



# Champion COMMUNITY Page

## ✓ Holy Rosary parish bids farewell to priests

*Departing pastors say time spent here was a blessing*

By FANNIE SUNSHINE

The Champion

After 13 years as a pastor with Milton's Holy Rosary Church, Father Earl Talbot has said his last goodbyes to the town he's fondly called home.

"Twelve years is supposed to be the maximum limit of stay for a pastor at one church," he said. "I asked the archbishop for a year's extension."

Father Talbot will pack his bags and head for Kitchener tomorrow, where he'll join St. Anthony Daniel Church.

"You put your roots down (in the town)," he said. "It's tough being uprooted. This is a great place to be. I'll miss the friendliness of the town."

Father Talbot — one of Holy Rosary's longest serving pastors — grew up in Hamilton and lived in the small northern town of Red Lake before settling in Milton.

"I'm used to large cities so it won't be difficult getting used to the size of Kitchener (compared to Milton)."

This week marks a double farewell for the Holy Rosary parish — that'll also be losing Father Mike Francis.

The associate pastor will be heading to Hamilton's Regina Mundi Church after spending three years in town.

The maximum limit of stay for an associate pastor at one church is three years, he said. "I knew this day was coming so I had time to prepare. Spending three years in a place like this is a blessing. You become close to people. I enjoy meeting new people."

Father Francis said he'll miss the support of the congregation and the strength in faith they possess.

"Every parish is like a family and every family is different," he said. "There's always a period of adjustment (to a new church) but it's exciting. Life is an adventure, I look at it this way and enjoy it. I felt like I was part of a huge and wonderful family (in Milton) and you never forget your family."

Father Talbot said he'll miss baptizing the town's babies and witnessing their first communion.

"The babies I baptized in 1988 are almost as tall as me," he joked.

He'll also miss watching students at Holy Rosary School grow up and eventually attend high school.

"The three Catholic elementary schools had given me a going away album. It was very touching."

Every parish is the same yet different, Father Talbot said.

"Preparing people for marriage and counselling remains the same at any parish, as well as the social dimensions of the parish, like dances and (congregation) dinners," he said, adding different people and different atmospheres are found at all churches but the focus remains the same.

"This is a very hospitable community. I hope people will be welcoming to the new people coming to the community and to the new priests (at Holy Rosary)."

A farewell picnic was held for the priests Sunday.

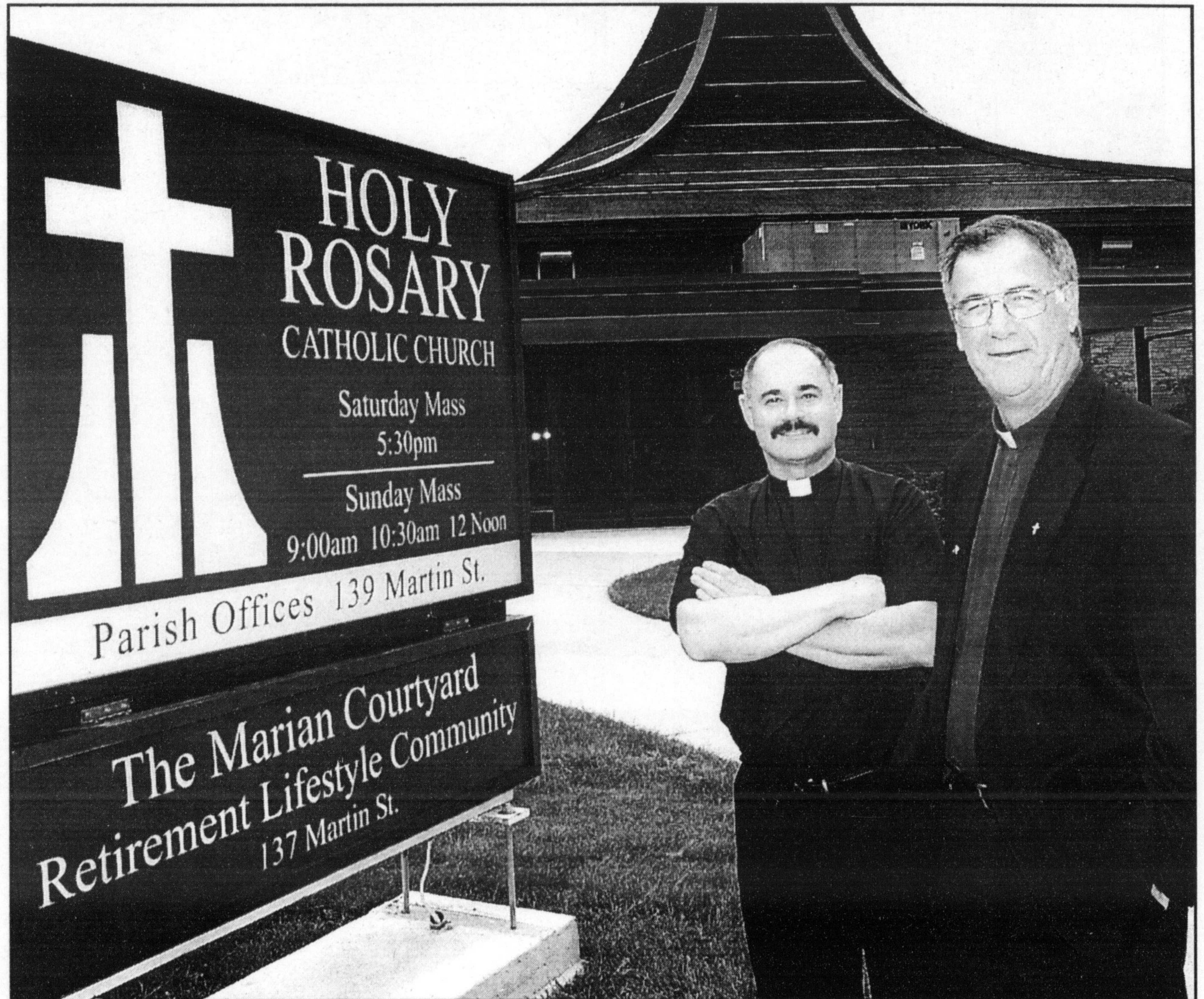


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Father Mike Francis and Father Earl Talbot have said their last goodbyes to Holy Rosary parish — where they spent three and 13 years respectively. A farewell picnic was held for them on the church grounds Sunday.

## Rotary Park open house tomorrow

An open house to obtain public input regarding Rotary Park is scheduled for tomorrow at Hugh Foster Hall.

The open house will be an informal "drop in" session from 5 to 7 p.m. followed by a presentation and question and answer period from 7 to 9 p.m.

The Town of Milton is currently preparing a master plan for Rotary Park to prepare a framework for future

improvements to the park.

The master plan should be ready by the end of August, with the first improvements to begin later this year.

A key component of the project is obtaining public views about Rotary Park and developing a vision for the long-term development and use of the park.

Community members attending the

meeting will be asked to help confirm a park vision and review some design concepts, which will be on display.

Individuals and community organizations unable to attend the open house but who are interested in providing input are asked to contact Ken McAlpine, co-ordinator of parks and facilities development at (905) 878-7252 ext. 2160.



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### COGECO 14 Programming Schedule — June 26th - July 2nd 2001.

Tuesday, June 26th		Wednesday, June 27th		Thursday, June 28th		Saturday, June 30th		Sunday July 1st	
9am, 10am, 11am, Noon	Plugged In! Early Week Edition	9am, 10am, 11am, Noon	Plugged In! Early Week Edition	9am, 10am, 11am, Noon	Plugged In! Early Week Edition	4:00 pm	Cogeco Sports: CFL Football Montreal at Hamilton	9am, 10am, 11am, Noon	Plugged In! Late Week Edition
5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In! Early Week Edition	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In! Early Week Edition	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In! Late Week Edition			5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In! Late Week Edition
5:30pm	Seniors Showcase	5:30pm	Quick & Easy Ways to Healthy Eating	5:30pm	The Issue Is...			5:30pm	The Issue Is...
6:30pm	Cable in the Classroom	6:30pm	Money Week	6:30pm	Money Week			6:30pm	Seniors Showcase
8:00pm	Halton Hills Council - June 18th	7:00pm	Cogeco Sports: CFL Football Montreal at Hamilton	7:00pm	Osler Health Connection			7:00pm	Osler Health Connection
				8:00pm	Milton Council - June 18th				

Feature this week: CFL Football: Montreal at Hamilton - Wednesday, 7 pm & Saturday, 4 pm

Monday, July 2nd  
Canada Day - No Programming