

Boston Church binds Scotch Block Presbyterians

By ANI FEDERIAN
Herald Staff Writer

Presbyterians in the Halton Hills area commonly known as Scotch Block were a divisive bunch, splitting off to form up to four Presbyterian congregations on the same block at one time.

Today, only one Presbyterian church still stands on the Third Line—the Boston Church, mother of all the splinter groups. It was originally called the Esqueping Presbyterian Church.



Built of stone from the Home quarry, the Boston Presbyterian Church on the Third Line was completed in 1870. It replaced a barn-like structure of local pine that had served the congregation since 1835. The original church was sold to a Georgetown man who converted it into a shop.

By 1824, moves were afoot to improve this primitive situation. Land was purchased from farmer Laidlaw for a burial ground and church. Mr. Laidlaw was reimbursed for his land in the currency of good mercantile wheat worth seven pounds, three shillings and three pence—coins being scarce in those days.

A wooden, barn-like building was erected over the next ten years on the new land. Of local pine, there was no paint spent within or without the building.

As early as 1826, divisions within the Presbyterian congregation began. A visiting minister from the Associate Synod of North America, Rev. Thomas Beveridge, planted the theological seeds for the

friction that followed.

The decision to join with the Presbytery of York of the Church of Scotland, as urged by the newly inducted Rev. Peter Ferguson, brought about the first division within the Esqueping church in 1833.

Members who supported the principles of the secessionist branch of Presbyterianism withdrew from the congregation to establish the "Anti-burgher" Church down the road.

Ironically, the Anti-burgher and burgher churches had already united in 1820 to form the United Secession Church of Scotland. Major church events in Scotland were usually followed within one or two years by the Canadian churches.

However, this first splintering of the Esqueping congregation was called a "regrettable occurrence" by Dr. John McColl in his book "Records and Memories of Boston Church in the 'Scotch Block'" published in 1920. He said there didn't seem to have been anything important in the way of doctrine or church government that warranted the break.

In 1837, the Esqueping congregation faced a second split in its ranks. Some members opposed the pecuniary aid ministers of the Church of Scotland were receiving from the government, and they left to join the Anti-burgher church. They felt the church should be supported solely by the voluntary contributions of its con-

gregation.

The second splinter group stayed with the Anti-burgher church until the popular Rev. Coult left. They then erected their own meeting house in 1844 and became known as the Seceder Church. In 1847, that name was changed to the United Presbyterian Church.

Margaret Wilson, a member of the Boston Church for over 30 years, remembers the United Presbyterian Church (UP). In contrast with the very simple and plain decor of the Boston Church, the UP church was very elegant, she said.

Thus, there were now three Presbyterian congregations, each with its own meeting house, and all within one mile of each other on the Third Line.

However, the divisions weren't over yet. In 1844 the Esqueping congregation split

almost in half over the issue of patronage. Rev. Ferguson was opposed by senior elder Andrew Laidlaw, who felt it was the right of a congregation to choose its own minister rather than have one appointed, and the majority of the congregation supported him.

Although the larger half maintained control over the church building and property, the other half of the congregation was allowed to use it for worship. It was an amicable split.

On Dec. 15, 1845, the larger half of the Esqueping congregation became officially connected with the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland, which also opposed patronage.

Following this linkage, the Esqueping congregation took on the name Boston Church in honor of the Rev. Thomas

Continued on page C2

Sign of the times as church rents rectory

St. George's Anglican Church's new rector (appointed last year), Rev. Jim Boyles, presided at the annual meeting of the church Feb. 7.

Mr. Boyles succeeded the Rev. Roswell Tees, whose death occurred earlier in the year.

With income exceeding and expenditures under budget, the church ended the year in a healthy financial condition. For this year, church members voted an increased expenditure for missions of over \$2,000.

An historic departure has been rental of the rectory, traditionally the home of the resident clergyman, with the new rector purchasing his own home in town. This is a trend common to all churches today.

Tribute was paid at the meeting to the Rev. Graham Bland, rector of St. Alban's in Glen Williams, and assistant at St. George's for assuming a heavy workload while the church was between rectors.

Grant Johnston was re-elected people's warden; John Wickens was reappointed rector's warden with William

Nipper as deputy rector's and Cathy Hunt, deputy people's wardens.

Other church officers include: Parish planning council — Edith Collier, Lyndon Hounsell, Ernie Dawson, Jim Patterson, Judy Robinson, John Walker; convener of aidsmen, Bill Warren; envelope secretary, Andrew Henwood; lay delegates to synod, Florence Fason, Joe Edwards, Jack Ionita; alternate delegates, Joe Haggie, Tom Parry; vestry secretary, Jim Collier.

FIND THE FOX

Now To Eat! Pg. 7

GEORGETOWN SCOTTISH BAKERY

Featuring Scottish Bakery Products

- Assorted Meat Pies
- Beef & Pork Sausage Links

1368 Dufferin St. 877-0216

DON'T MISS THIS SPECIAL!

PLAIN SKIRTS \$1.89

Offer Expires Sat., March 6th

DELREX DRY CLEANERS

Corner of Guelph St and Delrex 877-1834

'Chariots of Fire' review misses opportunity

Promoting our basic beliefs

Why is it, when the Christian community has the chance to promote its basic beliefs, they fail?

Bad press from a supposedly Christian minister on the film "Chariots of Fire" is senseless. This film is based on the story of British runner Eric Liddell, who won a gold medal in the 1924 Olympics. Chariots of Fire was the 1981 Film Festival winner.

Liddell almost lost his chance in the Olympics because he would not run on Sunday due to his Christian beliefs. A fellow runner gave up his own turn to run on a Thursday so Liddell would not have to miss the opportunity to compete, nor compromise his beliefs.

The question has arisen, "What if I were watching the film from a wheelchair?" Would the theme of the film "To win is to honor God" be relevant for me?

Certainly, the idea of winning can be translated into any situation you find yourself in. To be defeated just because you are confined to a wheelchair is to deny yourself much of life. The recent handicapped Olympics show this clearly, and the main theme of Chariots of Fire is still relevant to everyone.

Consider another film also currently showing, which should be mentioned in connection with the film on running, "Joni". This film tells the life story of a young woman who is paralyzed as the result of a swimming accident. Joni, a real-life person, has inspired millions with her determination to succeed regardless of her handicap. This is also a story to be told, and viewing the two films should help many. Joni is showing at Shopper's World in Brampton Friday through March 4.

A discussion on television evangelists will be shown on



IN THE CHURCHES

By Bob Ollivier

The TV Ontario network tomorrow (Thursday) at 10 p.m. A must for any Christian interested in the use of this medium as an outreach for the Christian message today.

Today (Ash Wednesday), the Dobson film will be at Holy Cross Church as a part of the "Renewal" program. Today's film is "Shaping the Will Without Breaking the Spirit", time 8 p.m. Everyone, Christian and non-Christian alike, should take time to see this series of films.

There is a constant battle between the forces of good and evil. If this sounds like a weak and trite statement, then maybe you should re-evaluate your thinking.

In almost every newspaper you pick up, there is some item regarding the clash between the "Church" and the "World", and often the world

is the winner.

Recently, scientists have been battling to keep God out of the realm of science. Many discussions take place in the scientific community on how to stop the growing effect of Creationists in demolishing the Darwinian theory. I guess scientists are losing their long-held dominance in the area of how the world began. Their "theories" are not holding up in the light of newer discoveries.

Keep March 16 open. The Baptist Bible Chamber Choir will perform at Maple Avenue Baptist Church. This choir comes from Clark Summit, Pennsylvania, and consists of nine men and eight women who've been well-received wherever they perform. More later on. Call Bob Ollivier at 877-9290 if your church would like to attend. No charge, but an offering will be taken to defray expenses.

Your donation to the Red Cross campaign helps make it possible for the Red Cross to continue producing character-building education programmes for youngsters.

NO FEES RRSP

17³/₄%

25 or 37 month G.I.C.'s compounded annually
Rates subject to change

SPECIAL R.R.S.P. HOURS
OPEN SATURDAY, FEB. 27TH
from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Your Choice:
A Savings Plan
or
A One to Five Year Term
Guaranteed Investment Certificate

IMMEDIATE TAX RECEIPT
(for annual contributions)

Ask your Standard Trust manager for details

STANDARD TRUST
8 Main Street South
Brampton, Ontario L6W 1C3
Telephone: 457-4448
Manager Larry Aldebert

A Federally Chartered Company - Member Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation

Brampton Colour & Sound

MOVING CLEARANCE SALE

We must clear our inventory as we are moving

NEW LOCATION BRAMPTON MALL
Main St. S., Brampton

EVERYTHING MUST GO!

HITACHI 14" Colour CT1302 Colour \$359⁹⁵

HITACHI 14" Colour CT1306 Remote Control Demo Model \$459⁹⁵

HITACHI 20" Colour T.V. MT1982 \$519⁹⁵

EXTRA SPECIAL HITACHI V.T.R. PACKAGE

Color T.V. 20" N1912W - SUPERB PICTURE \$549⁹⁵

VT8500 VCR DELUXE DEMO

COMPLETE \$1999⁹⁵

VR 9,000 VTR \$899⁹⁵

20" Colour T.V. Remote Control from \$699⁹⁵

26" Colour T.V. Console from \$649⁹⁵

20" N1920W - 110 Ch. Capability \$629⁹⁵

OUR SERVICE DEPARTMENT WILL BE OPEN FOR BUSINESS THROUGHOUT OUR MOVE.

Brampton Colour & Sound

"We Personally Service Everything We Sell."

13 Nelson Street W., Brampton 453-4455

*Some items may not be exactly as illustrated.

LIMESTONE ALL SIZES A&B GRAVEL FILL AND TOP SOIL

'BUD' HAINES

3 DURHAM ST. 877-3302 877-4593

Spring FASHION SHOW

A New Line of Spring Fashions Presented by:

Tellers Cage

Sponsored by: **Xi Delta Beta**

Mon., March 8th at 8:00 p.m.

Sacre Coeur Hall

Tickets: \$8.00 Available at Tellers Cage and Irma's Beauty Chaiet

DOOR PRIZES FREE REFRESHMENTS

See The 1982 **WORLD'S FAIR** in Knoxville, Tennessee

*Deluxe Motor Coach Transportation

*6 Nights Accommodation.

*2 Days Admission to Fair Grounds

\$359/person Double occup.

Departures: June 12 & 16

Limited Space. Book now with

GAMES AWAY TOURS

2 College St. - Suite 110
Toronto: 1-416-921-5121
Acton: 853-3266

FIND THE FOX

Now To Eat! Pg. 7

FAST PROFESSIONAL SERVICE PRONTO RAD & MUFFLER

SAMARITANS SUPPLERS SERVICES

404 WILSON ST. TEL. 877-3521