

Beth-El church lobby expansion to start by mid-May

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

Designs for a \$400,000 (3,800-square foot) addition to the Beth-El Christian Reformed Church are nearing completion, with construction set to begin by mid May. The Queen Street church's con-

gregation voted last February to go ahead with Toronto's OCA Architects' designs after voting down a \$500,000 expansion in early 1993.

The addition, which will replace the current entrance-lobby area at the building's north end, will in-

clude four to five fellowship and classroom spaces; new bathrooms, nursery and kitchen; offices for Pastor Shawn Brix and the church secretary; a wheelchair elevator and an overflow worship space.

Half of the cost is being raised by a building fund drive conducted

by the church - \$1,000 still has to be raised by the end of March - while the remaining \$200,000 will be paid through the Christian Reformed Church extension fund.

"It's remarkable to see people are still giving in times like this," says Harry Reinders, one of six members of the Christian Reformed Church's building committee, who adds the committee has met over the last year with congregation members to receive pledges and cash donations for the expansion. "We wanted to get going with this project because the church is fairly crowded already, with 85 families.

"We're one of the few churches in town that has space to expand. As a church, it'll be very appealing. We want it to be workable."

Reinders, 32, and a 25-year member of Christian Reformed Church, says the expansion was needed because of a slow growth in the church's membership. He also points to a crowded Sunday School and other church programs.

"We're anticipating a future sub-division behind the church - the proposed site of the new Acton arena - and we kept that in mind when we designed the expansion, so the back of the addition would look appealing," he explains.



BOWL-O-RAMA! The Acton Rotary club is holding a Bowl-O-Rama with McKenzie-Smith Bennett during the week of April 19 through 21. They hope to raise \$12,000. Standing by a computer system that was purchased earlier this year from a \$14,000 Rotary donation are Bowl-O-Rama committee members from left: Rotarians Peter Schmuki, Rob Charett and Larry Nicholson and school staff Larry Ciglen, Holly Colquhoun, Linda Bowen and Kevin Dorscht. (Doug Harrison photo)

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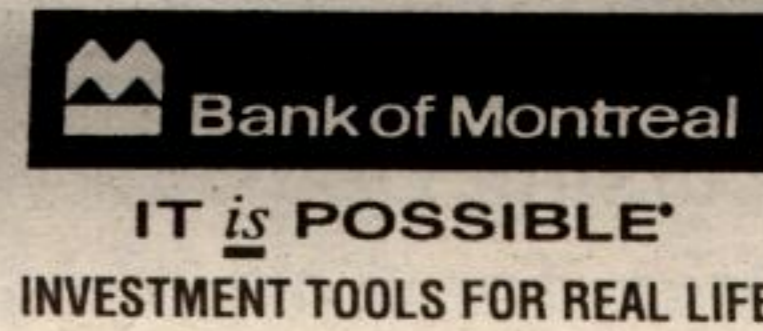
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