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# The Mississauga News People

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## Historic church lacks money needed for renovations

By OWEN JARUS  
Special

Local Catholic groups are trying to raise money to renovate a Churchill Meadows church that was built in 1823 by Irish settlers.

St. Peter's Church, located at Ninth Line and Britannia Rd., was built by labourers who came to the area in 1819. The settlers, who had earlier built the Welland Canal, were granted the land by the British government.

The settlement disappeared during the 1920s and 1930s, and only the church was left behind as a visible reminder.

Since then, Catholics in other parts of Mississauga, and Milton, have used the church as a place of worship. In 2000, the church was vacated.

Today, the Diocese of

Hamilton owns the church and wants it to be used again. Several Catholic parishes in Mississauga and Halton want to use the site, but they lack the money needed for renovations.

"They're willing to take it over, but don't have the means," said John O'Brian, business administrator for the Hamilton Roman

Catholic Diocese.

O'Brian said the Diocese is assessing the project to determine what renovations are needed and

how much they will cost. Among other upgrades, the church needs new plumbing.

O'Brian said the "interested groups" consist of smaller congregations looking for space.

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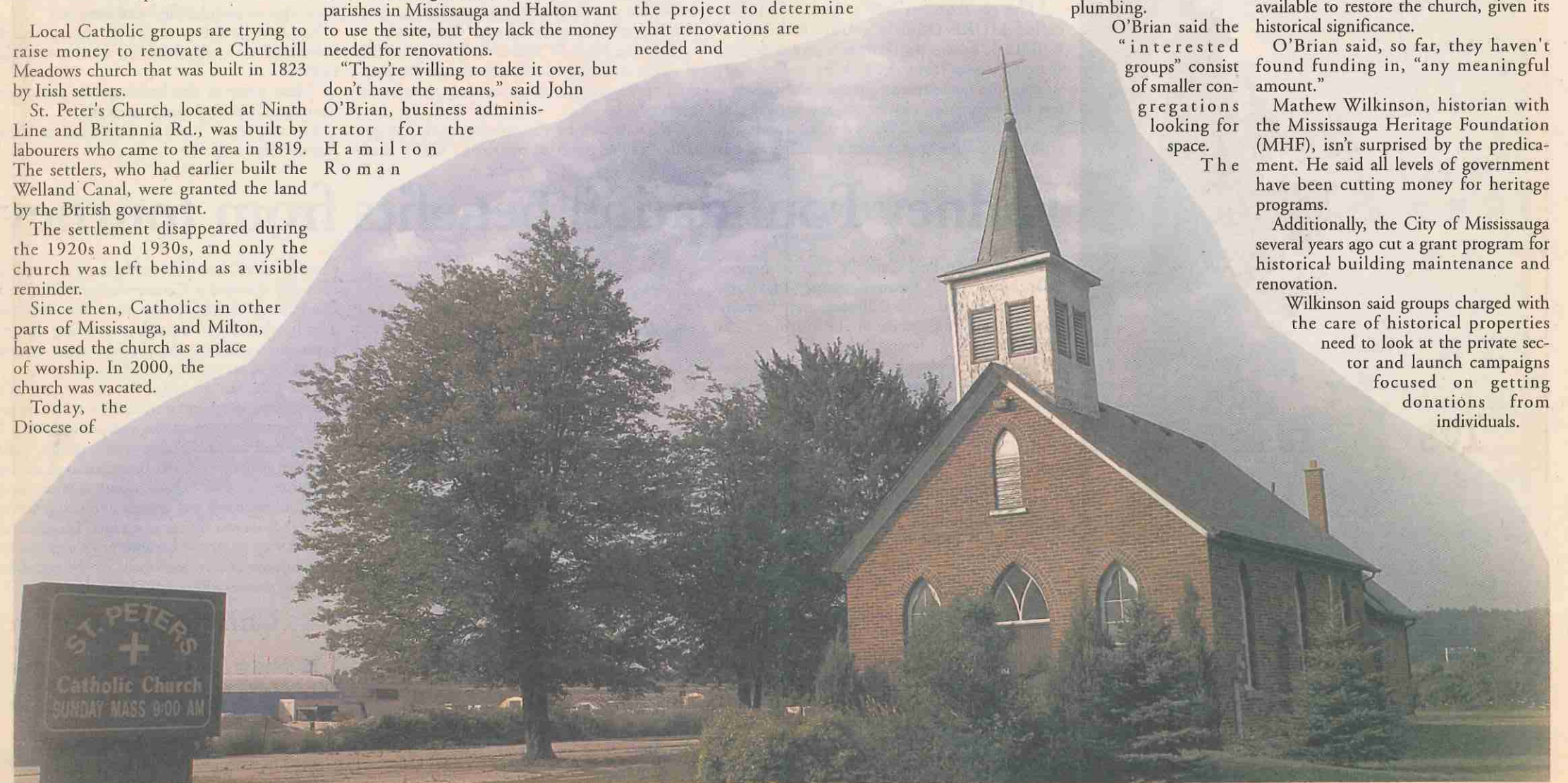
Diocese has checked government programs to see if there is any funding available to restore the church, given its historical significance.

O'Brian said, so far, they haven't found funding in, "any meaningful amount."

Mathew Wilkinson, historian with the Mississauga Heritage Foundation (MHF), isn't surprised by the predicament. He said all levels of government have been cutting money for heritage programs.

Additionally, the City of Mississauga several years ago cut a grant program for historical building maintenance and renovation.

Wilkinson said groups charged with the care of historical properties need to look at the private sector and launch campaigns focused on getting donations from individuals.



**Still standing** — St. Peter's Catholic Church sits vacated on Ninth Line just north of Britannia Rd. Irish labourers erected it in 1823. Catholic groups are currently trying to raise money to renovate the historic site and put it back into use.  
Staff photo by Chris Horobin