

# Minister found guilty of performing indecent act

By LISA TALLYN  
Staff writer

A minister of two local United churches, who was found guilty in a Toronto court Monday of performing an indecent act in public, has resigned from his duties.

Reverend Joseph Smiley, 46, who was the minister at St. Andrew's Church in Georgetown and Ballinafad United Church for the past five years resigned in Georgetown and Ballinafad effective Nov. 30.

In court Monday he was granted a conditional discharge by Judge E.G.

Hachborn, placed on probation for 12 months and told to keep good behavior.

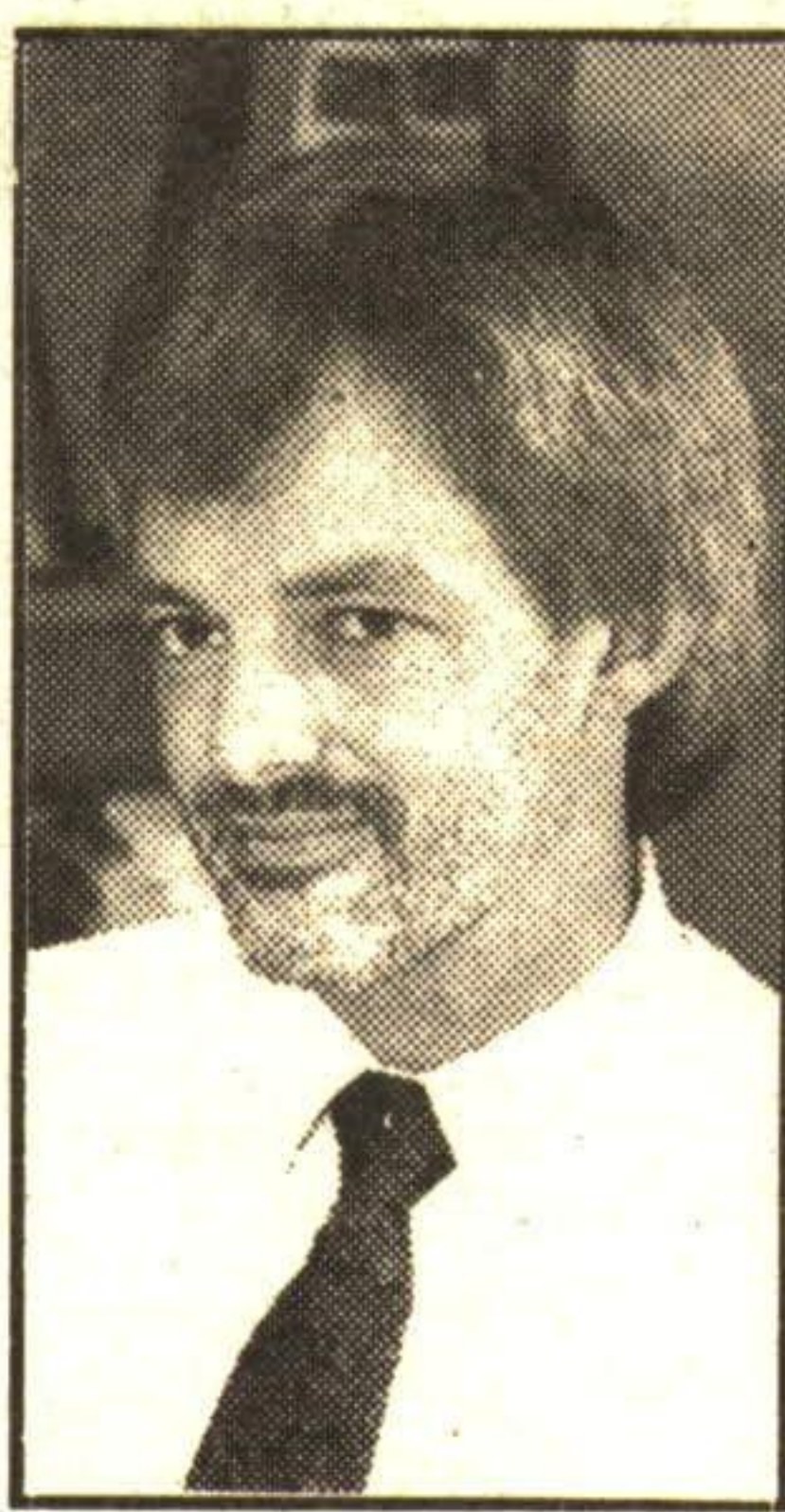
Smiley pleaded not guilty to the charge.

Reverend Gerry Hofstetter, co-chairman of the Dufferin and Peel Presbytery of the United Church of Canada, said he was surprised when he heard about Smiley's charge.

"I'm sad for Joe and the situation in which it puts him," said Hofstetter.

Hofstetter said Smiley asked for a change in pastoral charges earlier this fall citing personal reasons.

"There were no specifics given, we acted on his request," said Hofstetter.



Rev. JOE SMILEY

Hofstetter said Smiley has been a part of the United Church for about 20 years. He said Smiley is not under suspension and he is still on the preacher roll of the presbytery, but without an appointment.

"We have a continuous responsibility to and for Joe," said Hofstetter. "If he wanted to accept another appointment we would obviously let anyone know where he goes what had happened."

Hofstetter said before he could accept another position the presbytery would have to be satisfied "he was capable of going to another (parish)

without risk."

Hofstetter said Smiley told him after Monday "he has no idea what the future holds for him right now."

Hofstetter said the presbytery has a responsibility to the Georgetown and Ballinafad congregations.

He said he isn't certain yet how to help members of the congregations as he imagines they are "surprised, saddened and confused" by the situation. He thought a listening day for people to discuss their feelings might be an option.

Supply ministers have been scheduled to fill Smiley's spot.

HALTON HILLS

# WEEKEND

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## News Digest

### Hit pole

A 36-year-old Oakville woman was taken to Georgetown Hospital after an accident at 2:40 a.m. Tuesday. The woman's car collided with a pole or tree, resulting in a flat tire and damage to the driver's side. The car continued down the shoulder and went into the ditch on the extremely icy road. Her 1990 Pontiac sustained severe damage.

### Name request referred

A request from Limehouse resident Brian Culp to have the Limehouse Ball Park named after Spike (Glenn) Scott, who he said was instrumental in bringing baseball to Limehouse, was referred to the director of recreation and parks for follow-up Monday night. Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson suggested a diamond could be named after Scott and Councillor Kathy Gastle suggested another option, to put up a plaque to honor Scott. Scott died in 1993.

### INSIDE

- School board news.....page 3
- Our Readers Write.....page 6
- Community calendar.....page 10
- Entertainment.....page 14
- Fins in the swim.....page 17



## Clay creations for churches

Young people enrolled in modeling classes at Norval Clayworks turned their hands to creating something to benefit the three Norval churches, designing and making nativity scenes during their classes. The completed scenes, glazed in various colors, were presented to

representatives of Norval Presbyterian, Norval United and St. Paul's Anglican, last Saturday at Norval Clayworks. Rev. John Giurin of Norval Presbyterian accepted a nativity scene from Andrea Gastle, Danielle Laidlaw and Joey Upfield. TED BROWN Independent/Free Press

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