

BWG Heritage Matters

Ontario recently celebrated Heritage Week, focusing on the many aspects of heritage in local communities.

In Bradford West Gwillimbury, two buildings listed on the Heritage Registry should be recognized.

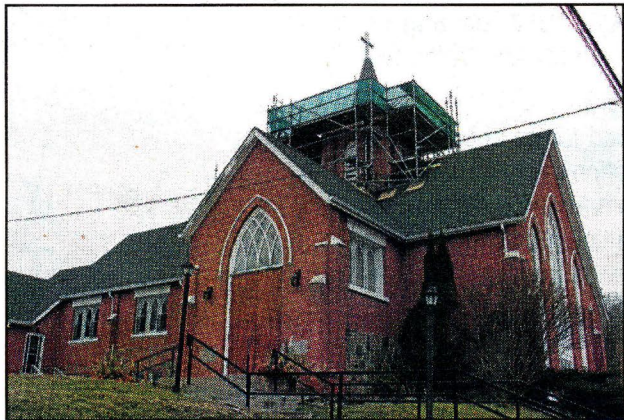
The first is Trinity Anglican Church, on Church St. — a church that celebrated its Centenary on June 10, 1951. Although the original 1851 building was destroyed by fire in 1900, church members worked tirelessly to rebuild and reopen the church by December of that same year.

The history of the church dates back even farther, to the first “travelling preachers” who visited the area, including Rev. Adam Elliott, in 1832-1835, and his successors Rev. H. H. O’Neill, and Rev. Featherstone Osler, in 1837.

The first church was a frame building, built in the shape of a cross. When it burned, the “new” church was built of brick in a Gothic Revival style — with external buttresses, internal hammer beams framing the roof, and Gothic arched stained glass windows.

The main entrance, added later, has an enclosed narthex dominated by large Gothic arched windows, and a large Gothic arched entrance — in keeping with the original architecture.

Gothic Revival is a Canadian architectural style that



MIRIAM KING/BRADFORD TIMES

View of Trinity Anglican Church in Bradford, rebuilt in 1900 in the Gothic Revival style; the Gothic entrance and front foyer are more recent additions.

was popular from late Victorian, into the turn of the century. A highly decorative, embellished style that uses brick, stone and wood, it has become synonymous with prosperity and solidity, often used for schools, colleges, universities, and places of worship. More than 20 buildings in Bradford are constructed in the Gothic Revival style.

The church has been expanded over the years, with wings added in 1986 and 1994, and repairs to the stone foundation in 2009-2010. And in 2016, work began on the restoration of the church’s bell tower — allowing the bell, cast in 1898, to ring again.

The second building, right

next door, is Trinity Anglican Church’s Rectory, built in the 1940s in a completely different style. This building is Colonial Revival, with a Georgian-style front door with sidelights. There is a plain formal and symmetrical facade with a strong gable roof, deep overhanging eaves, and evenly spaced rectangular windows.

Both buildings reflect the changing architectural styles of Bradford West Gwillimbury, and the importance of church life in the community. Listing such properties on the Heritage Registry helps municipalities survey, identify and research their heritage.

Article courtesy of the BWG Heritage Committee.