

DOWNSVIEW UNITED CHURCH

2822 Keele Street, Downsview
Previously on the *City of North York's Inventory of Heritage Properties*, designated under Part IV, Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* by City of Toronto Council in 2008.

As the most popular style for churches in the mid to late 19th century, Gothic Revival features include pointed-arch openings, polychromatic brickwork and buttressed walls.

The area of Downsview originated as a rural area east of Weston, which was served by a school and churches near the crossroads of Keele Street and Wilson Avenue. When a post office opened in 1869, it took the name of "Downsview" from the Keele Street farm of Squire John Perkins Bull, a justice of the peace and the patriarch of a significant local family.

The origins of the church date to 1844 when a Wesleyan Methodist congregation was organized in the area. Squire Bull held worship services at his home until the first church was completed in 1850. The present structure dates from 1870 and was constructed according to the designs of Toronto architect, J. W. Stubbs. Originally known as York Methodist Church, it was renamed Downsview Methodist Church in the early 1880s. The congregation joined the United Church of Canada in 1925, which was created through the amalgamation of Methodist, Congregationalist and many Presbyterian churches.

The church was enlarged with the extension of the chancel (1882) and the addition of a Sunday School (1937) and Christian Education Wing (1955). The original, highly decorative spire was damaged during a storm and replaced. Widely known in the 19th century for its revival meetings and musical entertainment, Downsview United Church has served for over a century as a spiritual, social and educational centre in the community.
(The NYHS October 13th general meeting will be held in the Christian Education Wing – added in 1955)
NOTE: If you would like a drive to this meeting please contact Geoff Geduld 416-222-3485 northyorkhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

2 VALLEYANNA DRIVE

(Annadale Gatehouse) is on the *City of Toronto's Inventory of Heritage Properties* and located close to Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, nr. Bayview & Lawrence.

This was a huge farming estate, once owned by the family of Robert Jones, who farmed the land for ninety years, before Herbert Bruce (former lieutenant-governor of Ontario) purchased it in 1920. Herbert Bruce was also well known as a founder of Wellesley Hospital in 1911. Herbert Bruce married Angela Hall and began to construct a home. It was called Annadale. The couple and their son lived there from 1921 to 1930. In 1930, Mr. Bruce sold two parts of the land to J. J. Vaughan (now known as the Vaughan Estates) and J. S. Mclean (now known as Mclean House). He sold other parts of the estate to Alfred Rogers (family famous for coal).

Herbert Bruce and Alfred Rogers were friends with a common interest in horses. Alfred Rogers created the Rogers Cup (tennis).



As we all know many historical buildings have had changes made to them and Annadale was not spared. The house was expanded; the property was renamed Uplands (to reflect Alfred Rogers' main stables near Lake Simcoe) and the land extensively landscaped.

Alfred Rogers lived on the estate with his wife and children. He died in 1953 and his widow lived there until her death in 1955. The family decided to sell the estate following her death because of heavy property taxes and the burden of maintaining the property.

In 1957, James Crothers, who was in the construction industry, bought the property and subdivided it.

Linda Gargaro
NYHS Minute (edited)