

Doors Open Aurora Feature: Trinity Anglican Church



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The Trinity Anglican Church chapel, located at 79 Victoria Street, is one of the finest examples of Gothic Revival architecture in Aurora and an excellent site included in this year's Doors Open Aurora event.

The site is also an illustration of how a building can be altered to satisfy changing needs while still remaining sympathetic to the site's original character and history.

The Trinity Anglican Church chapel was built to replace the original church building of 1846 on Church Street which was also constructed in the Gothic frame style.

Trinity Anglican Church was designed by architect Marshal. B. Aylesworth and constructed by D.S Pickworth.

Complete with a rectory to its east, this church began exceeding its capacity in the late 19th century, resulting in its demolition and the construction of what is now the Church chapel. The rectory however was preserved and still stands today as one of the oldest buildings in Aurora.

The first morning and evening service at the church convened on March 14, 1884. Soon after, in 1897, an old wooden Masonic Hall, which was located at the rear of the former Pugh property on Centre Street, was purchased and located on the site to serve as a School House.

As the Church congregation evolved and matured, various committees were formed to serve the congregation and enhance the Church activities facilities.

In 1913, the next major phase in the evolution of the site began. The church was re-decorated, a new organ purchased and the rectory repaired using funds generated by the Church Improvement Guild. During this time the Trinity Hall was also enlarged and the first toilets installed.

The prosperity following the Second World War and the arrival of the 'baby boomer' generation saw yet another sequence of alteration to the site and the building.

The church was enlarged by the addition of the Van Nostrand Narthex, the St Columba Chapel and Falconbridge link building. Through these additions, the church was equipped with new choir rooms, a more intimate and contemporary chapel space, a Fellowship room and an internal connection between the church and the parish hall.

Bricks for the additions came from the demolished First Baptist church at Wellington and Victoria Street.

These were the last set of alterations made to this site before they were demolished in 2001 to make way for the current church.

Today, the rectory, the 1884 church chapel, and current church building stand as proud testaments to the history and legacy of the Trinity Anglican Church in Aurora.

Doors Open visitors will have the opportunity to see the Church's restored (or under restoration) stained glass windows as well as the fixing of the Bell tower.

Charming background music by a choir school singing at the new church will enrich the experience.

The Town of Aurora is proud to present the Trinity Anglican Church as a Doors Open Aurora 2016 site. Make sure to visit Trinity Anglican Church from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, August 20 to learn more.

For more information about Doors Open Aurora, to volunteer for the event, and to print a copy of the Doors Open Aurora 2016 Map Guide, please visit www.aurora.ca and click on the Doors Open icon on the front page.