

Lowville United Church

Expansion plans face City, Region trouble

By LISA JAKOBSEN
Special to The Champion
Recent plans to expand Lowville United Church put the congregation in the middle of a road allowance debate with the City of Burlington and Halton Region.

The present church has stood at the corner of what is now Britannia Rd. and Guelph Line since 1873. The land was part of a parcel of land granted by King George III to Joseph Colling in 1821.

The church, done in solid Gothic Revival style, has since been called Lowville Methodist Church, Lowville Wesleyan and Methodist Church, Lowville Church, and finally, Lowville United Church. As surrounding population expanded, Lowville retained its small town dimensions and its strong sense of community. Motor vehicle traffic started to flow through the village which lies to the north of Burlington after World War I, and roads were constructed and improved to accommodate changing transportation needs.

Through all the changes and encroaching modernity, little of the church's original structure altered. The small belfry remains in place, pointed arched windows at the sides and over the entrance of the solid brick structure continue to dominate the increasingly busy corner.

After receiving last January a development permit from the Niagara Escarpment Commission construction for an addition which would hold Sunday school facilities, an office for the minister and access ramps to accommodate wheelchair entry, the congregation applied to the City of Burlington for a building permit.

A site plan had to be submitted to the City as part of the approval process.

The congregation was very surprised when informed by the City that the church would be required to deed over 17 feet on the Britannia Road side and 27 feet on the side of the building which faces Guelph Line to accommodate road widening efforts planned for the area.

Spokesman for the church, Eric Gudgeon explains losing 17 feet of property facing Britannia Road means losing part of the church wall on that side, while a loss of 27 feet which faces Guelph

Line means losing one-quarter of the front of the church.

Families, descended from original church trustees who have been part of the congregation since 1833 were naturally upset at the news, says Mr. Gudgeon listing area families descending from Henry Foster, Thomas Colling and Charles Peer.

After much negotiation with the City development committee, City Council declared last May that as long as the church stood on its present site, it would be allowed to retain its original 66-foot road allowance.

The congregation breathed a collective sigh of relief only to discover that a similar agreement with Region would not be secured without a fight.

Halton's plans to develop Guelph Line also included a 27-foot piece of church land in its road reconstruction program, already partially completed on Guelph Line between Highway No. 5 and No. 1 Side Rd. to include a truck climbing lane for west-bound traffic.

Further reconstruction efforts in the area are not anticipated in the very near future.

Lowville United Church has negotiated an agreement with Region outlining Council's right to take the required 27 feet after five years and, pending the outcome of a feasibility study, a road allowance will be established, hopefully not in excess of 10 feet, says Mr. Gudgeon.

"Basically, both parties bought time," he observes, noting his objections to a \$200 lawyers fee demanded by Region for drawing up the agreement.

Meanwhile, the church, though modest in its architectural expression remains rooted in area tradition and future expectation.

WMS Fall Rally held

Omagh By ELLA PATTERSON
Champion Correspondent

The WMS Fall Rally for areas one and two was held in Knox Church Milton on Wednesday evening Oct. 6 with a good attendance.

Guest speaker was Mr. Donald Mills of World Vision. His message was on child care and how the Foster Parent plan is bringing help to less fortunate children in other countries.

Several from this area were present and enjoyed dessert and coffee served by the Milton group.

Birthday greetings and good wishes to Mrs. Agnes Amme and Mr. William Milligan on their special days.

The Rosalind Goforth WMS of Omagh Presbyterian Church held their Thankoffering meeting on Thursday Oct. 7 with dessert and coffee at 1 p.m. followed by a program.

The president Mrs. C. Patterson welcomed the guests and presided.

The worship service was given by Mrs. H. Peacock, Mr. W. Milligan sang several tunes and also led in singing hymns. Rev. Meriam Johnson of Burlington was the guest speaker.

Rev. Johnson is secretary of the Halton Presbytery of the United Church and active in the ministry. All enjoyed her fine message on caring and making life happier for all we come in contact with.

Rev. Larry Welch, a former minister now of Southampton, Ont., was a welcome surprise visitor and several ladies were present from St. Davids Church, Campbellville, Knox Church Milton and Knox Church Sixteen.

Mrs. McFadden thanked Rev. Johnson, Mrs. Mulligan and all for coming to make the event a most pleasant one.

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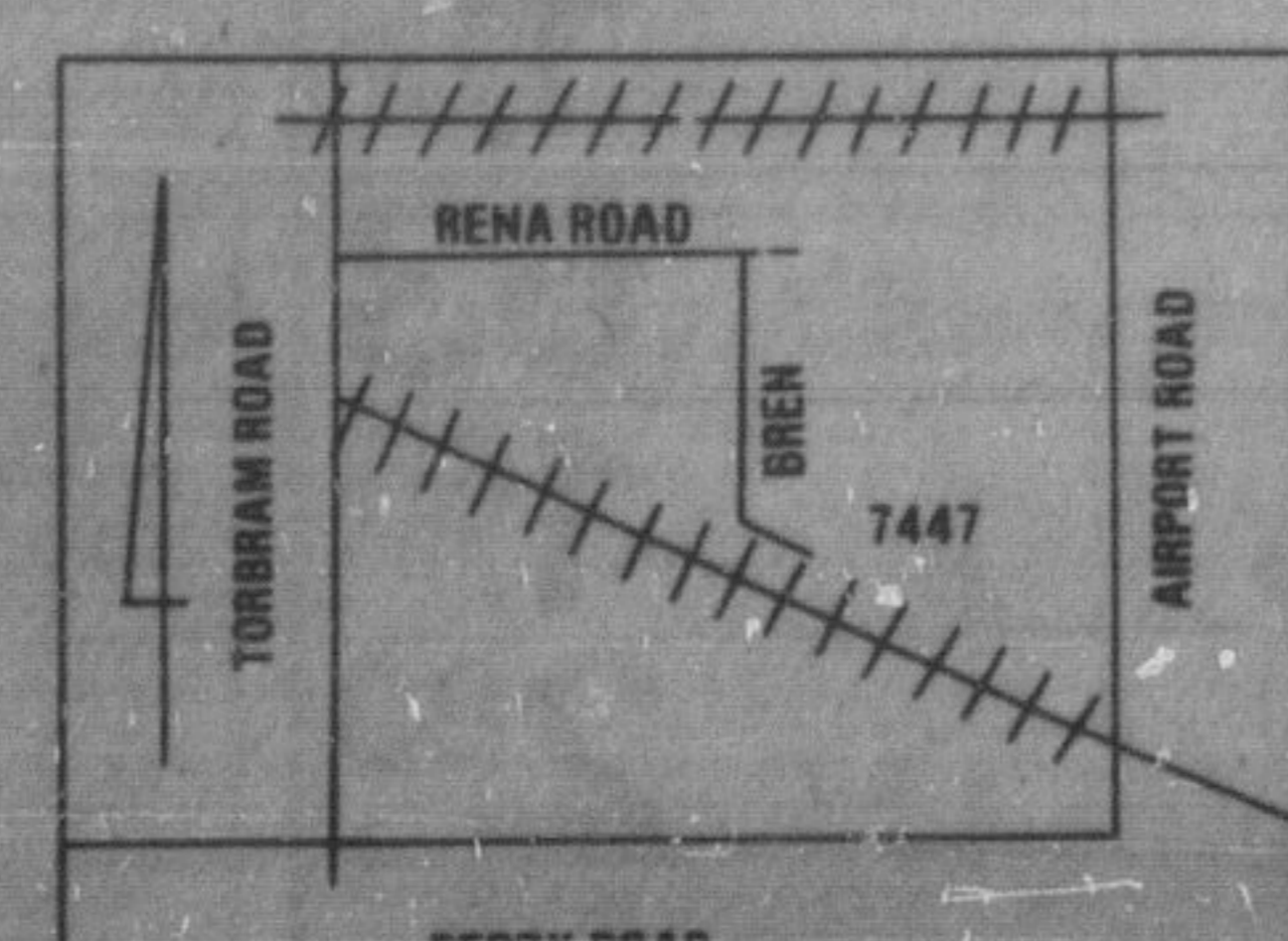
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