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**This Is Our Land**  
 (By Mrs. Loren Guild)  
 Yonge Street is the longest street on the continent. Some Ontarians claim that it runs to the Manitoba border and that the numerical name, number 11, is merely for convenience. It runs so truly north from the lake to Mt. Pleasant that wartime pilots set their compasses to it. There it turns slightly to the east but continues, an unrolling scroll of history.  
 Two miles north of Richmond Hill there is a cairn made of field stones. Planes zoom over it, cars rush by it carrying on the busy life of the street. I asked eleven residents of Markham Township if they knew it. There was a quick reply each time, "Oh yes, it's near St. John's Church," or "You mean that pyramid thing in front of the golf club?" They had all seen it but not one had any idea what it commemorated. The legend it bears is not written so "that he who runs may read." One must stop and lean against the sun-warmed stones to see the words. This is the message: "Planned by Lieut-Governor Simcoe in 1793 as a military road and a commercial highway, between lakes Ontario and Huron, to promote the settlement of this province. Laid out and constructed by the Queen's Rangers, under her orders 1794-96 and named in honor of Sir George Yonge, secretary at war." Surely a story to stir the imagination.  
 French Loyalists  
 A few hundred yards north of the cairn there is another marker on the lawn of St. John's Church. The brief story it records stirs the heart with pity. The legend reads:  
 "In the fall of 1798 forty French exiled royalists under Joseph-Genivieve, Comte de Puisaye emigrated from England to Upper Canada. They were given rations and agricultural implements. The nobility and their servants were unable to adapt to pioneer life and by 1807 the settlement known as Windham was abandoned." A simple and stark statement of human tragedy for a group of people who had come through the terrors of revolution in France. Unlike the Amish, Mennonite, Scots and Germans who followed, these people were completely unfitted to cope with life in an untamed country and only thirteen of them remained in Canada. Perhaps their descendants made peace with the land.  
 For many years our cemeteries and a few statues constituted our memorials to the past. Perhaps it is our growing nationalism that has spurred an interest in making roadside records of our heritage. Whatever it is, it is good. To ignore our roots would be an ungrateful and egotistical attitude.  
 Yonge Street, so much a part of Markham history is the warp upon which the woof of local life has woven a variety of patterns. The street has lived much longer than we and deserves our respect and affection. It has humour too. Surely a sign on this busy highway that reads, "deer crossing," is a bit pixy.  
 My husband and I are strangers in York County; we have made it a point of interest to watch for the blue and gold markers erected by the Archaeological and Historical Department. We make it a Sunday afternoon search, then explore for further information in the library and from neigh-

**GORMLEY NEWS**  
 CORRESPONDENT: MRS. CHAS. MILSTED  
 Telephone Gormley 5201

Blasts from Superior Propane in Maple were clearly heard in this area, Harold Heise found a Superior Propane invoice in his yard on Sunday morning. Two definite cracks appeared in Heise Hill Church.  
 Quite a number from this community attended the World Mennonite Conference held recently in Kitchener.  
 There has been a lot of activity around Gormley as Markham Township is preparing the gravel road for paving. Extensive work has been done in removing the original road bed and forming a real good base.  
 Wes Hoover of Toronto, had dinner recently with Mr. and Mrs. S. N. Doner.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Harold Wideman visited Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Baker, Gowansdown, Sunday. Mr. Baker has been in poor health recently.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Ron Elliott and Douglas, spent last week at the Stayner Camp Meeting.  
 Mr. and Mrs. E. Gill, Dennis, Jeanne and Alan, and Mr. and Mrs. George Suley, all of Toronto, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Norm Johnston and boys.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Allan Doner and children had dinner Saturday with Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Gooding and family, Dundalk. They also visited other relatives there.  
 Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Wilcox and Dinah have returned after spending three weeks in Nova Scotia. Mrs. Archibald (Mrs. Wilcox's mother) of Halifax, returned with them for several weeks' holidays.  
 John and Stephen Campey had supper Monday with Christopher and Peter Johnston.  
 Miss Jean Brillinger holidayed last week in Pennsylvania.  
 Mrs. Bruce Steckley and Miss Reatha Steckley, spent the Civic Holiday week-end in the U.S. Johnny returned with them after spending a month with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. C. Slaymaker, Lancaster, Penna.  
 Mrs. John Cober left Thursday for a holiday in Nova Scotia. She went with her brother,

Quaker Church  
 Our attention was caught again and we drove on to look at the Quaker Church built in 1810, described as the only church in the area north of Toronto. It is painted grey and white. A covered veranda runs the full length of the front. This unusual feature, no doubt was to protect the women while the menfolk brought around the buggy. Looking through the old wavy glass panes it was not difficult to people the church with worshippers.  
 Other signs beckoned but we decided to leave Sharon Temple and Bond Head for another exploration. As we returned to Markham we were conscious that we were following the route likely taken by the rebels of 1837 as they marched from Bond Head to meet defeat at Montgomery Tavern.  
 On the dedication page of the Historical Sketch of Markham Township, 1793-1950 Chairman Alex D. Bruce has most fittingly used verses 7 to 10 from Deuteronomy 8 to describe his township - "a good land, a land of brooks and water - of valleys and hills; a land of wheat and barley and honey, a land wherein thou shalt eat bread - thou shalt not lack anything in it." This is our land.



**Full Speed Ahead**  
 Foundations are well underway at the York Central District Hospital on the Maple Sideroad. Seen above are some of the workmen putting the finishing touches to the cribbing under the kitchen at the rear of the structure. The hospital is expected to be completed late next year. (Staff photo)

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 be turned off to save electricity? (Everybody knows where the danger spots are and will be cautious without extra warning.)

**Or Should**  
 a lesson be taken from the Notre Dame Cathedral, which although it has been offering the same services at the same location for more than six centuries, still rings the bell every day to let people know it is there?

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