

Thornhill And District News . . .

TELEPHONE AV. 5-1338

The Liberal is always pleased to publish items of interest contributed by its readers in the Thornhill area . . . Our representative in Thornhill is Mrs. Elizabeth Sumner. In order that your items may appear in The Liberal simply phone AV. 5-1338.

125th Anniversary



Reverend S. A. R. Wood, rector of Trinity Anglican Church, Thornhill, is seen with wardens of the church, left to right, Douglas V. Ridout, Jr. Warden; Gordon P. Howe, People's Warden; W. S. Kertland, Rector's Warden and R. C. Napier, Jr. Warden. Seen in the background are some of the outstanding collection of stained glass windows which have been presented to the church during the past century. Trinity Church congregation is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year and one of the highlights of the observance will be the reconsecration of the church on June 8 by Bishop Beverley.

Trinity Church, Thornhill, is celebrating its 125th anniversary on June 8, 1955. This historic church which has for 125 years administered to the spiritual needs of its community is the oldest church in the diocese and is considered to be one of the finest remaining examples of Georgian Colonial architecture in this part of the country.

In 1828, Thornhill was just another sleepy little hamlet on the dusty, hilly road which led from the hinterland to York, the centre of Upper Canada settlement. But it was in 1828 that Archdeacon Strachan selected Thornhill among other settlements in the area to be supplied with professors or divinity students who would conduct regular services. So it was in 1829 that the work on an Anglican church in Thornhill was begun.

After the erection of the church, church services were conducted by two masters of Upper Canada College, Rev. Mr. Dade and Rev. Mr. Matthews, and by two divinity students, Mr. Boulton and Mr. McMurray (later Archdeacon), who continued in their work until the appointment in 1833 of Trinity's first rector, the Rev. George Mortimer. In 1843, through Mr. Mortimer's efforts the forerunner of the present library was established. On June 15, 1844, he met with a serious accident when his horse took fright and upset the carriage en route to Toronto. He died a few hours later.

In the period from 1833 to the present incumbency of the Rev. S.A.R. Wood there have been 11 rectors serving the Thornhill parish. Two village residents, William Parsons and his brother-in-law, Benjamin Thorne, were chiefly responsible for the building of the church. Through their efforts, wealthy families in England in addition to local pioneer families contributed towards the erection of the church building and they themselves gave the site for the church. By 1830, the church was finished and consecrated as the Church of the Holy Trinity. The years after the erection of the church were years of great expansion in Upper Canada and, likewise, the congregation of Trinity Church grew and prospered.

By 1840 the congregation had grown to such an extent that it was necessary to extend the seating capacity. An addition to each side of the building doubled the capacity and after the work was completed, Bishop Strachan drove out from Toronto to consecrate the church and its burying ground and to confirm 16 candidates. In 1866 the high box pews were lowered and kneeling benches were added. It was in this year that the first of the now outstanding collection of painted windows was presented as a memorial to Mr. and Mrs. Parsons. In 1910 saw the removal of the old pews which were sold to the Trench Carriage Works in Rich-

mond Hill and the installation of new pews at a cost of \$475. Four years later, the present altar, a memorial to Joseph Robinson and his family replaced the original primitive altar of packing cases, and a new pulpit was also installed. Electric lights were a third improvement made at the same time. In 1918 the sills of the church began to cause concern and considerable work was necessary before a number of new stained glass windows could be installed. By 1946, the Parish Council realized that the situation was becoming acute. It was evident that plans had to be made not only for the security of the present structure but also for the growing post-war needs of the parish.

At a vestry meeting in 1947, a startling recommendation was made to the congregation. It was suggested that the church be moved to a larger and more suitable site. Looking ahead, the Vestry approved the purchase of a site on Brook Street from Dr. Lorne Pierce. It was thought that it would probably be another ten years before a final decision on a new church would be needed. Yet conditions in the rapidly growing community changed so fast that within two years it became apparent that immediate action was necessary. On June 7, 1950, the service of the removal of Sentence of Consecration was observed, then a new era for Trinity Church set in.

The Albert Clark Construction Co. of Weston undertook the tremendous task of dismantling the church and carefully labelling each stick and timber for re-erection. W. Sydney Kertland, great grandson of William Parsons drew the plans for the enlarged church and supervised the moving. The work was financed by the sale of Lawrence Memorial Hall, contributions by the congregation and the raising of a mortgage on the rectory.

Architecturally, the church is the same as before with the exception of the enlarged chancel and other slight alterations including the opening of the old choir gallery. The new auditorium, the up-to-date kitchen and parish hall, are new additions to Trinity Church but additions which enable the restored historical building to continue to function in the growing community.

On June 8, Bishop Beverley will reconsecrate the church as part of the 125th anniversary celebrations. The anniversary will have a particular significance not only to the Anglican communion but to the entire

community, for the work which has been carried on through the century and a quarter — the work which has enabled Trinity Church to grow with the community and still retain its historic ties — is not only a tribute to the pioneers who worked so hard to establish the Church as a part of the community but also to the present people of Thornhill who are ensuring that this historic church will always be a vital part of their community living.

Marks 50 Years In Journalism

A distinguished resident of Thornhill and a former mayor of the city of Toronto, Maj. Bert Wemp, O.B.E., D.F.C. was honoured by members of the Press Bureau last week at City Hall on the occasion of his 50th anniversary with The Telegram.

The occasion was suitably remembered with a decorated anniversary cake with the gold inscription "Congratulations, Major, on your 50th Anniversary." The Major began his newspaper career with The Telegram as an office boy and a year later joined the editorial staff as a reporter. From 1906 to 1922 he served on the reportorial staff before becoming suburban editor. Prior to an overseas trip in 1942 as war correspondent he served as city editor. He has been bureau chief of the Press Bureau at City Hall for the past four years.

During his 50 years' service with the Tely, he served overseas with the RAF in World War I, served as a school trustee, an alderman, controller and as mayor of Toronto.

York Central Asks Billeting For Visiting Scout Groups

Sometime around the first and second weeks of August, groups of Boy Scouts from all parts of the world will be landing in Toronto on their way to the eighth World Jamboree being held at Niagara-on-the-Lake from August 18th to 28th.

The billeting of the first 80 boys of the English contingent has been assigned to York Central District. The boys will arrive by air on the 6th of August at Malton Airport. Friends of Scouting in the York Central District are being asked to open their homes and provide billets, including food and entertainment, without charge or reimbursement for the 12 days pre-

Ask Trustees To Finance Proposed Tennis Courts

Plans for the proposed tennis courts in the park were laid before the trustees at their last meeting by R. C. Poulter, chairman of the Area Recreation Committee. Mr. Poulter stated that a great amount of interest was being shown in the project and inquired as to the possibilities of the trustees financing the major part of the work over a period of two or three years, the money to be repaid from memberships. It was estimated that the necessary asphalt paving and back-stops would cost approximately \$2,000. Messrs. Poulter and Sumner will attend the next meeting of Markham Township Council in order to see if any assistance can be secured from that body.

The Dept. of Highways has requested a plan of the area that would be affected by the closing of the north end of Old Yonge Street. This will be forwarded to the Highway Traffic Dept., which will make suggestions to relieve the anticipated traffic problem.

The trustees appointed Mr. J. Timmins as the trustee representative on the Library Board for 1955-56. Mr. Timmins is very interested in the library and its future development.

A letter was received from Markham Twp., requesting a meeting of the trustees and the Markham Fire Committee. This meeting is to be arranged as soon as possible.

15 Scouts At Weekend Camp

The 2nd Thornhill Scout Troop held a most successful camp over the past holiday week-end.

Fifteen Scouts, under the leadership of Scoutmaster Alf Wills, left Saturday morning and spent three days in the Humber Valley. The weather was beautiful and the swimming season was officially opened.

La Grove Handicrafts

Summer bags clearing at greatly reduced prices. See our new shipment of pottery. Very reasonable prices.

THORNHILL AV. 5-1633

Victoria College Grad Leaves For Germany

Twice a gold medalist while a student at Earl Haig Collegiate and entering University on the James C. Taylor Memorial scholarship, Jean Lak, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lak of Green Lane, graduates from Victoria College this week and steps literally into a new world.

She leaves this summer to teach English conversation to German students in the city of Bremen, Germany. It is part of an exchange system whereby

Canadian graduate students teach German high school pupils and German students of equivalent status teach in Canada. It is sponsored in Germany by the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst, and channelled through the Cultural Attache of the Federal Republic of Germany in Ottawa. Miss Lak is an honour graduate in Modern History and German and expects to remain in Germany for one year.

Miss Lak and her parents moved to Thornhill in 1942, at which time she attended German Mills School for four years. German Mills is one of the few one-room country school houses left in the county. From there she entered Earl Haig Collegiate. Miss Lak is a sport enthusiast and in particular an expert swimmer. She has spent four summers on the staff of Thornhill Swimming Pool as life-saving instructor. Last summer she joined the Ontario Travel Bureau and worked as a guide in Fort Francis.

While abroad she plans to travel during the holiday seasons, not only in Germany, but in the rest of the continent.



Miss Jean Lak

Money From Sale Park Land Placed In Trust Fund

Representations by Trustee A. Sumner and Mr. R. C. Poulter, chairman of the Area Recreation Committee to Markham township council Monday for a share of the \$2,000.00 the township recently received from the sale of a small area of park land located within the village limits failed to gain acceptance. The Trustees wanted the money to put towards a proposed \$2,000 tennis court to be erected by the recreation committee.

In reply to the request council explained that present Provincial legislation provides that the money gained by such sales must be placed in a trust fund for use in purchasing additional park land within the municipality. All subdividers are required to donate 5% of any proposed development to the municipality for use in park or school purposes.

The Trustees felt that as they will be responsible for maintaining the road they should share in the sale of the road site.

The property in question was sold to the Richmond Hill District High School Board for use as an entrance into the new Thornhill school.

As the tennis courts represent a capital expenditure, Council is considering making an outright grant towards this cost.

THORNHILL POOL NOW OPEN

Week Days — 2 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays — 1 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Register early for swimming classes
For Information phone
AV. 5-1326

COME TO THE FARMERS' MARKET

Stop 15, Yonge Street, THORNHILL
Saturdays 7.30 a.m. - 5.30 p.m. Wednesdays 1 - 9 p.m.

Shrubs - Perennials - Evergreens - Box Plants

★ Rose Bushes - Trees ★

BUY THEM FROM THE GROWERS!

BROUWER & SONS

Holland Marsh Vegetables

Box Plants

COOK'S POULTRY FARM

We specialize in CUT-UP CHICKEN

C. NELS GAGE

FINEST QUALITY MEATS
Free local delivery Mon. to Fri.
Phone AV. 5-1526
Genuine Spring Lamb A Specialty

GRIBBLES

Herbs, Prize Pickles - Jams
Annuals, Perennials, Vegetables in season

HANSON & SON

Fresh Cut Flowers
Annuals, Geraniums,
Hybrid Petunias

HERB JONES & SON

Potatoes

Fresh-Cut Asparagus

MORRISON'S

Asparagus — Green Onions
Strawberry Rhubarb

ORIOLE GARDENS

Leaf Lettuce — Watercress
Hothouse Tomatoes
Fresh Fruit

RUMBLE'S

Choice Whipping Cream
Butter & Eggs
Fresh-Cut Asparagus

WAIN'S FLORIST

Shrubs
Perennials

FREE DRAW TICKETS FROM THORNHILL AREA STORES