Congregation unions shaped St. John's past

By ANI PEDERIAN

Herald Staff Writer Just as magicians can pull interesting things out of hats and then pop them back in to pull out samething new, St. John's United Church on Georgetown's Guelph Street has undergone many changes in name and form before becoming what it is today.

With roots planted in several rural congregations in the area, stretching back to 1821 and George Kennedy, the man who gave his name to the community, St. John's can claim much of the local early history of Christianity as its

In 1821, when there were still no churches, religious gatherlngs centered around the visits of circuit riders or saddlebag preachers. Travelling from village to village, the preachers covered large distances on horseback to bring the word of God. Their visits brought neighbors together to hear

their sermons and fostered the growth of congregations.

Although the United Church of Canada was not born until 1925 when Presbyterian and Methodist congregations joined forces, its member congregations claim a long history in Georgetown for the current

The first church building in Georgetown was erected by the Wesleyan Methodist group in 1841, where the present Oddfellows Hall stands. The frame was later sold and now stands on James Street, where used for storage by McKenzle Lumber.

Five years later, another church was built on the present St. John's location, by the Methodist Episcopal congre-

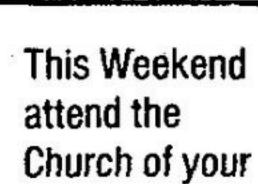
The two Methodist congregations continued independently until the first of many unions in the history of the United Church occurred. In 1884, following the trend

of other Methodist groups, the Wesleyan and Episcopelian congregations joined to form the Methodist Church in Canada, using the Episcopalian church (present-day St. John's) building.

Another union followed in 1910 when the Georgetown Congregational Church joined with the Methodist Church in Canada. They dedicated their gothic, spired structure at Market and Church Streets to the town for use as a library after 32 years of use, and moved into the St. John's location with the Methodists.

The last dip into the magiclan's hat came about in 1925. when the Presbyterian Church joined the Guelph Street congregation. However, not all Presbyterians took part in the move. About half of the local Presbyterian congregation rejected union and elected to remain as Knox Presbyterian Church on the corner of Main Continued on page Ca

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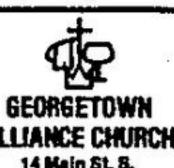
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A 1981 Assessment Notice for 1982 property taxes will be mailed on or before December 1st to every property owner and tenant in the following municipalities:

Regional Municipality of Halton-Peel Including the City of Burlington; and the Towns of Halton Hills, Milton, Oakville; Cities of Brampton, Mississauga; and the Town of Caledon.

An Information Insert mailed with your Assessment Notice explains the appeal procedure and provides the timetable for Open Houses in your area.

Open House Sessions will Answer Questions

Open House sessions have been planned at convenient times and locations in your municipality to afford you the opportunity to review your assessment with staff of the Regional Assessment Office.

Assessment staff will be pleased to explain the basis of your properly assessment and are authorized to amend all data (school support, assessment,

etc.) on your Notice. You are encouraged to take advantage of this service.

New School Support **Procedures**

Beginning this year your school support designation will appear on your Assessment Notice. This designation indicates whether the education portion of your property

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If you wish to review your school support designation, contact your Regional Assessment Office or attend an Open House in your area.

Rolls Available For Review

The Assessment Roll will be available for review at your local Municipal Office during regular business hours beginning December 22, 1981.

If you wish to Appeal

If you believe you have been improperly assessed in any way you may file a formal complaint with the Assessment Lieview Court. The final date for filing an appeal is January 12, 1982.

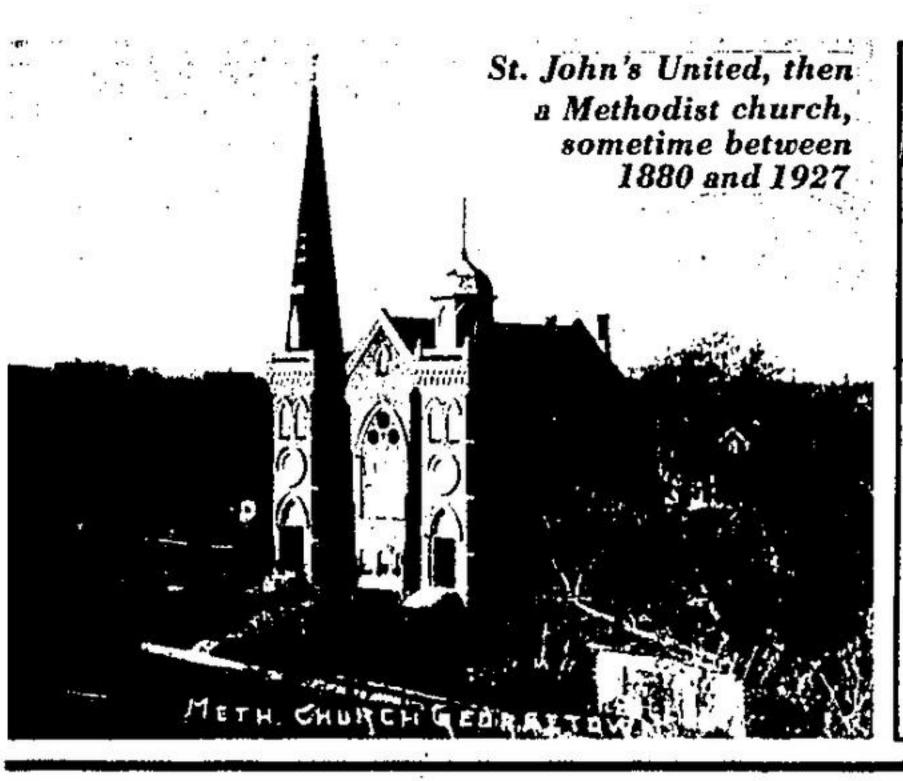
Information on appeal procedures is provided on the back of your Assessment Notice and Information Insert.



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R.H. Boach, MIMA Assessment Commissioner Halton-Peel Regional Assessment Office 55 City Centre Drive Minalasauga, Omario Telephone: 270-8050 Zenith no. 88730





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