

# Museum tracing Dufferin church roots

By PAUL FERRISS  
Banner Staff Writer

While driving through Dufferin County, a watchful tourist should notice the many historic buildings along the roadside.

Most of Dufferin's scenic buildings, many of them dating back hundreds of years, are still standing and provide a wealth of information to the county's past.

Mono township, covering a majority of the scenic Hockley Valley, is full of historic churches and schoolhouses which provide an interesting link to the county's past and future.

Although less than 12 churches in the township are still standing, early settlers to the area formed churches to be the centre of their communities.

Churches that still exist in Mono township are scattered throughout the area in places such as Camilla, Rosemont, Hockley Village, and Gooseville.

The Dufferin County Museum currently has possession of the pulpit bibles from the original Gooseville church, dating back to the 1830's.

A majority of the residents of the township in the 1800's were followers of the church of England. More than 1,000 people were members of the church of England. Only 10 were members of the Roman Catholic church.

In Dufferin County during the 1800's, it seems Roman Catholicism was not a popular religion.

Wayne Townsend, curator of the Dufferin County Museum said some early churches were made of wood, and did not survive the transition into the twentieth century.

Many were either torn down or simply fell apart.

The Dufferin County Museum, said Mr. Townsend, is currently working on a program to locate all the old churches in Dufferin County and trace their respective backgrounds.

Many of the churches in the township, and many old schools have been purchased over the years and are used as residences.

One of the most famous churches is Mitchell's Church in Mono Centre. Mitchell's church is also known as

the Yellow Briar church, named after a popular novel of the 1920's. The novel depicted life during the early days of this century. The church still stands as a symbols of the beginning years of Mono township.

Although many of the churches stand as landmarks to the county's past, none are specifically designated as tourist attractions.

Travellers and other interested parties can still find a complimentary history lesson at any of the county's churches, if they know where to look.

Some of the churches are hidden away from main thoroughfares, although some are still close to main roads, such as Highway 10, that have been active for many years.

Many are currently unoccupied but a good rule of thumb to find a church is to look for a cemetery.

Churches functioned as the centre of the community they were in, and cemeteries, which now serve as an important link to the past were usually located near a church.

Mr. Townsend said some new faiths developed over the past 20 to 30 years, but not many have decided

to utilize the old church buildings in Mono township.

As a result, many of the old buildings stand unused.



Burns Presbyterian Church was a Mono Centre landmark for more than 70 years. The original "Kirk on the Hill" was built in 1848, and demolished in 1923. (Photo courtesy Dufferin County Museum.)



## Artist inspired by logging

Jim Klyde (pictured above) was one of two artists featured in a recent show at the Cliff Swallow Gallery in Mono Mills.

Influenced by members of the Group of Seven and logging in Temagami, he said, "I get a lot of my inspiration from Northern Quebec near Temagami. I lived there for five years, so logging has become a prominent theme in my work."

Mr. Klyde said this is a particular challenge as an artist, because paintings have to be pleasing and maintain realism. He tries to create a general awareness of logging and its problems.



**JACQUELINE'S FURS** LAUREL  
941-0888

**We're Celebrating Our 1st Anniversary**

We Now Carry  
Leather & Suede  
Jackets, Skirts,  
Suits & Slacks



## Country Pleasures

### Supply & Gift Shoppe



- Gourmet Coffee & Tea
- Baskets, Dries, Silks
- Ribbons & Lace
- Complete Line of Cross-Stitch & Folk Art Stenciling

**Inquire About our Craft Classes**

Hours: Mon to Wed & Sat 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Thurs & Fri 9:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
**OPEN SUNDAY 11:00 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

**Mono Plaza 942-4400**  
2 Km. N. of Orangeville on Hwy. 10






**Fresh Silk FLOWERS FOR ALL OCCASIONS**

## THE VILLAGE GREEN

120 Main St  
Erin 833-9991 



**SEARS Catalogue Order Office**  
**833-9317 WE DELIVER**