

Book on historic buildings of York Region

RURAL ROOTS, by Mary Byers, Jan Kennedy, Margaret McBurney, and The Junior League of Toronto. Photographs by Hugh Robertson. University of Toronto Press, 272 pages, \$15.95.

By Steven Wells. Whenever I learn that another fine example of early Canadian architecture, with fieldstone walls, pine floors, tables and "gingerbread" has been demolished and replaced with a modern condominium, I begin to wonder about our sense of history. I was reassured when I read **RURAL ROOTS**. **RURAL ROOTS** is the result of a comprehensive inventory of early Canadian buildings which was initiated in 1966 by the provincial government and conducted by the Faculty of Architecture, University of Toronto, with the assistance of local volunteers. When Mary Byers, Jan Kennedy, Margaret McBurney and The Junior League of Toronto completed the inventory of York Region,

they decided to write an architectural history using the information they had gathered for the Ontario Archives. Although **RURAL ROOTS** is described as a survey of pre-Confederation buildings of York Region, the book is based on the original York County and the authors have included chapters on North York, Scarborough and Etobicoke. However, the city of Toronto, which was once part of York County, has been omitted from this study because, as the authors explain in their preface, "so much of high standard has already been written about Toronto."

RURAL ROOTS is an informative and readable guide to the early nineteenth century homes, inns, mills, stores, barns and churches which may still be seen throughout York Region. Seven maps of the Region are included in the book, and the text is profusely illustrated with black-and-white photographs by Hugh Robertson, who is a distinguished and photographer of Canadian architecture. The authors have

carefully selected buildings for inclusion in this book on the basis of architectural interest and historical significance. However, not only does **RURAL ROOTS** examine the architectural details of pre-Confederation buildings of the Region, but the text also describes local history, settlements, economic and social conditions, customs and legends.

Local readers will encounter the familiar names of pioneers who settled in Markham and Whitchurch Townships: Hoover, Reesor, Wideman, Heise, Brilinger, Petch and Lundy. Two chapters are devoted to the settlement, architecture and early life in the villages of Buttonville, Stouffville, Gormley, Unionville, Bogartown and Markham, which was, incidentally, known in the nineteenth century as "a hard-drinking pioneer town."

The authors of **RURAL ROOTS** also describe in detail the construction of the Temple of the Children of Peace at Sharon by David Willson between 1825 and

1830, a unique architectural feature of the region which represents "symbolism in wood."

The recent publication of this regional history is an important contribution to our knowledge of the architectural heritage of southern Ontario. The authors will appear at Stouffville Public Library on Thursday, December 2, from 1:30 until 3 p.m., and afterwards at John Lord's Books, 36 Main Street East, to autograph copies of **RURAL ROOTS**.



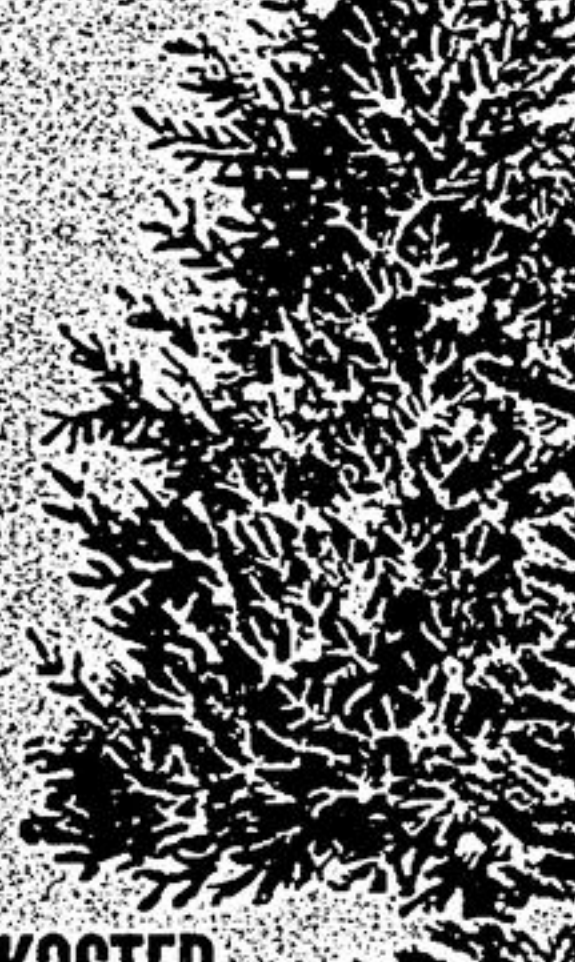
Harvey McConnell, shown above, plans to use the \$10,000 he won in the October 28, 1976 Wintario draw to purchase a new colour television set. Mr. McConnell, a bachelor, won the prize with ticket number 78980 in series 8. He expects to have some change left over after making his purchase.



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OPEN Monday to Friday 9 a.m. till 9 p.m. Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. till 5 p.m.

Horticultural Society dinner

The 52nd annual meeting of the Stouffville Horticultural Society was held Monday, Dec. 15, when about 100 members and friends sat down to a pot luck dinner in the hall of the United Church.

The prize money for the past year was distributed.

Marton Housser had most points for the year and won the Gordri family silver tray for the third year and now has permanent possession of it.

Sue Burkholder was a runner up in the number of points accumulated with Jean Barkey and Della Paisley tied for third place.

Alice Vague was elected president for another year. Audrey Avery is first vice-president and second vice-president is Marion Housser.

Grace Pugh presented the director's report for the year and announced a membership of 212. Meetings have been held on the third Monday of every month all year in the United Church Hall.

As well as hosting a number of entertaining and interesting speakers the club has held six flower shows with a total of 1065 entrants. This was an increase in both senior and junior exhibits.

Among the good works of the club were the planting of petunias at Parkview Home in the spring, a donation of \$40 for planting of shrubs at

Industrial development proposed

STOUFFVILLE - Helmet Holdings Ltd. would like to eventually develop an industrial area on part of lots 32 and 33, concession 9, south of Stouffville, and a letter was received by planning board last week about the matter.

Writing for the developers, Derek Willis asked that the circular road pattern proposed for the industrial area on Stouffville's west end, south of Hwy. 48, include an extension into and through the subject property.

He said that since the Interim Official Plan is to apply only for 1976-1981, on this basis the owners have no objection to the plan as generally proposed.

Parent concern about textbooks may be discussed

AURORA - Expansion of York Region public school board's textbook approval procedures has been recommended by King Trustee Margaret Coburn.

In a motion presented to the board Mrs. Coburn suggested two additional steps be added to the current procedure.

The first addition would require texts selected for use in English classrooms to be listed in the spring brochure of the school in which it will be used.

Under the second step any community concern over the suitability of the text for the age level would result in a meeting between the teacher and concerned parent.

Such a session, the motion suggests, should focus on why the teacher selected the book and how it will be taught.

In routine action, the motion was referred to the board's program committee.

The board has been under attack from some trustees in recent months for approval of the textbook 'The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz' and 'Catcher in the Rye.'

Investment firm wants zoning changed to show-case industrial

STOUFFVILLE - A proposal to have both sides of Highway 48, from Stouffville's west end to Ringwood, zoned for showcase industrial development, was presented to planning board last week.

A letter from Ecrimar Investments Ltd., owners of land on the south side of Hwy. 48, concession 8, said that kind of development "in

due time would eliminate the hodge-podge of mixed development that now exists from Highway 48 to the westerly boundary of the town."

The letter requested that the company's own property, located to the west of the proposed site for a Volkswagen of Canada plant, (Vorelo) in any case be rezoned to M.1 industrial.

Glen Warren Productions Ltd. and the CTV Television Network Ltd. will be taping a new show

"The amazing Kreskin"

in the coming weeks. You are invited to be part of the audience of the CFTO-TV studios.

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