



Church dates back more than 125 years

By MERILYN McKELVEY
(fifth in a series)

The earliest part of the church at 15 Church Lane dates back to 1847.

At that time, the church was only a one-room rectangular, frame building called St. Luke's. John Edey was the carpenter who built the church for the Roman Catholic parishioners in the Thornhill area.

The church was enlarged, in 1853, with the addition to the rear of a Georgian-styled wing to accommodate the priest. This wing was later demolished when the brick house, to the north of the church, was built as the rectory.

A new wing was added in 1947 and six years later the mural, which can be seen from the Lane, was hand painted on the front gable.

The St. Luke's Catholic congregation erected a new church and since 1972, the St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Catholic congregation have held their services in this historic building.

To the south of the church is St. Luke's Cemetery which began the same year that the church was constructed.

It is the third oldest cemetery in Thornhill, with some very old graves. The cemetery is now closed and only those who already own lots may be buried there.

November Municipal elections

Voters in the next municipal election in the York Region may finally be able to go to the polls without feeling they're at the last week.

The North York, York Regional Council agreed to several changes in the election act, including one which would change polling day from the first Monday in December to the second Monday in November.

Among some of the other changes agreed to by council: nomination day is fixed as the Monday three weeks before polling day; also nominations may be filed with the clerk the week immediately preceding nomination day; all qualified electors will be entitled to vote on money by-laws, rather than only owners of land and long-term tenants.

The occupation of a candidate will still be shown on nomination papers or ballots. The committee had recommended against the proposal that the occupation no longer be shown and was supported by council.

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Engineering commissioner Bob Hodgson said motorists drove according to the condition of the road and as to how safe they felt, which was why he had originally suggested 70 kph.

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Speed conversion

When it comes to converting miles to kilometres, the best solution is not to do anything at all.

At least that's what York Regional Council was told last week after debating for more than an hour over the proper amounts of speed to post on various streets in the region.

As a result, council will stick with those speeds listed in the automatic conversion program of existing speed limits to metric in kilometres per hour, and not make further revisions to those on their own.

The matter was no. 34 on council's engineering report, but was moved to near the top of the agenda because of a deputation from Richmond Hill.

The latter, although small in number, was headed by Gunter Bellach, 147 Elgin Mills Rd. He presented a petition signed by 89 residents of Elgin Mills Rd. protesting the proposed changing of the speed limit from 30 miles an hour to 60 kilometres an hour, or 37.5 mph.

The report had originally recommended 70 kph, or 43.75 mph. The area covered would be from Bathurst St. west to Yonge St. on Elgin Mills.

The engineering committee had recommended similar changes throughout the region, bringing with them similar complaints, from King, Markham, Whitechurch-Stouffville and East Gwillimbury.

Most of the recommendations represented a slight increase in miles an hour.

However, there was also the occasional recommendation that the existing speed be decreased, as in the area on Warden Ave., between the north limit of Highway 7, to about 700 feet south of 16th Ave.

In presenting his petition, Bellach said he had had time only to contact about 85 per cent of the residents.

Of those contacted, 83 per cent signed the petition, asking that the speed limit not be raised, but be converted to 50 KMP, the nearest equivalent to 30 mph, and itself a raise of one mph.

Bellach said council raised the speed limit from 30 mph to 35 mph in 1972 after a road widening. However, it had lowered it again because of protests from residents there.

Former Regional Councillor Gordon Rowe had attempted to have it raised to 40 mph in 1975, but this also was turned down after residents petitioned against the move, he said.

Bellach cited a lack of sidewalks, a growing residential area and the fact that Bathurst St. had since taken over from Elgin Mills as a bypass road for Richmond Hill, as reasons for opposing the change.

Engineering committee chairman Ray Twinney of Newmarket, said the committee had spent three hours going over the report and had dealt with "all aspects."

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Elgin Mills residents stop proposed increase

All three Richmond Hill representatives on council — Mayor David Schiller and councillors Lois Hancey and Lou Wainwright, supported the deputation.

Road speeds in York should be set by the government's automatic conversion tables, with no alternatives, Schiller said.

Mrs. Hancey said, that, while she appreciated the technical aspects involved, the welfare of the residents had to be considered.

Wainwright said he couldn't accept the increase.

Vaughan Mayor Garnet Williams said there had to be some way to get between Yonge and Bayview. If more houses went in on Elgin Mills without

sidewalks, "then it's bad planning."

"Let everybody go 75 miles an hour," interjected Mayor Margaret Britnell of King.

Mrs. Britnell had requested a three-mile portion of King Side Road, also slated to go up to 37.5 mph, be lowered to 31.5 mph, the relative kph speed for 30 mph.

A subsequent amendment by Mayor Schiller stating that no speed limit under the metric conversion program exceed that of the automatic conversion of the existing speed limit to that of kilometres per hour, was carried.

However, it and another amendment by the mayor calling for the "distances now in effect" to remain as they are, with the distances in the proposed by-law to be adjusted accordingly, were both lost when the amended motion was

voted on.

The motion lost its momentum after Regional councillor Ted Oakes addressed council.

"If you don't do anything, the automatic conversion will take place, as soon as the (road) signs are posted," Oakes said.

No by-law was required if they weren't changing the speed limit, he said.

"Maybe after all this time, that's the move we should take," said Mayor Schiller.

A subsequent motion by Councillor Twinney that council abide by the conversion table and deal with individual requests at committee, was carried.

Sign conversions are to be completed by Sept. 30.

Library plans dance lessons

By JUNE ABBOTT

Get out your dancing slippers and sign up for the Scottish Country Dancing at the Thornhill Community Centre Library, commencing Saturday, September 10.

Lessons, which are free, are open to children aged five and up and will be held at least twice a month from 10.30 a.m. for an hour.

Children's librarian, Sharon Morley, herself a member of a Weston dancing team, will lead the dance.

Call 226-2862 to register, or sign on at the circulation desk.

MULTILINGUAL

Multilingual Biblioservice is a service provided by the National Library of Canada and consists of book deposits for public libraries in a wide range of foreign languages: Chinese, Dutch, German, Hungarian, Italian, Maltese, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish, Swedish and Ukrainian.

The Community Centre Branch Library has deposits in Dutch, Hungarian, Italian and Spanish.

Other books in all the languages are located in other libraries throughout the Central Ontario Regional Library System.

The branches of Markham Public Libraries have a complete list of all deposits and can obtain titles for you from other libraries through Inter-Library Loan.

Comments on type and quality of books provided are welcomed.

Incidentally, Markham Public Libraries also has its own collection of French and Italian books.

PRE-SCHOOL

The library's pre-school French program will be offered this fall, beginning September 12, scheduled as follows: Monday and Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. and Monday and Wednesday at 1:30 p.m.

All are half-hour classes and will continue for 13 weeks.

The classes will be conducted by Mrs. Barbara Rosen, an experienced teacher who has taught at North York.

It is hoped to have not more than 10 children in each class to ensure adequate attention to each child. Children aged from three to five are eligible to attend.

The fee for 26 sessions is \$39 which may be paid in person at the library, or by means of a cheque made out and mailed to The Town of Markham Public Libraries.

In either case, the fee must be paid on or before the first session.

The emphasis will be on fun and informal learning of basic vocabulary through conversation, stories, games and music.

It is the type of program any child would enjoy. Those interested are asked to call the library at 226-2862.

Vaughan seeks Private Bill

The Town of Vaughan will try to get a private bill through the Ontario legislature concerning the Thornhill-Vaughan plan.

The town wants jurisdiction over an agreement between developers to provide parkland in Thornhill-

Vaughan, the plan to house 75,000 people.

The developers association has approached the town about dividing the costs of parks, school sites and road widenings among them without regard to whose land it is on.

Town solicitor, Tom

Fraser advised that the town lacked the authority over the agreement.

The developers want to avoid cash payments, and would hand over all the land involved in the agreement at no cost to the town.

Councillors wondered how high a percentage of

the total requirements would be involved.

"If it is 100 per cent, great. If it is 50 per cent there is no way that we should approve it," said Councillor Dave Fraser.

Planning director John Dewar said he thought it would be about 75 per cent of the total.

It's harvest time at Black Creek

Black Creek Pioneer Village recalls the harvest time activities of the long past days, on weekends, in September, between 2 and 4 p.m.

This special Village program features the chores and skills associated with everyday living in a rural crossroads community in Ontario, prior to Confederation.

The usual livestock and poultry, such as oxen, sheep, pigs, cattle and ducks, that might have been found in any pre-Confederation community, are kept at Black Creek.

Visitors may also see the Dalziel Barn Museum, which is actually a huge cantilever barn, built in 1809.

Costumed Villagers demonstrate such farm chores as flailing and winnowing — the time consuming work of separating the wheat from the chaff.

In the Village homes, householders busily spin, embroider, dip candles and hook rugs.

In the Weaver's Shop, the Village Weaver can be seen making lengths of woolen material.

Since Pioneer housewives didn't have a local supermarket to provide fresh vegetables during the winter, they had to preserve enough of the crops grown over the summer, to ensure that their families would be well fed.

Apple schnitzing, the making of chili sauce, pear preserving and wool

visitors to Black Creek Pioneer Village may explore more than 30 restored buildings, including homes, shops, a school, church, flour mill, print shop, blacksmith shop and the Half Way House Inn.

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Black Creek Pioneer Village, located at Jane Street and Steeles Avenue, southeast of Richmond Hill, is open seven days a week, from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays, and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekends and holidays, in September and October.

For further information, contact Metro Region Conservation at 661-6610.

HELPMATE INFORMATION COMMUNITY CALENDAR

883-2234

SEPTEMBER

883-2234

		1	2	3
		Recruitment drive for 30 Big Brothers starting in October. Call 727-1251.	Every Friday evening at 8:30, the Alcoholics Anonymous meet at St. Mary's Church.	Elderberry Hills will host the 4th annual International Horse Show and the Canadian Jumping Derby today and tomorrow.
4	5	6	7	8
		Recruitment of new cadets, boys and girls at 7 p.m. at the Legion, 371 Ohio Road. Call 884-4521.		
		The Kleinburg Jubilee Festival takes place from noon to midnight on the main street of the village. Admission is \$2 but children under 12 and anyone in an old time costume is admitted free.		
11	12	13	14	15
		Richmond Hill's quarterly Hill's donor's clinic will be held at York Central Hospital from 1 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	Girl Guides feature a fashion show at 1:30 p.m. held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Redelmeier, 1078 Major Mackenzie Drive. Call 884-7775.	A Monte Carlo night will be held at St. Luke's Roman Catholic Church from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. in the Thornhill Community Centre. Call 889-3418.
		Thornhill Village Jubilee Festival celebrating 19th century Thornhill. From 1 to 5 p.m. in the old village spread over 15 sites.		
		The Busy Bees camping club are holding a camp out. Call 884-4274.		