

Continued

## A history of St. Ann's Church

(part 2)  
by Dave Dupuis

After the drowning of Father Kennedy in 1873, Father Proulx, the first regular pastor of the church was sent to Penetanguishene until a new pastor could be appointed.

Father Theophilus Francis Laboureau was sent to St. Ann's on Sept. 23 rd 1873. Born in the diocese of Dijon in the old province of Burgundy, France, he was called to Canada in 1858 by Bishop de Charbonnel. He was ordained priest on January 14th 1866 in Montreal for the diocese of Toronto.

In 1875 the present brick presbytery was erected under the directions of Fr. Laboureau. Four years later in January 1879 the reformatory was detached from Penetanguishene mission and a chaplain was appointed having the exclusive charge of the boys institution.

The populations of the villages around Penetanguishene increased and its citizens grew tired of having to attend mass in private homes.

In 1881, Father Laboureau undertook the building of churches in Midland, Victoria Harbour, Port Severn and Waubesa where the church built in 1861 was already inadequate to the requirements of the people. All these churches were finished in the same year, 1881. The church of Midland was blessed in January, 1882 by Bishop O'Mahoney.

Until 1882 the church lot at Penetanguishene accommodated the cemetery before it became necessary to purchase land for another. Four acres were bought from Hermidas Gamelin and Thomas Leduc at a convenient distance from the church. Reverend Father McBride assisted by the pastor blessed the new cemetery in July 1882. Not long afterwards the bodies from the old cemetery were moved to the new one.

The work in the mission of Penetanguishene increased greatly. Priests who were sent to help Father Laboureau during his tenure were Fathers Jeffcott, Whitney, Lynett, Cantillon, Grant, Kidd,

Minehan and Brunelle. In 1884, Father Laboureau received permission from Archbishop Lynch to commence building of a new church. As Penetanguishene is the point round which centred the traditions of the Hurons missions and the first mission re-established in the old Huron country it was the connecting link between the past and the present. A memorial church was proposed to serve as a fitting monument to the memory of Fathers De Breboeuf, Lallement and their companions, whose arduous labors and heroic death form one of the brightest pages of the history of Canada.

In 1885, after receiving permission from the Archbishop Father Laboureau began securing funds. He researched extensively on the missions and lectured in different parts of the country. He also went to France to appeal for assistance and to select a type of architecture. Substantial assistance was received from several

distinguished people in Europe and from such Canadians as Sir Charles Tupper, John A Macdonald, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and Edward Blake.

The corner stone was laid on Sept 8, 1886, by Archbishop Lynch in the presence of the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario the Hon. J. Beverley Robinson.

It was constructed of rock faced granite and field stones, trimmed with Red Credit Valley stone and white Nottawasaga Sand Stone. The style of architecture chosen was late Romanesque.

Progress was slow due to lack of funds but in December of 1890 the church was roofed and served to hold mass but remained unfinished until 1902. In 1902 St. Ann's Memorial Church was officially opened and blessed by the reverends D. O'Connor of Toronto, assisted by Rev. R. O'Connor of Peterboro and the Rev. F. P. Mc Evay of London.

The interior dimensions are 137 feet long, 45 ft. wide and the building is capable of seating a thousand people.

At the opening of the church in 1902, the main altar was presented by Mr. Alphonse Tessier and at Easter 1908 he also presented the pulpit. The pews were placed in November 1904.

Most of the windows in groups of three's were in place at the opening of the church while the large one over the front entrance was added in the summer of 1910. All windows, altars and statues were private donations.

On February 6, 1910, the Pipe Organ, built by the Mathew Church Organ Co. was placed over the main entrance in the choir gallery and blessed by Father Kidd, then Chancellor of the Diocese.

The Church of St. Ann's was complete and a

magnificent structure it was.

It was September of 1906 that Father Laboureau resigned and left Penetanguishene and it was fitting that when he died on October 22, 1908 at the age 71, that his remains be conveyed to Penetanguishene for funeral services.

During the funeral ceremonies all places of business, the mills, the factories were all closed and from all the country surrounding came hundreds to pay a last token of respect to their old friend who had done missionary work in their midst for 33 years.

His former parishioners wished to have a worthy memorial of their pastor placed in their beautiful memorial church, the church he had built, so in January, 1909, bells were blessed in his honor by Archbishop Mc Evay. Also erected in 1909 were two bells in honour of Fathers Breboeuf and Lallement.

In the old days, it was the little landing place of Otouacha at the mouth of Penetanguishene Bay which generated the missions of Toanche, Shonatriia, Ossosane and St. Marie and in the new times Penetanguishene has been the origin of parishes at Lafontaine, Perkinsfield, Stayner, Collingwood, Owen Sound, Phepston, Barrie, Orillia, The Severn, Waubesa, Victoria Harbour, Midland, etc.

As it was jokingly written in a document, "In Penetanguishene, Old and New" on the 16 of March, 1913, the 26th anniversary of Father Breboeuf's death, "The memory of these first missionaries is so linked with Penetanguishene and the Memorial Church that the Parish priest finds occasionally in his mail letters and petitions addressed to 'The Rev. Fathers De Breboeuf and Lallement, Penetanguishene'."

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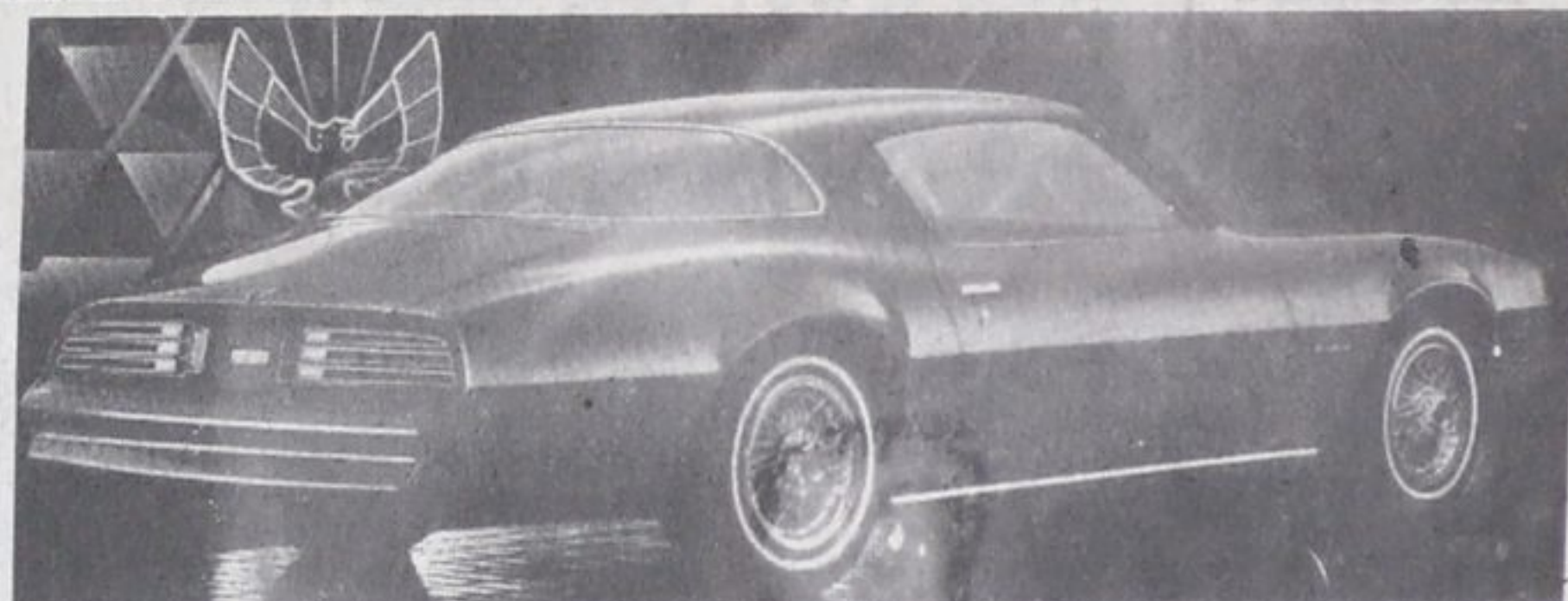
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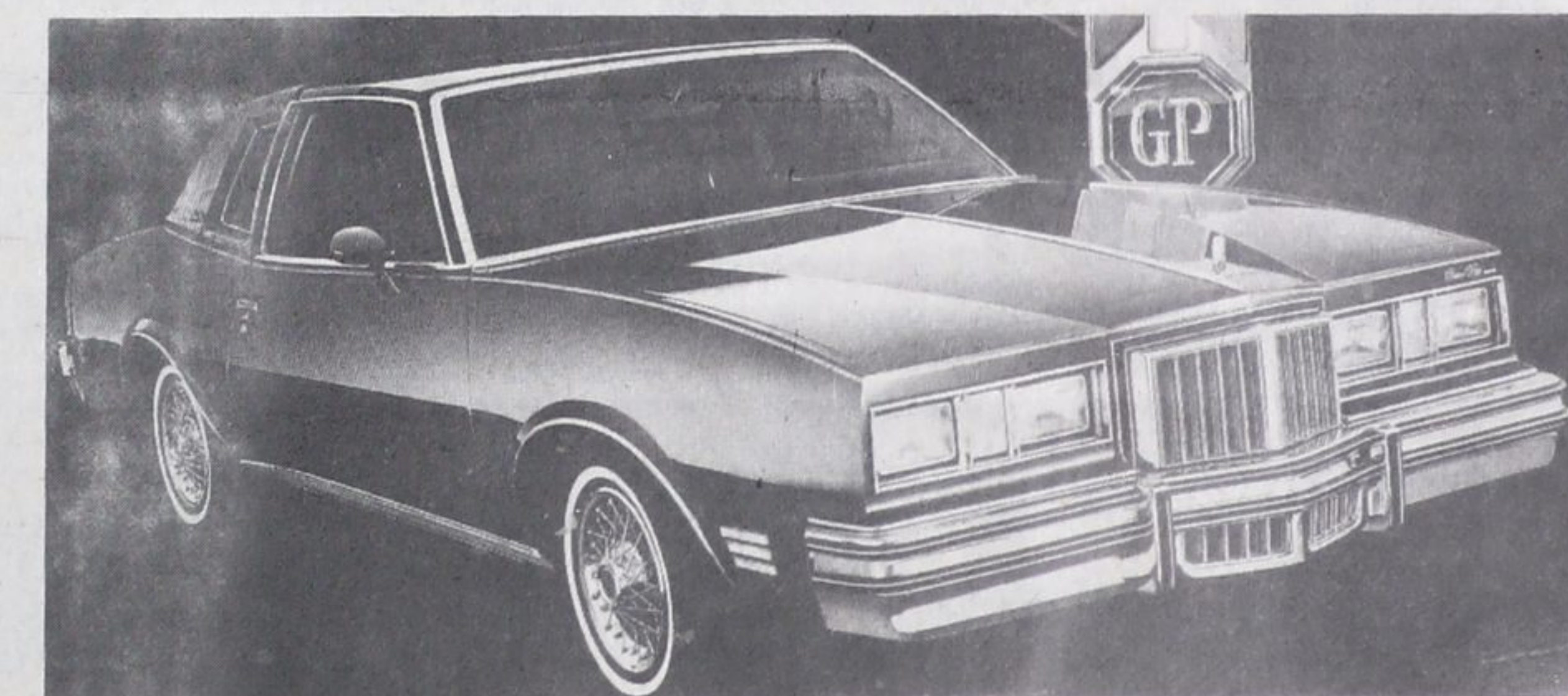
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La soirée du dimanche soir, le 23 juillet, à bord du David Richard, commanditée par le Club Richelieu, était un succès éclatant, des points de vue social, fraternel, et de pur plaisir. Par une température parfaite, nous avons goûté la beauté des paysages des rives du port de Penetanguishene, l'étendue d'espace entre la butte de l'Île Travers aux éleveurs de Port McNicoll, les rochers éternels de quelques-unes des 30,000 îles, tout ce spectacle merveilleux clôturé par un magnifique coucher de soleil. Mais en plus de ces délices naturelles, il y avait musique et danse.

L'animation fournie par nos propres gens de la région, deux groupes du Collège Glendon, soit le groupe théâtrale et le cours d'immersion, ont ajouté leur cachet particulier français par leurs chants, danses, et musique. Nous étions environ 150 passagers, presque tous francophones, ce qui démontrait bien que nous sommes nombreux et pleins de vie, et ce qui annonce bien pour la grande danse au Curling vendredi, le 4 août, sous l'égide de votre Centre d'Activités françaises. Ce sera une occasion, une fois dans l'année, pour se rencontrer tous pour avoir du "fun", et, en même temps, témoigner notre présence réelle.



Montant à bord (de gauche à droite) les Richelieu Augustin Desroches, Gilbert Gignac, Urbain Maurice.

## Accidents busy police

PENETANGUISENE — Penetanguishene police report a relatively quiet weekend, with most problems being caused by minor accidents. On Saturday, July 22 an accident occurred in front of 139 Poyntz Street. The two drivers involved in the crash were Bernard LePage of Champlain Road in Penetanguishene, and Francisco Trillo of Toronto.

Damage to the Trillo vehicle was estimated at \$50, but damage to the LePage car was thought to be about \$200. Mr Trillo was charged with passing improperly after the accident.

Another accident took place on Friday, at the corner of Lafontaine Road (County Road No. 26) and Robert St. W. Christopher Banka of Penetanguishene was the driver of the car, which apparently struck a guy-wire attached to a telephone pole. Damage to the Banka vehicle was about \$600 and Mr. Banka sustained minor injuries. He was charged with careless driving.

Also over the weekend, a Christian Island man was charged with using a licence plate from another vehicle and also with driving while disqualified. Everett King will appear in court to answer those charges.

## The new minimum wage rates

On August 1, 1978 new Minimum Wage rates will go into effect. Here are the new rates:

	Effective **August 1, 1978
General hourly rate	\$ 2.85
Learner, hourly rate	2.75
Construction and Guards at construction sites, hourly rate	3.15
*Hourly rate for persons employed to serve liquor in licensed premises	2.50
*Student, hourly rate	2.15
Ambulance Drivers and Helpers, Weekly Rate	136.80
Hunting or Fishing Guides less than 5 consecutive hours	12.50
5 or more hours whether or not consecutive	25.00

\*Room and Board  
The following maximum rates apply when room and board are included in calculating the minimum wage:

Room, weekly	11.00
Meals, each weekly	1.15
Room and Meals, weekly	24.00
*no change from previous rate	35.00

\*\*The entire work week in which August 1 falls

You can get more information about the new Minimum Wage rates and the Employment Standards Act by writing or phoning:

Employment Standards Branch  
Ontario Ministry of Labour  
400 University Avenue  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 1T7  
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Ontario Ministry of Labour  
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