

26

Brighton moves to found ACO branch

Recent controversies over church, school spurred action

COLBORNE

CHRONICLE

APR. 19/07

BY JACK EVANS
Special to the Chronicle

In the wake of many concerns about heritage protection in recent months, Brighton will soon have its own Architectural Conservancy organization.

The date of Thursday, Apr. 26 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall has been set for a public inaugural meeting of the new organization, which will become a branch of the parent Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, founded in 1933. It will join earlier-established such branches based at Port Hope, Cobourg and in the Quinte area.

An opportunity for members of the public to join will be available at the public meeting prior to an election for a charter board of directors. Memberships may also be purchased in advance by telephoning Dave Cutler at (613) 475-5154.

Mr. Cutler, one of the key organizers of the new group, notes that the ACO now has 19 branches across Ontario. Brighton will become its twentieth branch.

The ACO, both provincially and locally, is founded on the belief "architectural conservation and preservation make sound financial sense and yield tangible and intangible benefits to all of us," Mr. Cutler commented.

He added: "Brighton citizens have always spoken out when a building is threatened, but the ACO Branch will be a permanent force acting proactively to

promote the importance of our built heritage, supporting preservation-minded property owners and providing a resource that town council can harness to help them identify and protect important buildings."

Such historic preservation stirred a storm of controversy in recent weeks when the congregation of the historic St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church voted to sell the property for development purposes when it decided to form a joint congregation with Colborne. Concerns have also been aroused over the potential demolition of the town's original high school, now Brighton Public School.

Mr. Cutler noted that the provincial level or the ACO operates on a small, part-time staff. It co-ordinates conservation and preservation activities on a province-wide basis and provides general management support to its member branches as well as circulating a regular publication and offers preliminary professional advice at modest cost to building owners, municipal governments and heritage organizations.

The Brighton branch will essentially operate independently, focusing on local issues and programs such as speakers, tours and workshops. It will rely on memberships and donations from the public for support.

"This is good news for Brighton's historic buildings," commented Nanci Anderson, a long-time campaigner on behalf of architectural preservation and a member of the former Brighton Township heritage advisory committee.

Trent River Bridge closed

The county bridge on County Road 30 at the Village of Trent River will be closed to all traffic April 18-30 for complete repairs. Motorists will have to use the bridge at

Hastings at County Road 45 or the Healey Falls bridge to the east, on County Road 50. In the past, traffic has been restricted to one lane controlled by stop lights.

An unforgettable anniversary for Father Ed

This time last year, Fr. Ed Cachia, embattled Roman Catholic priest who had disagreed with the Bishop of the Peterborough Diocese over the issue of women's ordination to the priesthood, started his own breakaway Catholic Church, the Church of Christ the Servant.

On Palm Sunday 2006, about 400-450 joined Fr. Cachia for his inaugural celebration of the Mass at the community hall in Cold Springs, and the Church of Christ the Servant is still carrying on, albeit without Fr. Ed.

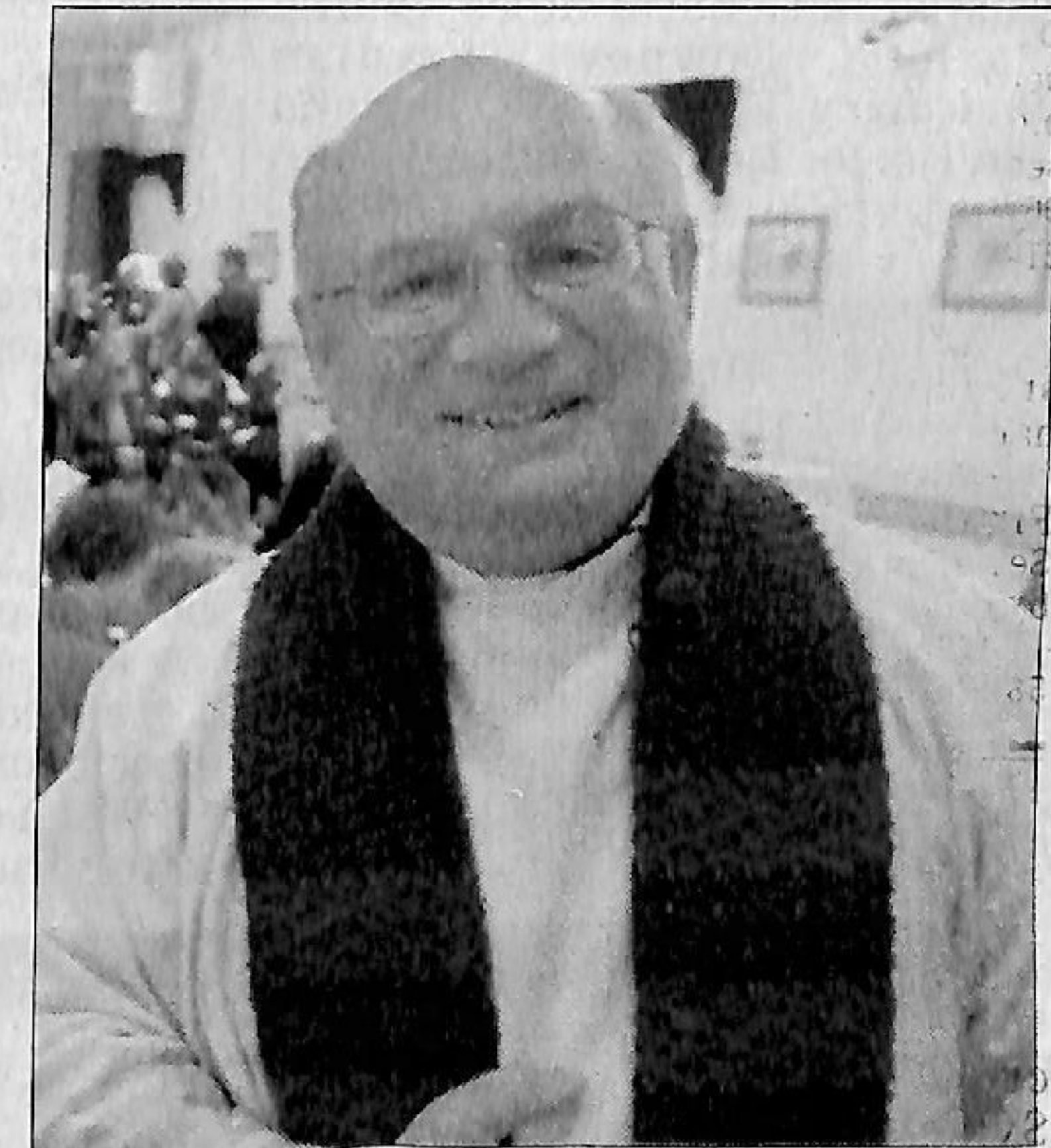
This year, as another Easter approaches, Fr. Cachia is bringing "fitness to the soul" of the patrons of Ste Anne's Spa in Grafton, after leaving the Church of Christ the Servant last fall to seek a reconciliation with the Roman Catholic Church.

"This is where my journey, so far, has taken me," says the man now known as Reverend Ed.

"Ste Anne's is a very special place ... wherever healing takes place is holy ground."

Many of the clientele, he says, are "at a crossroads in life, in need of a listening ear and a listening heart."

Some are grieving, others face health issues and it was the clients themselves who expressed a need for the spiritual dimension to be added to the other



Father Ed Cachia

ministrations they receive at Ste Anne's, he adds.

His own spiritual journey has followed a rocky road in the last year, he admits, but says he holds fast to his faith, and to his belief that many women are ready now to be ordained as Roman Catholic priests, and he continues to disagree with Rome's stand on female ordination.

— EILEEN ARGYRIS