

*A chapel by any other name*

# Scott Memorial Centre nears completion

By EVAN LEIBOVITCH  
The York religious building, tentatively named the Scott Memorial Centre, is well under construction after encountering a few false starts.

Joe Green, Dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts, was appointed to the committee formed to coordinate the formation of the Centre, located over the Amphitheatre on the upper level of Central Square. He applauds the centre as "a place for quiet meditation and serious celebration."

"In a way, it's a good thing that the first proposals did not go through," Green suggested,

"because the original plans were for a building way over by Stong Lake." The present plans call for a stairway to the centre to be located beside Oasis in Central Square.

**ORIGINAL PROPOSAL**

The original proposal of a chapel for York arose in 1964, when William Preston Scott (after whom the Scott library is named) donated \$250,000 towards the construction of a chapel, in memory of his deceased daughter. However, opposition to the chapel arose in 1968 around the point that private donations should not set York's priorities. A year later, a

referendum rejected the proposal.

Keeping the money in limbo was not a good example to set for the future, at which time the administration might have to go to outside sources (such as an alumni association) for extra funding. Hence, Green's committee was formed.

**INVITED PARTICIPATION**

The committee confirmed the need for a centre for religious activities, and invited members from among York's religious community to participate in the discussions. Among them was Father Tannam, representing York's Catholic community from his office in McLaughlin's basement.

"At the present time, masses must be held in 107 Stedman, which presents a pretty crummy atmosphere for the 50 to 70 people that attend each week," said Tannam.

**WORN FEELINGS**

Tannam blames the opposition to the centre on the general attitudes

of students during the late sixties. He claims that the opposition was "ill-advised, to say the least," but that the anti-institutional feelings of the period have worn off.

The purposes of the centre are threefold. A large central room will serve as both an area where religious ceremonies and services can be conducted, and as a location for cultural events "related to the life of the spirit" for groups of 200 or less. A second, smaller room is designated for silent meditation by anybody wishing to enter during the day. Both Green and Tannam agree that such an area has been desperately needed on campus, and that its creation might help

"humanize" York.

**INFLATION DEFLATES**

Although the majority of the funding is coming from the Scott fund, inflation in the last 10 years may have led to the cutting of some corners. One of the best features of the Central Square location is that there is already a foundation set down, and that it can be serviced simply by tapping existing facilities in Central Square.

Tannam is very optimistic about the centre's contribution to campus life.

"A meditation room will serve a need that's been ignored in York's design. People need a time for reflection," he said.

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The bill also recommends appointing a frog racing commissioner, and the levy of a \$100 fine at anybody caught entering a toad into such races instead of a frog.

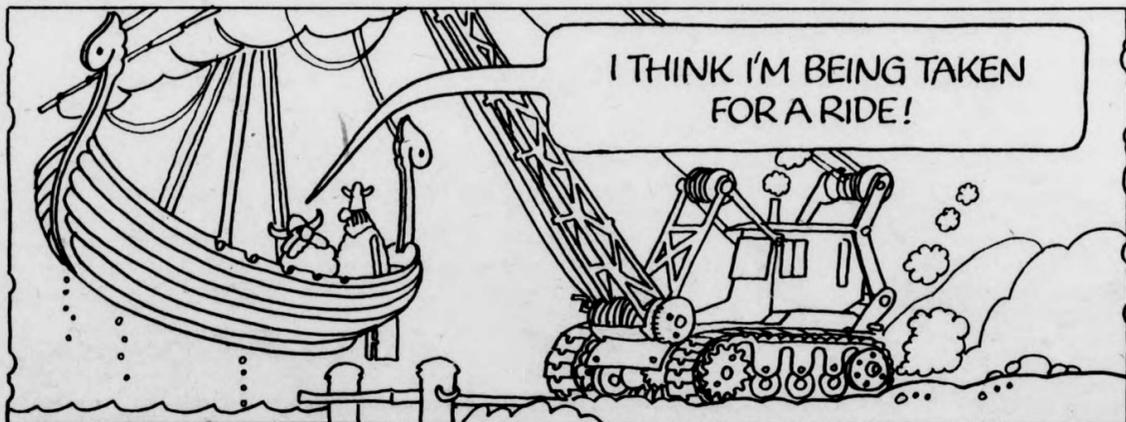
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