

Churches by the sea

by M. Allen Gibson



Campbell photo

Holy Ghost Ukrainian Catholic Church, Sydney

In 1901, at the age of 21, Nicholas Fedora arrived in Sydney. He was the first Ukrainian to make a home in the city. In 1904, 1907, and 1912, groups of Ukrainians came, most of them finding work in the steel industry.

They brought with them a form of faith and worship which was new to Nova Scotia. They were Catholic but they belonged to that division of the Church generally known as "Eastern" and in their worship they used the Byzantine rite, the chief rite of Eastern Orthodoxy.

Desiring a church of their own in their new neighbourhood, a group of the newcomers met on May 22, 1912, at the Whitney Pier home of Michael Fedora. At that time, they organized a "Brotherhood of the Holy Ghost" that they might further their aim of building a Ukrainian Catholic church in Sydney.

A committee was appointed to find a suitable site and in August, 1912, land at the corner of Swan and West streets was purchased. Meetings were being held in the homes, a situation far from satisfactory because of the size of the fellowship. At a gathering on October 16, 1912, for example, there were 80 members present.

At that meeting, a building committee was appointed. Its membership included J. Schelar, M. Marenick, M. Swistun, S. Kuchinak, John Bihun, and John Lazyo.

On Sunday, November 17, 1912, the first Byzantine Rite Mass in Sydney was celebrated by Rev. Cyril Yarme who came from Montreal for the occasion. Holy Redeemer church was the scene of that memorable event.

On the following day, November 18, 1912, work was commenced on the church. The men of the congregation, after their shifts at the steel plant, began the work of excavation. It required a week to prepare the 32 by 62 foot area for the foundation. There was very little money available but each family faithfully contributed the 50 or 25-cent weekly offering which was the membership fee of the Brotherhood of the Holy Ghost.

The first Ukrainian priest to serve in Sydney was Rev. Volodmyr Venyaraski who arrived in mid-December, 1912, and remained there until March, 1913. He was succeeded by Rev. Yavhan Kracitske for whom a glebe house was purchased in 1913 and who gave fine leadership both in the church and in the community.

Father Kracitski led his people faithfully through the years of the first World War when particular difficulties confronted the Ukrainian people. He was succeeded by Rev. Nicholas Shumski in 1926.

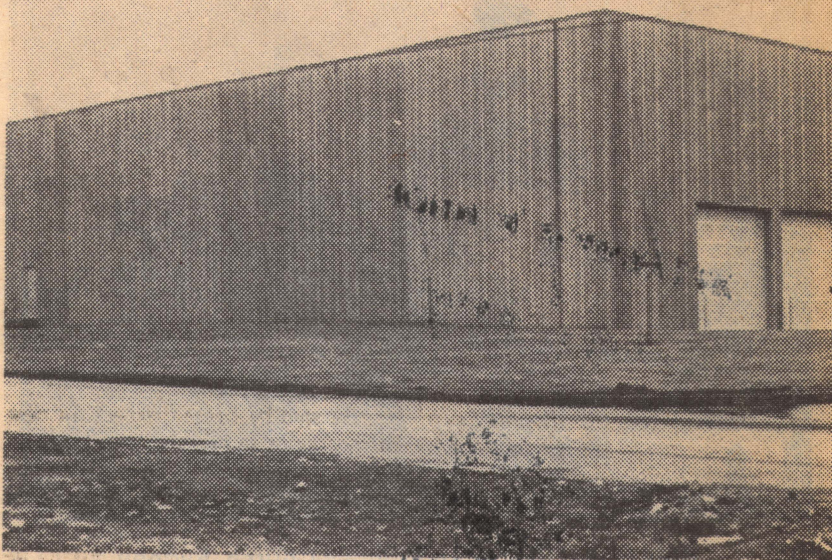
Rev. Nicholas Bartman was there for only two years but during that time, in May, 1933, the church was destroyed by fire. His was the leadership under which the present church was erected. A new hall was completed in 1962.

One of the noteworthy features of Ukrainian worship is the music. Singing, usually without accompaniment, the church choirs are well trained. When the city of Sydney observed its 150th anniversary in 1935, a float prepared by the people of Holy Ghost church and its choir won first prize.

The longest pastorate in the story of the church was that of Rev. Constantine Zarsky who served there from 1940 to 1970. The first priest ordained from Holy Ghost parish was Rev. John Tataryn who was ordained in May, 1959.

Next week: Pentecostal Holiness Church, Boylston.

Focus on Bed



READY FOR USE — Officials of the town of Bedford are ready to issue an occupancy permit to Michelin Tire which will allow the firm to use this new warehouse facility in the Atlantic Acres Industrial Park. Zwicker, the town's director of planning and development,

Storm drainage installations:

Report changes w

By Mary Beth Wallace
Sackville Bureau

Although Halifax County has yet to officially implement the policies of a year-old storm drainage task force report, that report is quietly changing the way the municipality deals with storm drainage installations, and problems.

Ed Wdowick, director of engineering, said the county has hired a storm drainage engineer to translate the report, jointly sponsored by the county and the province, into specific legislation county council can enforce.

That legislation could

take the form of specific bylaws, guidelines in municipal development plans, and subdivision regulations.

But in the meantime, Mr. Wdowick said, the county is informally implementing most of the task force recommendations, while it works towards implementation "with legal teeth."

He, for example, has been working with the county's planning department for months towards drawing the recommendations into the subdivision bylaw.

"We know what we want to do, and hope we can get something offi-

cially in place within a year and a half."

The other aspects of the new employee's work, Mr. Wdowick said, are to assess existing storm drainage problems and work with the province to alleviate problems from provincially-controlled storm drains, such as those on roads.

He noted that the department of engineering has set itself up as a coordinating body, to help county residents with storm drainage problems reach the right authorities. In the past, residents could be shuffled from county to province and from depart-

Committee report to be aired at next meeting

By Bob Orr

The four-member ad hoc committee, struck to study various consultants' submissions for carrying out Bedford's integrated services study, is ex-

question of carrying out separate servicing and transportation studies. "Our conclusion is that this may result in inefficient and expensive duplication."

The main objectives stressed by