



BEZEK CENTRE when completed will be a replica of this drawing by designer John Easton of Toronto. Rev. Bernard Warren and a group of over 100 volunteers have built the basement segment of the building by hand

during the last seven months. An open house was held at the centre on Saturday. Building co-ordinator is Ed McCaig of Oshawa.

Dream becomes reality

Bezek Centre holds open house



REAL NASSAGAWEYA STONE is being used for the stone face of this manmade fireplace at Bezek Centre, Second Line Nassagaweya. Piling stone for the fireplace while their wives look on are Rev. Bernard Warren and Bezek director Norman Hare. Mr. Warren and numerous volunteers have devoted their time

to building the centre and the first stage, a basement is now being completed. Mr. Warren and his family have lived in a trailer on the site since early May. The first open house of the centre was held on Saturday.—(Staff Photo)

A dream that has been visualized for a number of years became a reality Saturday when Bezek Retreat Centre on Second Line near Campbellville opened its doors to the public.

Friends and neighbors from miles around visited the open house to see what has been happening on the 52.7 acre site, just north-west of Mohawk race track, where Rev. Bernard Warren and a band of volunteers have spent the past seven months building the first unit of a retreat centre.

Do-it-yourself job

Since the first sod was turned on May 9 of this year, the group of over 100 people, under the leadership of Mr. Warren, has laid concrete block, poured cement, built partitions and installed windows to some 4,000 feet of space.

Because of volunteer help this section of the new retreat centre has been erected for a cost of \$20,047. "God's people gave generously and at the right time, so that some \$11,000 was available for materials and special things that volunteers couldn't do like well-drilling, power line, excavating and septic system," said Mr. Warren. "We have kept costs to a minimum in construction, and try to operate as good stewards of God's money."

Includes residence

At the open house visitors saw a basement building about 100 feet long and 40 feet wide containing a family staff residence, kitchen, workshop, washrooms and showers. Small dormitories have been built to accommodate about 12 and a common room to house 50 or 60 people is another area of the plans. "The facilities are limited but flexible and next year we hope to start the main floor," Mr. Warren added.

All stone dug up during excavation of the centre will be used for a stone face on the indoor fireplace. "The fireplace will have a real Nassagaweya stone face," he laughed.

The Bezek Retreat Centre has been germinating in Mr. Warren's mind for quite some time, but it was just 18 months ago that he resigned a successful ministry in Alderwood to live without a fixed income and spend his time building an inter-denominational meeting place.

Meeting place

Eventually the centre will consist of 14,000 square feet and will include a number of large meeting rooms and accommodation for 40 overnight guests. The purpose of the centre is "to provide an inter-denominational meeting place for groups wanting to discuss and share spiritual truths, and to provide a resting spot for people who want to get away from the world for a short period of time."

Since construction first began, the work has been entirely supported by freewill offerings, including donations from as far away as Roman Catholics in Vancouver, Methodists in Bermuda, Pentecostals in the

Obituary

Mrs. Beatrice Lillycrop

A life member of the Ebenezer United Church Women, Mrs. Beatrice Lillycrop died at Milton District Hospital on Nov. 17. She was a resident of Moffat.

Beloved wife of Norman (Deceased) and dear mother of Mrs. John Moore (Ina) of Moffat and Ivan of R. R. 1 Moffat, she is also survived by grandchildren Bernice, Garry and Sandra and great grandson Scott.

Funeral service was conducted at McKersie General Home in Milton Nov. 19 with Rev. Russell Findley officiating. Interment was in Ebenezer Cemetery.

Pallbearers were John Kitching, Wilson Snyder, Sandy Buchanan, Jack Baynton, John Bolster and Garry Moore.

United States and Christians of all types in Ontario.

"We have been deeply touched," stressed Mr. Warren, "by the encouragement and help we have received from many friends who have no church affiliation and little understanding of Christianity yet feel that what we are doing is worthwhile."

Name directors

Directors of Bezek Centre include Mr. Warren, president; Norman Hare of Milton, vice-president; Gordon Jary of Toronto, treasurer; Mrs. Edna Hare, Milton, secretary; Mrs. Dora Warren and Mrs. Claire Jary, directors.

The advisory council of the centre includes Rev. Ronald Armstrong of Toronto, Gordon Hardcastle of Toronto, Dr. Edward Johns of Kingston; Bruce Lewarne of Toronto, Miss Jo McCourt of Toronto, Dale Paul of Toronto; Wm. Rayercroft of Toronto, Rev. James Reese of Milton, Mel Steinman of Toronto and Mrs. Margaret Willoughby, Milton.

—Planning a Christmas party? The Champion would like to share the news with readers, call 878-2341 to arrange photo or story coverage.

—Champion telephone lines were busy Monday as hundreds of callers sought election results through The Champion's annual election service.

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DUMBFOUNDED by the happenings around her, young Elinor "Bubbles" Wood of Clifford curls up in this rocker with a stray cat. Bubbles and her parents attended the open house at Bezek Centre, Second Line Nassagaweya on Saturday. The cat strayed into the centre for warmth from the cold outdoors.—(Staff Photo)

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