

# Bloomington Church has a proud history

**BLOOMINGTON** — On Sunday, the congregation of Bloomington Christian Associated Gospel Church conclude celebrations of their 150th anniversary with special services at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

History of the congregation dates back to 1833 when a church was erected on the east side of the Ninth Line across from the present building. While no minutes are available for the first 34 years, it is believed that Thomas McIntyre was the first minister.

All the early country churches were served by travelling pastors, bearing the title Elder or Brother. These preachers lacked formal education of any kind, but this was balanced by a fiery enthusiasm and a self-discipline that prompted them to conscientiously search the Scriptures and then travel by foot or by horseback to encourage, inspire and exhort their isolated congregations to live worthy of the name Christian.

The work of the Sunday School was organized at the same time and was a real factor in building up of the church. This remains a vital part of continuing community service with classes for all ages.

On Sept. 23, 1891, Elijah Johnson offered to build a new house of worship to be located on the west side of the Ninth Line, provided other members would agree to furnish the land and haul the

materials. Mr. Johnson was also to be allowed to use any suitable material from the old building in the new structure.

At the business meeting of May, 1892, Bros. Jacob Fockler, Samuel Hoover and Jonathan Baker were appointed as a committee to go to the Newmarket Registry Office and search the records in reference to title of the land in question. Fifty dollars was to be the down payment with the balance to be paid by note. Unfortunately, Mr. Johnson passed away in July 1892 and never saw the edifice complete.

It is recorded that his sister, Eunice Johnson, was the donor of the organ, placed in the church and still there.

For many years, William A. Fockler, a resident two doors north of the church, was in charge of lighting the wood furnace. He would often get up at 2 a.m. to perform this chore. His daughter, Alta Tomlinson, often did it for her dad if he was ill. Alta was a beautiful Christian woman who put her Lord and her church first in her life. She went home to be with her Lord in September and is sadly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

The church has had many ministers throughout its history. The present pastor since Nov. 1, 1974, is Rev. Chris Sorley.

The Ladies Aid, later changing its

name to the Fellowship Group, was organized March 1, 1907, in the home of Mrs. Hillyard Fockler. The first president was Mrs. Fockler with Josie Patterson the first secretary. The offering received at the first meeting was \$7.65. Forty cents was taken from the treasury for secretarial

books. Total money raised for the year (1907) was \$107.23. Motto of the organization was "How Can I Serve?" Members lost no time in their response:

Completed projects included repairs to the church basement; reconstruction of the church chimney; repairs to the fur-

nace and caretaking duties.

During the first year, a garden party was held at the home of Mr and Mrs W. Morden, now the residence of Mr and Mrs Denis Sainsbury.

In March of this past year, the ladies honored Lena Lemon, secretary of the group for 40 years.

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## Local artist sells wares

**BALLANTRAE** — Artist Guttorm Otto is holding an exhibition and sale of 130 of his most beautiful paintings, next month at two locations.

The first is Dec. 3 and 4 at 80 Lowther Avenue, Toronto from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The second is Dec. 10 and 11 at his residence on the Aurora Road, one mile east of Hwy. 48 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Eighty pieces of work will be on display in Toronto and fifty at Ballantrae. Prices range from \$800 to \$3,000.

Although Mr Otto enjoys landscape painting best, his skills cover a wide spectrum of subjects.

"I do everything," he says. The father of two and grandfather of four, he looks on the Whitechurch-Stouffville area as "home" since son Herb and daughter Hildegard are graduates of Ballantrae Public School and Stouffville Dist. Secondary School.

Whether the purpose is to buy or merely to admire, the public is invited to attend the pre-arranged "open house" at either or both locations.

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Mr. W.J. Leach, President, Housser & Co. Limited, is pleased to announce the opening of a full service branch office in the Village of Markham, designed to serve the requirements of the firm's clients in the Markham area.

Peter J. Taylor, Vice President and Director, will be in charge of the office. A resident of Thornhill, Mr. Taylor has been an Investment Advisor for 23 years. He joined the firm in 1975 and became vice president in 1983. He is active in several community service organizations including the Markham Board of Trade.

Russell Beare, Senior Account Executive, has been an Investment Advisor for 28 years. He has had an active involvement in Canada Savings Bonds and, on several occasions, was the leading CSB retail salesman in all of Canada. A lifelong resident of Markham, Mr. Beare was one of the original group of six local people who initiated the Markham-Stouffville Hospital committee. He was a 20 year member of the Markham-Unionville Lions Club and is a former member of the Markham Fair Board.

Edward Svoboda has over 15 years of investment experience, the last 3 as a Registered Representative with Housser & Co. Limited. Previous to joining the firm, Mr. Svoboda was in the audit department of Revenue Canada. He obtained his Bachelor of Commerce degree from Queens University and his Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Toronto.

Housser & Co. Limited, established in 1917, is a member of the Toronto Stock Exchange and The Investment Dealers Association of Canada. The firm offers a complete range of investment services including portfolio analysis, personalized brokerage service and investment advice, all at competitive rates. The Markham office is located at 72 Main Street North, in the Village of Markham, telephone 471-4433.

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