

## They'd like Yonge to have bike path

Is Yonge Street a safe place for a bicycle path? Yonge Street construction is ahead of schedule and Councillor Al Duffy brought up a proposal at an engineering committee meeting last Thursday to ask the Minister of Transportation and Communications to build a bicycle path along Yonge Street. Funds would come from the contingency fund.

Councillor Gord Rowe, a member of the engineering committee, did not agree with the bicycle path location feeling it was unsafe and

dangerous. "I don't want my kid out there," he said.

Councillors Duffy and Mike Burnie support the idea with Councillor Duffy saying, kids are riding on the road now, a path would just make it safer.

Councillor Burnie suggested with the possible gasoline shortage residents could cycle to the proposed civic centre, a recreational use which might be on the jail farm property, or to shop north on Yonge Street, an act which might even open up the centre of town again.

It was agreed a letter would be sent to the minister and a decision would be made following the reply.

## Metrospan moves

Metrospan's President, D. R. McCrimmon, announced today the corporate operations of Metrospan Printing & Publishing Ltd. will be moved to new facilities in Willowdale, July 9, 1979.

The company has acquired the most modern offset press available in North America to print its community publications for the suburban Toronto area, and the move will dramatically enhance Metrospan's leadership position in community newspaper publishing.

Mr. McCrimmon said, "According to Mr. McCrimmon, the expansion and move reflect Metrospan's continued circulation growth in Toronto's suburban communities, and our desire to provide our advertisers and readers with the most consistent, high quality publications available in suburban Toronto."

Metrospan's 16 publications provide readers with informative editorial content focused on community-oriented news. This format has

helped make Metrospan the number one community newspaper group in suburban Toronto, with weekly circulation reaching more than 455,000 households.

The business and editorial operations of the Mirror newspapers, published by Metrospan, will also be moved to the new facility in August.

The new Metrospan address will be: 10 Tempo Ave., Willowdale, Ont. M2H 2N8. The telephone number will be 493-1300.

For further information, contact R. Richard Fish, Vice-President, Marketing (445-4810).

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# NOTICE

## 1979 INTERIM TAX BILLING

Your interim tax bills were mailed on February 28, 1979 with payments due on the following dates.

FIRST PAYMENT WAS DUE MARCH 30, 1979

### SECOND PAYMENT IS DUE JUNE 29, 1979

If you have not received your bill, please contact the TREASURER'S OFFICE, 297-1900 immediately.

We trust you will appreciate the courtesy of this reminder.

E.A. BARTON  
TREASURER

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883-3555

### 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 mouldings 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 apse 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 accordion-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 mouldings 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 dentilled 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,  
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