE 9, 1895. THE FIRST PASTOR WAS REVEREND E.H. MURRAY.

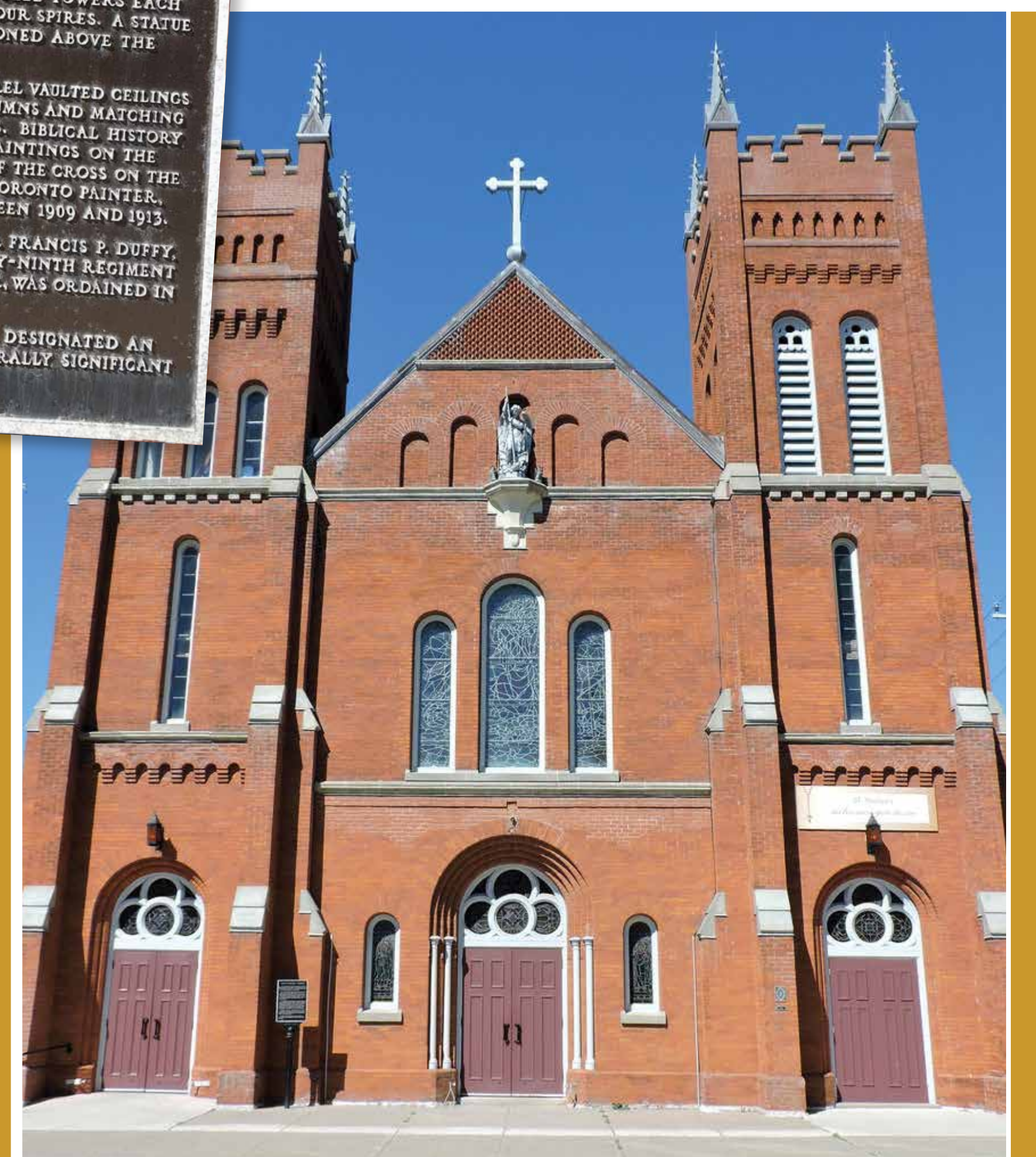
THE CHURCH IS OF ROMANESQUE REVIVAL STYLE AND IS BUILT OF RED BRICK WITH A LOCALLY QUARRIED STONE FOUNDATION. THE MAIN ENTRANCE IS FLANKED BY TWO SQUARE BELL TOWERS EACH OF WHICH IS CROWNED BY FOUR SPIRES. A STATUE OF SAINT MICHAEL IS STATIONED ABOVE THE MAIN DOOR.

THE THREE INTERIOR BARREL VAULTED CEILINGS ARE SUPPORTED BY IONIC COLUMNS AND MATCHING PILASTERS ON THE SIDE WALLS. BIBLICAL HISTORY IS DEPICTED THROUGH OIL PAINTINGS ON THE CEILING AND THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS ON THE SIDE WALLS. P.C. BROWNE, A TORONTO PAINTER, COMPLETED THIS WORK BETWEEN 1909 AND 1913.

COBOURG NATIVE, FATHER FRANCIS P. DUFFY, CHAPLAIN OF THE FAMOUS SIXTY-NINTH REGIMENT DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR, WAS ORDAINED IN 1896 AT SAINT MICHAEL'S.

IN 1990 THE CHURCH WAS DESIGNATED AN HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURALLY SIGNIFICANT BUILDING.

- 1837** A priest from Galway, Ireland is appointed to establish a parish centred in Cobourg.
- 1839** A wood frame church 75' x 45', **dedicated to St. Polycarp**, complete with tower and spire, is built near the corner of William and Seminary Streets (now University Ave.). It serves a congregation of just 50.
- 1859** A brick addition almost doubles the original size.
- 1863** The original **wood church burns down** and is replaced in brick. The restored church is **rededicated to St. Michael the Archangel**.
- 1883** Brookhurst Ladies' Academy at Seminary and Division Streets is purchased from the Methodists for a school and convent.
- 1896** The congregation moves into a new church built beside the convent. The church style is **Romanesque of the Basilican type**, red brick on a stone foundation.



The interior is richly decorated with classic columns and star windows over the three front entrances.

