



Members of the Richmond Hill Community Credit Union celebrated the opening of their new office at 10330 Yonge Street last Wednesday. Marking the occasion with a ribbon-cutting ceremony were, left to right, Jack Knott, president of the Credit Union; Dick

Edmunds, cutting the ribbon; Richmond Hill Mayor David Schiller; and Al Charbonneau, Chief Executive Officer of the Ontario Credit Union League. The business began as the St. Mary Immaculate Parish Credit Union back in the early 50s.

Veteran members honored by board

The annual meeting of York Central Hospital Association held last Wednesday, began on a slightly different note this year.

William C. Lazenby, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, presented corsages to Lillian and Archie Cameron, who have attended annual meetings for more than 10 years, and have been the eldest members in attendance for all those years.

In his annual report, Mr. Lazenby made note of two services added to the hospital in the past year: Nuclear Medicine and Ultra Sound.

Nuclear Medicine was introduced about six months ago, and now has two full time technicians on staff.

Ultra Sound has been in use about the same length of time, and both services are being well used and are found beneficial in expediting diagnosis of problems.

The Finance Committee report shows an operating expense for the 1978-79 12-month period of \$13,150,678. The income for the same period is \$12,817,894. Interest on long term liabilities amounts to \$62,568 and the total excess of expenses over income amounts to \$395,352.

Cutbacks have become a way of life in all hospitals in the province, but at York Central, the patients are not aware of them.

The introduction of some new procedures and the purchase of labor-

saving equipment, has made it possible for the hospital to employ 15 fewer people than last year and still maintain the high quality of patient care as usual.

Changes, have taken place in the hospital building, and it is felt, all of them will benefit the patients.

Most apparent is the structural alterations to the Emergency Department.

A new entrance and an easier flow of traffic help to ensure privacy for the patients and the staff and to facilitate treatment in that area of the hospital.

One obvious change is the installation of the 'H' on the southeastern exposure of the hospital. This makes it easier for people to locate the hospital when coming north on Yonge Street or east on Major MacKenzie Drive.

Alterations are still underway in the old hospital building to revamp it and bring it up to date.

Money is still needed to continue with plans for total renovations of this building, and plans are underway to begin work on several more patient areas in this section within the year.

Labor and delivery are functioning in the new section.

Next on the list is inpatient Psychiatric, Intensive Care, and Post Partum.

Tenders for this phase of the work should be going out in the near future.

Toronto vs. Regions

Sewell should help us, not attack us — Forhan

An angry regional chairman, Bob Forhan, took exception to a series of newspaper articles which characterized regional government as a dinosaur after just 10 years.

"The only dinosaurs are the City of Toronto and large daily newspapers," said Mayor Forhan, who complained about the sensationalism that permeated three articles that appeared in the Toronto Star June 9, 10 and 11.

The first was headed "Urban Chaos Looms for Metro - Experts", the second, "Regional Government — a dinosaur after just ten years, and the third, "Where have all the people gone?"

Chairman Forhan said the main points of the articles were that the City of Toronto is losing population to the Regions. The Regions surrounding the city are growing at a fast rate but their development is low density sprawl. This sprawl will be costly in terms of hard and soft services and disastrous for public transit.

The regions are not providing a proper

housing mix.

Sprawling development will destroy valuable farmland.

The problems will be compounded when the expected population growth will not materialize.

The regions are not doing a good job in planning.

Mayor Forhan took particular exception to the remarks of Toronto mayor John Sewell that it was "ludicrous" for the regions to continue to build spread-out communities.

"John Sewell may very well feel depressed because the City of Toronto has indeed reached a stage when an era of spectacular growth is changing into one of no-growth or even decline," said Mayor Forhan.

However, he charged that so far as York Region is concerned, Mayor Sewell was wrong in complaining about low densities. Orderly urban growth is planned within compact urban envelopes, said the chairman. This can be seen in Markham, Vaughan, Richmond Hill, Aurora, and Newmarket and even in the rural

municipalities, the world such as Hong Kong," said the chairman.

He said that the Region of York is now providing a "useful counterpoint to the city's housing stock, and, in the long run, the development here will provide higher density." This is not only in the draft official plan, it is a "natural evolution".

The only way to have a sharp departure from past forms of development would be to allow new towns of the "Swedish or British" variety but the chairman did not think that Ontario residents would be prepared to accept the changes in the political system.

The chairman also took exception to Mayor Sewell's claim that the regions were not protecting agricultural land, and also to the claim that it was allowing too much estate (rural) residential development. Since 1971, rural residential development has amounted to only two per cent of the total, Mr. Forhan said.

"The simple truth is that people in this Region are not prepared to live in the urban environments that exist in other parts of

the world such as Hong Kong," said the chairman.

He took a pot-shot at Toronto's new housing development, "the bastille", as he called the St. Lawrence project, "sandwiched between a soap factory, a smelter and the Hydro towers in a heavy industrial area."

Richmond Hill Mayor David Schiller said the articles were "stimulating. They certainly stimulated you."

He felt that Mayor Sewell had his facts wrong on densities but made a good point on the lack of planning for social services.

"He should not be attacking us. He should be attacking the minister of housing who refuses to allow us to plan for social services," Mayor Schiller said.

Chairman Forhan said that the province should be picking up the entire cost of social services.

He did agree with one point in the articles, that a strong co-ordinating body is needed for transportation.

IN THE MATTER OF The Ontario Heritage Act, 1974, S.O. Chapter 122 - and - IN THE MATTER OF The lands and premises known municipally as 7788 Yonge Street, Thornhill in the Town of Vaughan, in the Province of Ontario.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Vaughan intends to designate the lands and building, known municipally as 7788 Yonge Street, Thornhill, Ontario, as a property of architectural value or interest under The Ontario Heritage Act, 1974, S.O. Chapter 122.

REASONS FOR THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION

The Old Presbyterian Church (built ca. 1846 as the British Methodist Chapel) is one of the few remaining examples of the modest ecclesiastical architecture employed by Methodist congregations in the second quarter of the 19th century. Elements of the Greek Revival style are evident in the building's temple form and such architectural details as the pedimented gable in the front facade and the eared moldings which trim each window.

This church forms an integral part of what is left of the historic streetscape on the west side of Yonge Street, and with its neighbouring landmarks serves to remind future generations of the architectural roots of Thornhill. In a paper delivered by Past-President of Heritage Canada, R.A.J. Phillips, we find a warning and a recommendation:

Our heritage of churches will not survive by accident, it will indeed take its course in sagging walls, leaking roofs and rotting sills. Churches and Governments should take a responsibility they have never comprehended by consolidating riches...and transferring underused buildings to the continued enrichment of the community. The community could preserve the quality of its streetscape, and bring light to darkened interiors. We could all be richer.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

Until 1849 the Presbyterians of Thornhill were served by a minister from the Richmond Hill church. When the local British Methodist congregation merged with the Wesleyans in 1850, they sold their four-year-old church to the Presbyterians for 52 pounds. Under the leadership of the Reverend George Dick, the building was moved to its present location on Village Lot number six, situated in the gore of land between old and new Yonge Streets, south of the Don River and north of Centre Street. The lot had been purchased from George Munro, Esq. for 40 pounds. The Thornhill Presbyterians worshipped and socialized in their church for over a century. An excerpt from a sermon delivered by D.W. Cooper at the last service held in the old church on March 1, 1959 reveals the sentiments and reasons for leaving:

The old church had long formed a part of the rich heritage of the congregation and had many warm memories for all, but particularly for those members who together with their families had worshipped in it for a generation or more. However, the pressing needs of a growing congregation left no alternative but to seek a new house of worship.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

A photograph taken in 1890 shows the Thornhill Presbyterian Church proudly overlooking Yonge Street and surrounded by a sturdy white picket fence. Because it was built by Methodists, who spurned ostentation, the impressiveness of this building is conveyed by its simplicity of style and design and its classical proportions. Like many early 19th century Methodist buildings, this timber-frame and clapboard church was executed in a vernacular Greek Revival style.

The front (east) facade, with its symmetrically placed double doors and tall flanking windows on each side, is crowned by a deeply set and moulded pediment in the gable. This feature was echoed on a smaller scale directly above the doorway. The windows are trimmed with an eared moulding that is slightly peaked. This eared trim was a popular feature that can be found on many houses in Thornhill and demonstrates the awareness and fondness that the local craftsmen had for the classical revival.

Each of the side walls of the church contain two tall windows similar to those found at the front. Although the fenestration has suffered at the hands of vandals and the windows are now boarded up, it is not difficult to imagine how much light once radiated into the interior of the church.

The original interior appears to have had a centre aisle and wide horizontal boarding which ran along the walls under the windows. The pews ran perpendicular, and were attached directly to these boards. Evidence of this can be found in the unpainted "stripes" where the backs of the benches met the wall. In keeping with the Methodist tradition, there would have been a preacher's pulpit in the centre of the west wall that overlooked the congregation. It was no doubt removed when the Presbyterians bought the church in 1850.

In 1890 the Presbyterians remodelled and enlarged their church. The bench pews were removed and vertical wainscoting was applied over the original horizontal boards. The "chancel" end of the church was graced with a concave alcove which stimulates the apex found in traditional "high-church" architecture. A stage-like platform was installed to raise the altar, choir pews and pulpit above the congregation.

A large addition, to house a Sunday school cum church hall, an office and vestry, was built on to the rear of the building and access was facilitated by a doorway on each side of the altar. Unlike the original church, which was constructed with hand-hewn beams and accordin-split lath, the new addition was a balloon frame structure made with saw mill lumber. The interior trim in the addition is late Victorian and therefore the product of a mechanized planing mill as opposed to the hand planed moldings of the original church.

Some time after 1890, the box-like vestibule was added at the front door. Its design was very much in keeping with, and sympathetic to, the proportions of the original building, but exhibits architectural details that one does not find on early Methodist churches. The pediment in the gable surmounts a dentilated cornice and the plain frieze is "supported" by pilasters at the corners and on each side of the doorway.

Although the church in its present state would appear to many to be a ruin, it has potential and could be restored. It is a building of major local significance and deserves to be saved. The monetary investment would be high, but the return in terms of its heritage value to the town of Thornhill, its residents and its visitors would be a wealth immeasurable.

Any person may, before the 16th day of July, 1979 send by registered mail or deliver to the Clerk of the Town of Vaughan, notice of his or her objection to the proposed designation, together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts. When a Notice of Objection has been received, the Council of the Town of Vaughan will refer the matter to the Conservation Review Board for a hearing and report.

DATED at the Town of Vaughan this 13th day of June, 1979.

R.J. DOUGLAS, A.M.C.T.,
DEPUTY CLERK, TOWN OF VAUGHAN,
214 MAJOR MacKENZIE DRIVE,
MAPLE, ONTARIO, L0J 1E0

HOSTEL plans Richvale rally

"People say we're crazy," said Michael Crowley, President of Project HOSTEL, "to plan a support rally for June 28 — just before the long weekend when people will be heading out on vacation. They say it won't work."

Project HOSTEL will be holding a support rally June 28, at 8 p.m. at the Richvale Community Centre, to let the public know about The Yellow Brick House and how it can be supported.

The Yellow Brick House, an emergency housing facility for women and children in

York Region located in Newmarket has \$30,000 left from a Canada Works Program Grant; however, this money is basically designated for salaries for 1979.

The project needs \$3,000 to pay rent and purchase groceries for July and August.

Anyone who supports the idea of a hostel for women and children should come out June 28, said Mr. Crowley.

"We have got to pack the centre," he said. Since The Yellow Brick House opened in May, 13 women and nine children have stayed at the Newmarket facility.

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