



## Unionville house was once a church

By MERILYN McKELVEY  
Ninth in a series

While the building at 149 Main Street in Unionville is now a house, it once was used as a church by two different congregations.

It was a 19th century Christian fundamentalist sect, called the Congregationalists who erected the building, probably in 1847.

The Congregationalists had been meeting in the village and in Markham village since 1844, usually in the Lutheran's log chapel.

The church's original members included Mark M. Braithwaite, David and Elizabeth Cash, Philip and Susan Eckardt and Margaret Stiver.

In 1847, Frederick Eckardt sold the church trustees the lot at 149 Main Street "for the sole and only use of a Congregational church". Soon after the clapboard chapel was built, possibly by James Eakin who owned the nearby planing mill.

The Congregationalists met in the chapel until 1879. At that time Mark Braithwaite gave his church a lot across the street and a new brick church was erected. (This building, now known as the Veterans' Hall, served the Congregationalists until 1894 when their church folded and the Presbyterians moved in.)

When the Congregationalists moved across the street in 1879, they sold their first chapel at 149 Main Street to the Presbyterians.

When the Presbyterians moved across the street into the brick church, the chapel was converted into a house, which has been its use ever since.

There are still some physical traces of the building's early use as a chapel, most of which are inside. When a second floor was installed in the upper part of the nave, the band of fretwork decorating the walls was kept. The marks of the pews can be seen in the pine floors.

## Bridge winners

Wednesday, September 12 — North-South: Jack and Billye Maver; Lil Thompson and Marion Fahner; Jack and Roberta Robilottes. East-West: Jim and Bob Hull; Joan Orlando and Barbara Lariviere; Florance Rintoul and Rose Morrell.

Friday, September 14 — North-South: Ann and George Payment; Ross Jenkinson and Fred Dieken; Fred and Theresa Tierney.

East-West: Ruth and Gerry Browning; Richard Charlebois and Sandy Jenkinson tied with Bob and Ann Manning.

Monday, September 17 — North-South: Ross Jenkinson and Richard Charlebois; Detlef Ladwig and Fred Tierney; Natalie Platner and Phyl Mountjoy.

East-West: Bob Manning and Victor Cronshaw; Omar Khamissa and George Newton; Joan Orlando and Barbara Lariviere.

For information or partners call Ann Payment 727-3873.

## Civic Corner

The following meetings of Civic interest have been scheduled during the next two weeks:

Tuesday, November 1 — 4 p.m. Deputy Treasurer's Office, Finance Committee meeting.

Tuesday, November 1 — 7:30 p.m. Council Chambers, Planning Committee meeting.

Wednesday, November 2 — 7:30 p.m. Committee Room "B", By-laws, Procedures, Fire and Personnel Committee Meeting.

Thursday, November 3 — 8 a.m. Commissioner of Works Office, Engineering Committee meeting.

Monday, November 7 — 7:45 p.m. Council Chambers, Regular Council Meeting.

Outside, the original belfry has been removed, the windows shortened, and the main entrance has been moved around.

The house was owned first by the Eakin Family until 1908 when it passed to R.A. Stiver. In 1912 Ethel and Frank Frisby bought the property; Frank, who lived to be 83, worked on restoring tombstones in the Lutheran cemetery, the earliest of which dates back to 1803. Mr. and Mr. E.H. Featherstonhough purchased the house in 1954 and spent many hours renovating it.

Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Jacobs, the present owners, have lived in the house since 1966 and they have done much to retain the 130 year old house in excellent condition.

## John McDermott loves to be busy

By HAL BLAINE

What local school board chairman builds aircraft, is an extraordinary minister, Lions Club past president and former hardball pitcher?

Answer: John McDermott, 51, whose main leisure activities involve all children, but especially his three sons and daughter.

The York Region Roman Catholic separate school board chairman has been involved in school affairs for 13 years.

He denies being a politician. "I got into it for my kids. I've really seen accomplished what I wanted to accomplish, now we have our own (separate) high school," he says.

Chairman McDermott moved from his native Toronto to this region, to Stouffville to be exact, in 1956.

That was the year after he married his wife Carol, a nurse from Bancroft. She happens to be an active citizen too. She sits on the Stouffville library board that recently built a new library.

And she was one of the founders of the local recycling depot.

Mr. McDermott attended elementary and high schools in Toronto.

### BETTER PITCHER

At St. Michael's College School, then on Bay Street, he played hockey with some success. But he was a better hardball pitcher.

He tried the retail business. His first job after Grade 13 lasted three years with Kresge's.

Then he went to De Havilland Aircraft of Canada Ltd. After 26 years he's still there in production engineering.

Oldest son John, 21, is studying to be a

veterinarian. He's at Guelph University.

Next son Chris, 19, is in Grade 13 at high school.

Michael, 17, is in Grade 12 at Brebeuf College School, Steeles Avenue.

Youngest child is Mary Catherine, 13, in Grade 8 at St. Mark's school, Stouffville.

The building of St. Mark's school was what started Chairman McDermott in the realm of school affairs.

### NO SCHOOL

When the children began reaching school age, there was no Roman Catholic school nearby for them to attend.

So a group of parents, including the McDermotts, decided to form the necessary local board.

They started by forming three local circles with a minimum of five heads of families in each. Each circle constituted a board. They voted to amalgamate into one board.

They had 150 possible pupils whose parents had signified support for a new school.

First they had to get five acres of land. Then they could borrow construction money.

At that time there was no government funding for land, but they got an education grant for the building.

When St. Mark's was built, there were 11 small separate boards in what is now York Region.

In 1968 McDermott was chairman of the Stouffville board at the time when a committee was named to study regionalization.

He was on that committee and then

was elected to the regional board in 1969. On the regional board ever since, he started his term as chairman four years ago.

### JOINED LIONS

Apparently his volunteer work with schools didn't keep him busy enough. So 10 years ago he joined the Stouffville Lions, a club that is 40 years old this year.

Now past president, he's still concentrating on club activities that are for children.

He was chairman last year of the committee that operates the town pool. This year he's chairman of the Lions' bike-a-thon which is raising money for children's projects.

McDermott was always busy in local church activities from the time he went to Stouffville. St. Patrick's is a combined parish with the Markham area east of Woodbine Avenue.

Now he's extraordinary minister at St. Patrick's. That means he does some of the readings and distributes communion at mass. He also leads in singing.

As in other things, at church, too, he is a builder.

"Although we're still a small community, we pack the St. Mark's school auditorium with 250 to 300 people for Mass."

"We're looking forward to a church at Stouffville. We have property near St. Mark's on Edward Street for a future church," says Chairman McDermott, with a gleam of anticipation in his eyes.

If you asked him, "What's next?" he could probably tell you that, too.

## HELPMATE INFORMATION COMMUNITY CALENDAR

883-2234

October-November

883-2234

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>26</b> Jazz Festival. Hillcrest Mall. 5.30-8 p.m. Carrville United Church annual turkey supper. 4.30-8 p.m. Hospital auxiliary buffet luncheon & bazaar at Victoria Square Community Centre. 12.30 p.m. 887-5806 or 887-5333. Widows & widowers monthly meeting. Consumers' Gas bldg. 8 p.m.	<b>27</b> Thornhill Co-op Nursery School. Open House. 8.30 p.m. Tag day for sea cadets and navy league. Through Saturday. Coffee house at St. Mary Immaculate Church. 8-10 p.m. Sponsored by York Central Assn. for the Mentally Retarded. 884-9110. York Potters Guild sale. Hillcrest Mall. 9.30 a.m.-9.30 p.m. through Saturday.	<b>28</b> Aldred Art Exhibition at Library. To the end of the month. Octoberfest Dance. St. Mary Immaculate. 8.30 p.m. Alpine Show Band. Halloween Howl at Lions Hall. Sponsored by Richvale Lions Majorette Corps. Dress optional. Tops ON-80 sponsoring a bazaar. Consumers' Gas bldg. 7-9 p.m.	<b>29</b> Oak Ridges Lions Halloween Dance. Bond Lake Arena. 8 p.m. Rossini the Magician. Maple Library. 2 p.m. Disco Night & coffee house. St. Mary Immaculate 8 p.m. Lady of the Annunciation ladies guild Halloween dance. Bond Cres. Oak Ridges. Sr. Citizens club bazaar. 10145 Yonge. 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
<b>30</b> Beta Sigma Phi Eta Psi chapter. Annual craft fair. Thornhill Community Centre. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Temperanceville United Church anniversary. 11 a.m. Former members & friends invited.	<b>31</b> Euchre at the Wheel House. Oak Ridges. 7:30 p.m.	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Adult Education Seminar "Marriage Enrichment". St. Gabriel's Church. 8 p.m.	<b>3</b> Richvale Writers Club. Richvale Community Centre. 8 p.m. 884-0855.	<b>4</b> St. Matthews Church annual bazaar. 7-9 p.m. Dessert court, baking, knitting, aprons, toys, etc. Fall Face-Off Dance. Maple Minor Hockey Assn. 8.30-1 a.m. Maple Community Hall. 832-1057.	<b>5</b> St. Stephen's Anglican Church bazaar. Maple. Connor Library Rossini the Magician. 3 p.m. Richmond Hill Kinettes rummage sale. St. Gabriel's Anglican. 10 a.m.-noon. R.H. Presbyterian Church Christmas Carousal. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Thornhill United craft, flea market. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. 889-4353.
<b>6</b> Craft Show at Thornhill Community Centre. Sponsored by 8th Thornhill Parents Comm. Brownies, Beavers, Cubs & Scouts. 889-9702. York Philharmonic Choir performing "The Prodigal Son". Richmond Hill United Church. 7.30 p.m.	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Brass rubbing. Thornhill Community Centre library. 8 p.m. 1st Langstaff Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Ladies Auxiliary bake and plant sale. Charles Howitt School library. 1-4 p.m. Euchre sponsored by Concord Golden Era Club. Concord Community Centre. 8 p.m.	<b>9</b> Adult Education Seminar "Marriage Enrichment". St. Gabriel's Church. 8 p.m.	<b>10</b> Health and Social Planning in York Region. Meeting at Richvale Community Centre. 8-11 p.m. Coffee house. York Central Assn. for the Mentally Retarded. 8-10 p.m. St. Mary Immaculate Church.	<b>11</b> Richmond Hill midget hockey dance at St. Mary Immaculate Church Hall. 8.30 to 1 a.m. Dress is optional.	<b>12</b> St. Mary's Anglican Church Christmas bazaar. Noon to 3 p.m. Lunch at 12.30 p.m. Happy Holidays bazaar and tea. 2 p.m. Maple United Church.