



BETH EZEKIAL  
SYNAGOGUE  
1946

HISTORIC PLAQUING  
CEREMONY

APRIL 28, 1991 2:00 P.M.



## HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

---

Dear Mr. LACAC:

The Beth Ezekiel building is a unique example of traditional Jewish synagogue architecture that, unfortunately, is disappearing from Small Town Ontario.

The simple, straight lines of our chapel, with the Holy Ark in the front, the Torah lectern, the bimah (prayer stand) and menorah, follow classic synagogue architecture with roots in Eastern Europe. Not only is Beth Ezekiel unique for a smaller Jewish centre, even in a larger Metropolitan area like Toronto or Montreal it would be of special, nostalgic interest.

Many of the newer synagogues that are being built today incorporate modern designs that are quite beautiful, but they do follow a more modern trend in design. The style represented by the Beth Ezekiel Synagogue captures, in the simple tradition, an earlier era.

The Beth Ezekiel Synagogue enshrines a unique period of Jewish history in Ontario. This is the era of pioneering families who left the larger urban centres to seek their fortune in small-town Ontario. They struggled to overcome their scant numbers and create a semblance of the community they had known. Here they maintained their traditions and taught their children the cultural-religious ways of our people.

Now, in a number of smaller Ontario communities, these old synagogue buildings have been forced to close and religious services suspended. The communities dwindled, and there was an inability to acquire religious teachers and rabbis. I am happy to say that our Beth Ezekiel is no dying relic, but a very active, growing centre for social, cultural, educational and religious activities. It is a bright thread in the ethnic weave of the Owen Sound community, and one that the all our citizens can be proud of.

I would like to add my voice to those who urge that the Beth Ezekiel Synagogue be designated an architectural landmark, thus joining a distinguished handful of unique synagogues like the Kiever, Narayever and Hebrew Beaches Synagogues in Toronto.

If you need further information, please feel free to contact me.

With best wishes,

Rabbi Meir Uri Gottesman

THE CITY OF  OWEN SOUND

CALVARY CHURCH  
1903 • 1946  
BETH EZEKIAL SYNAGOGUE

1946  
DESIGNATED  
UNDER THE HERITAGE ACT  
1990

---

### INTRODUCTION

L.A.C.A.C.  
Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee  
Mr. William Garrard

---

### HISTORY

Rabbi Meir Uri Gottesman

---

### GREETINGS

For His Worship The Mayor of Owen Sound • Councillor Moe Wright  
Dr. Gus Mitges • M.P. Grey-Simcoe  
Mr. Bill Murdoch • M.P.P. Grey-Bruce

---

### UNVEILING OF PLAQUE

For His Worship The Mayor of Owen Sound • Councillor Moe Wright

---