

Ebenezer Church

Time takes its toll

By Mark Niblett
MILLIKEN
 Overhead a 747 leaves a smoky trail as it climbs away from Toronto International Airport. On Steeles Avenue, cars and trucks rush past. But Ebenezer United Church sits placidly back from the road, wrapped in a kind of timeless calm.

Church members recently held a Strawberry Festival on the grounds. The aim was to raise money for repairs.

The congregation goes back some 140 years, although the church itself is only 90 or 100 years old. One gentleman, Roy Risebrough, related how his great-grandfather had helped with its building in the 1860's. The foundation stone, brought to Toronto via lake boats from Kingston, was taken by cart to the church

site - a long and difficult journey in those days. Building the foundations was a real community effort, with everyone pitching in to complete the job in one day.

That same spirit still exists in the congregation although there are now only 55 or 60 active members. Wilfred Creighton, one of the older members of the community, stated it succinctly:

"A lot of people have moved away, and a lot of people have moved up here," he said, indicating the graveyard, "It's not like it used to be."

Rev. Bob Ball, who has been at Ebenezer for five years, agreed. He pointed out that many new families in the area have ties elsewhere. In addition, a lot of land is going to commercial and industrial concerns.

The church itself looks timeless; but its congregation is heavily affected by changes in the surrounding country. Most of the people at the Festival were in their 50's or 60's; there seemed to be few young families.

"There's not much spiritual feeling any more," said Art Creighton.

It's good to wander around in the churchyard and feel the timeless quality of it: the solid sanctuary, the ancient trees, the weathered headstones.

Even some of the items sold speak of another era. There aren't many places today where you can buy a Columbia 78, featuring Will Bradley and his Orchestra playing 'Boogie Woogie Congo'. There's a sense of graceful old age around Ebenezer United Church which is very comforting - and perhaps deceptive.

For the traffic still roars past, the planes still lay contrails across the sky, and the congregation continues to dwindle. In cold, objective terms, the church and its members may eventually become extinct.

But they're putting up a great fight.



Wilfred Creighton, (left), and his brother Art, enjoyed coffee and strawberry shortcake at the Ebenezer United Church Strawberry Festival. —Mark Niblett.

Hamlet of Buttonville Once was 'Orange'

By Jean Leaf
BUTTONVILLE
 Remember when Buttonville was very 'Orange'. Even today, orange lilies are found growing in profusion along the roadsides and in many gardens.

For old-timers, July 12 was a glorious day with parades, pipes and picnics.

Many local people attended the opening of the Markham Museum on Saturday. Among them were Mr. and Mrs. Russell Boyington, Miss Dell Stephenson, the Rodicks and the Leafs. Donald Deacon, M.P.P., was on hand to bring greetings. Mayor Tony Roman and Mr. Deacon rode in the procession from the Fair grounds. The Museum is an interesting place, filled with memories of bygone days. The hours, from June to September are 10 a.m.

to 6 p.m., except Mondays. There is a small admission fee, and well worth it.

Paul Craigie left Sunday for a cycling tour of the West.

Congratulations to local students who graduated from Mark 11 School in recent ceremonies. They are - Christine Craigie, Regina Allen, Chris Hood, Gordon Hooper, Lorie Melvin and Cheryl Tennyson. Cheryl won the special Academic Award, and was presented with a book on Canada by the York Regional Board of Education.

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Gospel meetings

By Barbara St. John
GOODWOOD
 A welcome is extended to adults, young people and children to attend worship services and Sunday School in the former Goodwood Carriage Shop, Hwy. 47.

The community extends sympathy to the family of Mr. George Todd and Mr. John Smith. They passed away, July 7.

Gloria Miller suffered a foot injury when she caught it in her brother's bicycle wheel.

The old barn beside the tracks has been removed by Clarence Bunker and Luther Wilson.

Rev. Benny Jones, no stranger to residents in Goodwood, will preside at the service, Sunday, in the Baptist Church.

Deer hunt for Uxbridge residents only

GOODWOOD
 Uxbridge Council has sent a letter to the Department of Lands and Forests to clarify regulations for deer hunting in the Township.

Open season will be November 1, 2 and 3. Only residents of Uxbridge Township will be permitted to hunt, and no weapon other than shotguns will be allowed.

Horse Show - at Al's Tack Shop, July 18.



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Road-widening delayed

MARKHAM
 Although included in Provincial budgetary estimates as far back as 1969, the No. 7 Highway improvement project, between Don Mills Road and Hwy. 48 may not be started this summer.

This is the report from York-Centre M.P., Don Deacon, in a release to The Tribune this week.

The hold, according to Mr. Deacon, is due in part to a

Government Bill, dealing with land expropriations. Under the new legislation, government bodies must now publish their intentions to expropriate and hold public meetings before a tribunal to justify the need for the property.

In addition, if agreement on compensation is not reached, payment is provided to individuals whose property is being expropriated to

cover their cost of an independent property appraisal and legal services.

In spite of delays, including the widening of Hwy. 7, Mr. Deacon feels it's preferable that these projects be so affected rather than the personal interests of the individual.

The sweetest music to a woman's ear is another woman playing second fiddle.

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