

## 6.

# Milford Revitalized

In its heyday, Milford was a thriving community of mills, small ships sailing in through Black River, and hotels and stores to serve the needs of the population. Those days are gone, and for a few years, Milford began to take on the appearance of so many little hamlets, as stores closed, houses became run down and the place generally looked neglected, on the verge of being abandoned. But not so these days.

From any direction that you come into Milford, the community is welcoming and attractive. Flowers bloom, lawns are trimmed, houses being painted, repaired and in some cases, built. People are looking at their properties and trying to improve them.

Who would have thought, looking at the little house across from St. Philip's Church, that it had the potential to become such a little jewel on the corner of Spring and Philip's Streets. Peter Commins and Michael Rutland have restored this small storey and a half, Victorian house. Without disturbing its attractive architecture, they have modernized the interior, "mirroring" (as Michael Rutland explained) the style of molding and trim that was used in the house. The storey and a half addition that extends out to the south, makes room for a modern kitchen and family room, while the remainder of the first floor, although divided into two rooms, with its many windows and French doors, and the stairway rising up from the middle room, while compact, still has the feeling of spaciousness. The bricked front walk, with its little tree and the large shaded corner lot, give the house a privacy, along with the quiet of the street. This would be an ideal house for someone wishing a pied-a-terre in the area.

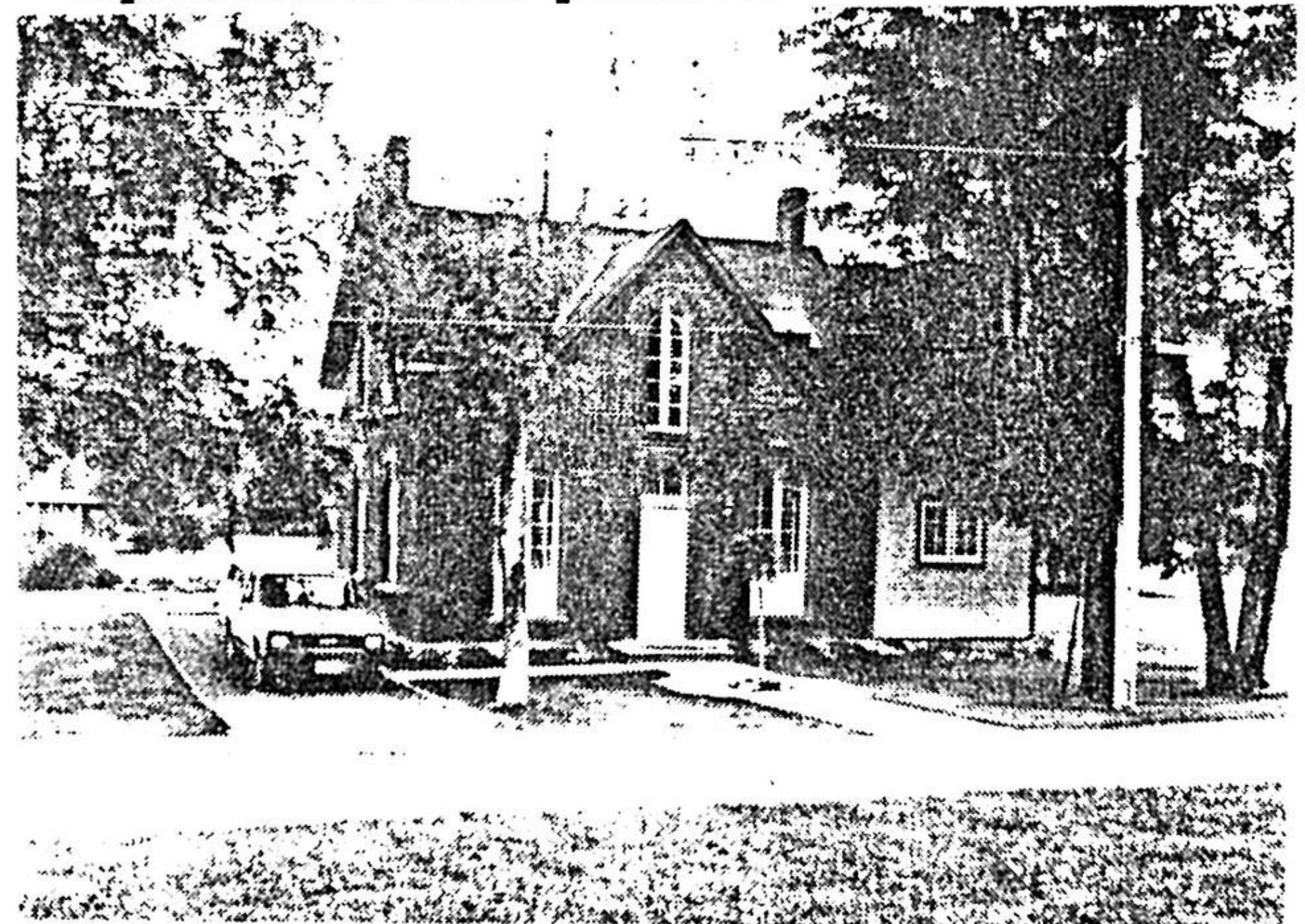
Spring Street is showing improvement, with the new house being built by Rick Kozmanuk, which will be, when completed, an attractive addition to the hamlet. Glen and Shirley Vancott's little house on the corner, looking attractive with its fresh siding and little flower beds. Even the township is getting into the spirit by completing the parking lot next to the Town Hall. The small trees in the lot will be welcome shade should there ever come a day when the parking lot becomes a farmer's market of a Saturday.

Nancy Butler's charming house, next door to her business, The Mill Pond Antiques, is right in with the tone of the hamlet. Nancy has used the lot to its best advantage, and gained a spectacular view from the windows overlooking the Mill Pond. I don't know when a new house has caused such interest in the community, with hardly a day going by that folks aren't taking little tours through it, during its various stages of construction.

In the Selman house, a new window, Minsker Auto Parts with a newly bricked front to its garage, and fresh paint on its out buildings, lovely verandahs returned to the Dey house by its new owners, Ron and Peggy Hammett, all have gone to improve the hamlet. Across the Mill Pond, one can see the new house of the Luboks being built.

And let us not overlook the resurfacing job done on the Milford Bridge. The approaches are greatly improved and the appearance of the bridge much enhanced by the job. Our thanks to the County Roads Department.

Milford isn't dying, its metamorphosing. In this life its hotels have been replaced by bed-and-breakfasts, its mills by antique stores, gift shops and coffee shops, as well as a well stocked general store and fast food service. The pride of place is still there, as is the industry of its residents. All that is changed is the expression of these qualities.



The newly renovated house corner of Spring and Philip Street