

Farming families came for socializing

Is the rural character of Ballinafad United Church being threatened?

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff Writer

Newcomers to the village of Ballinafad are changing the rural character of the nearly 200-year-old community closely tied to the Ballinafad United Church on Trafalgar Road North.

Established in the 19th century, Ballinafad's farming community has been undergo-

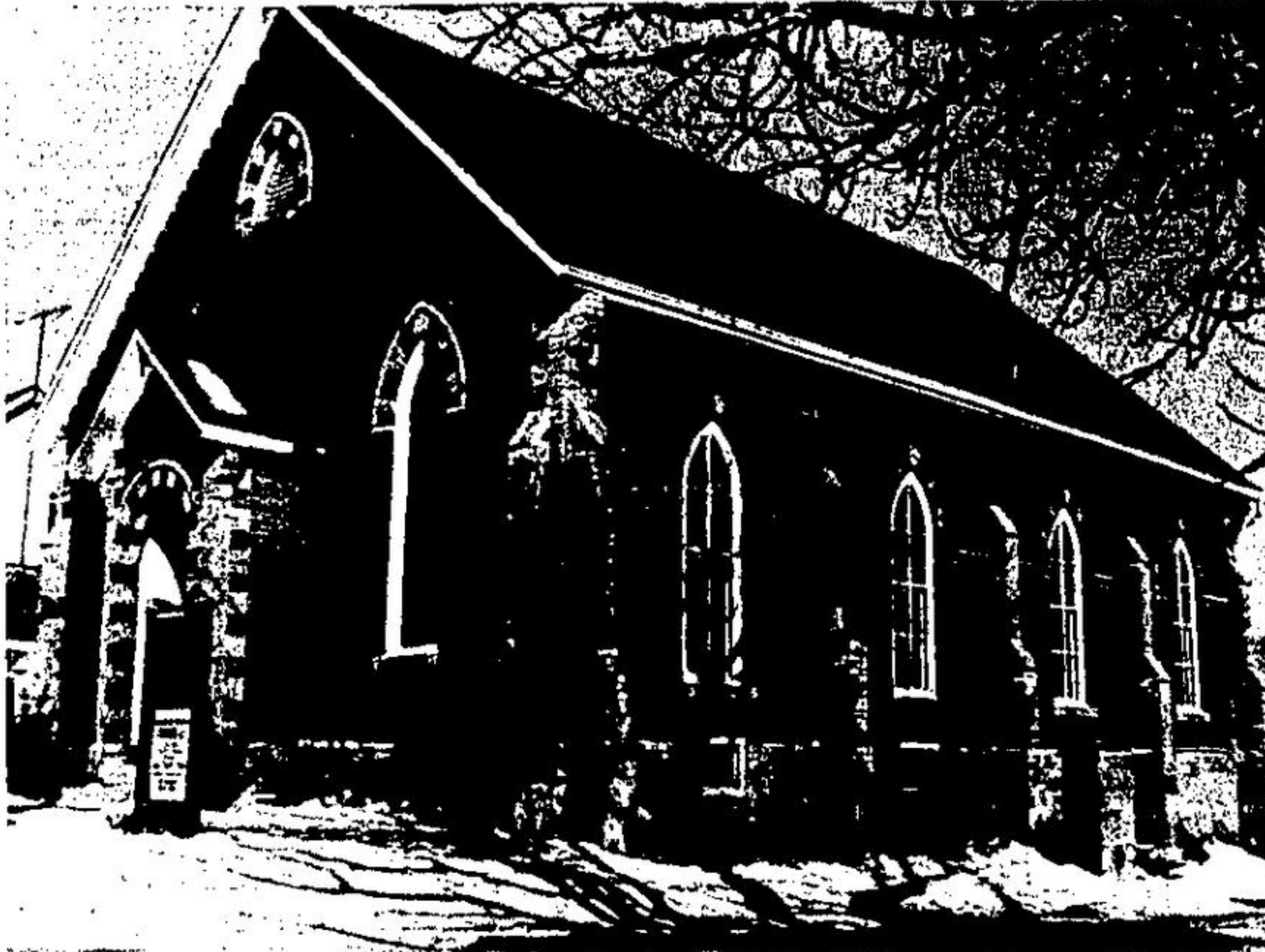


Nineteenth in a series

ing substantial changes with people moving in and out of the area, breaking the closeness long-time residents have developed over the decades with neighbors.

"There's something missing," says Alma Sinclair, a life-long resident of the village. "There isn't the fellowship there used to be."

Mrs. Sinclair shook her head regretfully as she pondered the changes, needles and thread in her right hand. Along with two



Originally a Presbyterian church, Ballinafad United on Trafalgar Road North was built in 1878. Prior to the building's construction, the Presbyterian congregation used to share the Methodist church, which stood where the Ballinafad community hall is now. Presbyterians would use the church in the mornings, and Methodists in the afternoons. (Herald photo by Chris Aagaard)

bers except through church and it's a habit we've gotten into," she said.

However, the closeness of the rural church membership is being eroded by the arrival of newcomers to the community, who come and go with a greater frequency than Ballinafad is used to. Mrs. Shortill, 82, says neighbors just aren't the same anymore.

"We used to walk across the fields to the neighbors for a game of cards. You went without being invited in those days," she said. "Now, you wouldn't think of doing that."

Mrs. Sinclair agreed. "DON'T WANT" "People don't want to be left to themselves," she said. "The people next door don't want any back and forth visits."

Mrs. Sinclair attributed the change to the fact that many newcomers have come from the city.

Sympathizing with the new village residents, Mrs. Jamieson said many of them are young couples, each one holding down a job, and they want to be with their families when they're home. Mrs. Jamieson is a war bride who has lived in Ballinafad since her husband Leo brought her over from Britain in 1945.

Along with having less time for neighbors, Ballinafad residents also seem to have less time for their church. Mrs. Sinclair noted that the quality of church participation has changed over the years.

"We used to have really good Christmas concerts. You would take the team and sleigh and gather up all the children for concert practice at the church. Nowadays, parents have cars and they say they haven't the time to bring their children out for practices. The children only practice during Sunday School."

Back in the early 19th century, one of the first settlers in Erin township gave land on the corner of his farm in

(Continued on page C4)

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'Ten Days' non-religious

Last week I mentioned the program Ten Days for World Development. The news release I received indicated it is a program designed to make church people aware of problems in the Third World.

Immediately I received a call indicating that Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Georgetown is not participating in the program. The referral was that the organization behind Ten Days for World Development is not religious but political. I hope this caused no misunderstanding, but the release did mention Lutheran involvement.

As mentioned last week, check with your local church to see if they are taking an active part in the program, and determine for yourself whether it is a program that you OR your church should be involved in.

Came across an interesting set of figures last Sunday night. If you have ever wondered just what the value of the old world "Talent" as mentioned in the bible is try this: A Talent weighs 75 pounds (12 ounces in a pound of gold). Multiply the number of Talents by 75 and then by 12 = total ounces, times the value of gold on current market. Not as hard as it seems; a clear idea of bible values really helps in your understanding of the Holy Book as you read.

Christians in China are more numerous than at first thought. Official statistics of the National Protestant Church in China show one million in China. There is a population of 962 million there, but some feel that there are more like four to eight million

Christians there. There are 30,000 to 35,000 Christians among the eight million Gypsies in Europe. Living Bible International has completed the basic translation work for the Romanes Living New Testament, and will be soon publishing that longed-for work for the Romanes peoples of Europe. A little known fact is 800,000 Gypsies died in the Nazi holocaust.

Remember ladies, next Tuesday is the kick-off of the year's programs by the Halton Hills Christian Women's Fellowship. Date Jan. 19, time 1:15 to 3:15. Phone 877-4158 for reservations. Guest speaker is Sue Andrusychyn, wife of Toronto Argo kicker Zenon Andrusychyn. Also tips on food preparation and special music.

Hold Saturday, Feb. 13, for a special night out. Roast beef dinner and speakers. More on this as the date approaches.

Beginning Feb. 1 at 8 p.m., St. George's Church invites people to join in an "open-ended adventure" through a series of meetings where those present will search together to find a way of living the Christian life. For further information, call 877-8043 or 877-0352.

Marge and Jack Ionita, who organized this year's New Year's Eve dance for the St. George's Anglican Church Men's Club in Georgetown, wish to thank all those who helped make the event an immense success. The dance

featured a hot and cold buffet, and musical entertainment was provided by the "Mystiques".



IN THE CHURCHES

By Bob Ollivier

POSSIBLE SELF-SUPPORT FOR ST. ALBAN'S
One of the major decisions to be made at the annual vestry meeting of St. Alban's Church in Glen Williams is on the question of the church becoming self supporting. Much thought and consideration must be given to this possible achievement. In the 80-year history of this parish, it has been, at different periods, associated with St. Paul's of Norval and St. George's of Georgetown, with one clergyman ministering to both congregations. All members of the parish are urged to attend this vital meeting to state their opinion on all matters which affect their Christian life in their community of St. Alban's. The meeting will be held Jan. 31 at 1 p.m. in the parish hall. All suggestions and feedback are most welcome and necessary to ensure the future well being of the church. Other intended agenda details include the election of a new parish council, the use of the third Canadian eucharist service and the Anglican-in-Mission program. Please plan to attend.

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<p>GEORGETOWN ALLIANCE CHURCH 14 Main St. S. Georgetown PASTOR Rev. Peter Ralph, B.A., M.Div.</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Morning Service 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 6:30 p.m. Evening Service 7:00 p.m. Wednesday Prayer Meeting</p> <p>CALL: 877-9818 875-3923</p>	<p>MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH PASTOR Edwin H. Mitchell 877-8685 - 877-0320</p> <p>EVERY SUNDAY Family Bible School 9:45 a.m. Biblical Preaching - Good Music 11:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Supervised Nursery</p> <p>WEEKLY Bible Study & Prayer Ladies Coffee Hour Youth Time & Recreation Boys & Girls Clubs</p> <p>MONTHLY Jolly Seniors Missionary Meeting Visitors Always Welcome!</p>
<p>IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WINDSOR ROAD AT CAROLE STREET PASTOR REV. DR. J.M. DRICKAMER Sunday School 9:45 a.m. CHURCH SERVICE 11:00 a.m. Church of the Lutheran Hour</p>	

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Crossword Puzzle Answer on Page C5

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