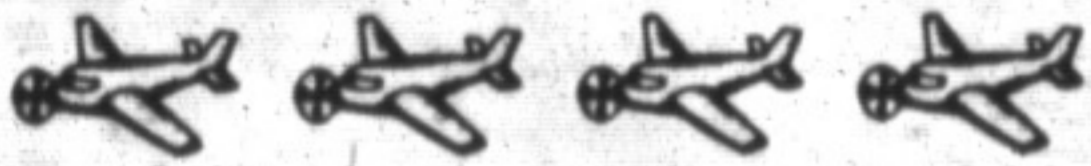


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**TRAVEL TIP OF THE WEEK:** When travelling with children and staying at hotels, remember to tour the facility together, identifying emergency exits and areas that are off-limits to them. Also always exit and enter elevators with your young children, as the doors can close quickly and leave one stranded.

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**Appleyard in concert**

Jazz musician and Rockwood area resident Peter Appleyard is celebrating his 50th year in music with an outdoor concert on Saturday, July 13.

Over the past half-century the widely acclaimed vibraharpist has performed with many celebrities, ranging from Oscar Peterson and Benny Goodman to Wayne and Schuster and Ann Murray.

Mr. Appleyard has performed abroad for NATO troops and at the legendary Apollo Theatre in Harlem. Closer to home, Mr. Appleyard was a regular performer at Toronto's Park Plaza and in 1993, he received the Order of Canada.

A gala dinner and big band concert will be part of the evening recognizing the musician's career. The event costs \$50 per person and takes place next to the ruins at Rockwood Conservation Area. Tickets are limited and can be purchased by calling (519) 856-9999.

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**They breathe new life into church**

• continued from page 1  
fundraising events."

A curious mix of architectural styles, St. Paul's primarily combines Gothic elements with Renaissance touches and New World sensibilities to produce a very North-American place of worship.

A church was built on the site in 1852 but it didn't last and a second church rose in its place in 1890. That building still sits on the site, but is currently undergoing substantial renovations to its interior.

Originally a Wesleyan Church the congregation switched to Methodist after an 1871 Methodist conference in Milton. In 1925 Methodists, Congregationalists and some Presbyterians joined to form the United Church of Canada. Other Presbyterians chose not to be involved in the union and remained apart; according to Rev. Hyde, who has just begun his 10th year at St. Paul's.

The next project for the church is to improve traffic patterns and upper floor accessibility for the school and administration building. An addition is planned which will give the building a little more floor space, eliminate the need to go out of doors to get to other parts of the building, and put a lift in for upper floor access. The estimated cost is \$200,000 but the congregation has yet to approve of the plans, said Rev. Hyde.

"Temporary repairs were made to the sanctuary about 15 years ago," laughed the reverend. "This is more than just a repair project. We are a large congregation and the only United Church in urban Milton."

The church's executive council decided to work towards becoming a 'Welcoming Church' as part of their Towards 2000 Commitment to Renewal and Growth project. The idea is to make the church more accessible to outsiders and new members.

Rev. Hyde said that projected growth in Milton will put substantial pressure on St. Paul's to keep pace. Despite the size of its congregation, St. Paul's is relatively under-utilized and could accommodate double its current 1,000 members. New churches are expensive to build and staff, with costs of several million dollars just for construction.

"New churches have recently gone into Glen Abbey and north Burlington and they cost between \$2-3 million per church," Rev. Hyde said, adding there are alternatives to building new churches while communities are growing.

"However, people love the old sanctuary. There is a romance about the place and an attraction to its history," he said. In keeping with its 'welcoming church' policies St. Paul's will conduct free tours during an open house on Saturday, Sept. 14, a market day downtown.

"St. Paul's is a typical Methodist church. It is partly Gothic and partly Renaissance architecturally," Rev. Hyde said. "It is typical of the late 1800's as well, with a semi-circular arrangement of pews, the choir behind the pulpit, two aisles and a huge balcony."

The church is dominated by several large Gothic stained glass windows donated over the years by prominent families. They soar to

the high flat Italian style ceiling. In the back, Renaissance pillars hold up the large balcony. The floor is tilted back from the pulpit and there is a huge pipe organ built into the back wall.

Rev. Hyde explained that the two-aisle concept was a conscious protest against practices of the Catholic church, which typically has a wide center aisle. In fact during the reconstruction the two aisles will be maintained, however they will be widened to help accommodate wedding and funeral processions.

Well-known architect Trevor Garwood-Jones was retained for the project. He has a specialty in acoustics, is the designer of Hamilton Place, and has done substantial work on churches.

"We have been told that the church sanctuary is one of the five best buildings in Ontario to play music," said Rev. Hyde. "We realize now what an important decision it was to retain an architect. We don't want to destroy the acoustical strength of the building."

Many of the memorial stained glass windows are tributes to local soldiers who served during World War One. Some are family memorials to prominent people from early in the 20th century.

Renovations will include new acoustic tiles under the balcony in an attempt to keep noise levels low from those entering the church during a service. The pine floor will be cleaned and stained a natural colour with carpets placed in aisles and heavy traffic areas.

"I'd like eventually to put together a pamphlet detailing the history of this building with information to help people understand its architectural elements," said Rev. Hyde. "I've done some research on the rose window, which we are using as the congregational crest and theme for our refurbishing project."

Everything in the church lifts the eyes heavenward, according to Rev. Hyde. High narrow windows, columns, the large pipes for the organ all work together to create the effect. Light is also a factor. According to Rev. Hyde light and space are manifestations of how people experience God.

"We are not trying to create a museum here," Rev. Hyde said. "This is not about trying to recreate the original building. In fact we've intentionally skewed things a bit, such as moving the lectern off to one side."

St. Paul's has scheduled its rededication service for Sunday, October 6.

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