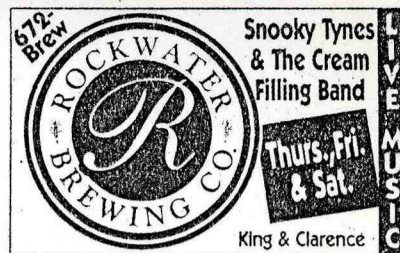


# Our Times



## Entertainment

# A moment of fame

St. Peter's Anglican Church at Tyrconnell had a bit part in the Hollywood movie *That Old Feeling*.



Dennis Farina and Bette Midler star in *That Old Feeling*.

By Sandra Coulson  
Free Press Reporter

There's a saying that we will each get 15 minutes of fame in our lifetime.

But for St. Peter's Anglican Church in the tiny hamlet of Tyrconnell, about 50 kilometres southwest of London, it lasts maybe 15 seconds.

The little 170-year-old church is a pivotal part of the action in the new movie *That Old Feeling*, starring Bette Midler. But its exterior is on the screen for only a few moments.

Residents of the Lake Erie community don't seem to feel cheated of their time in the spotlight. Instead, they have been enjoying their brush with show biz — and taking it in stride.

"They actually left it in. I'm surprised," says Rev. Anne Mills, the good-humored minister at the church, who saw the movie Sunday night.

"But I tell you, if you blink . . . We said: 'There it is! And it was gone.'"

Keith Large, a movie location manager from Toronto who worked on *That Old Feeling*, said the scenes of St. Peter's are called establishing shots. They let the audience know where the action is taking place.

Even though the establishing shot of St. Peter's is only a few seconds, "It looks quite beautiful," Large says.

The church is also the background for shots of guests arriving for a wedding in the movie.

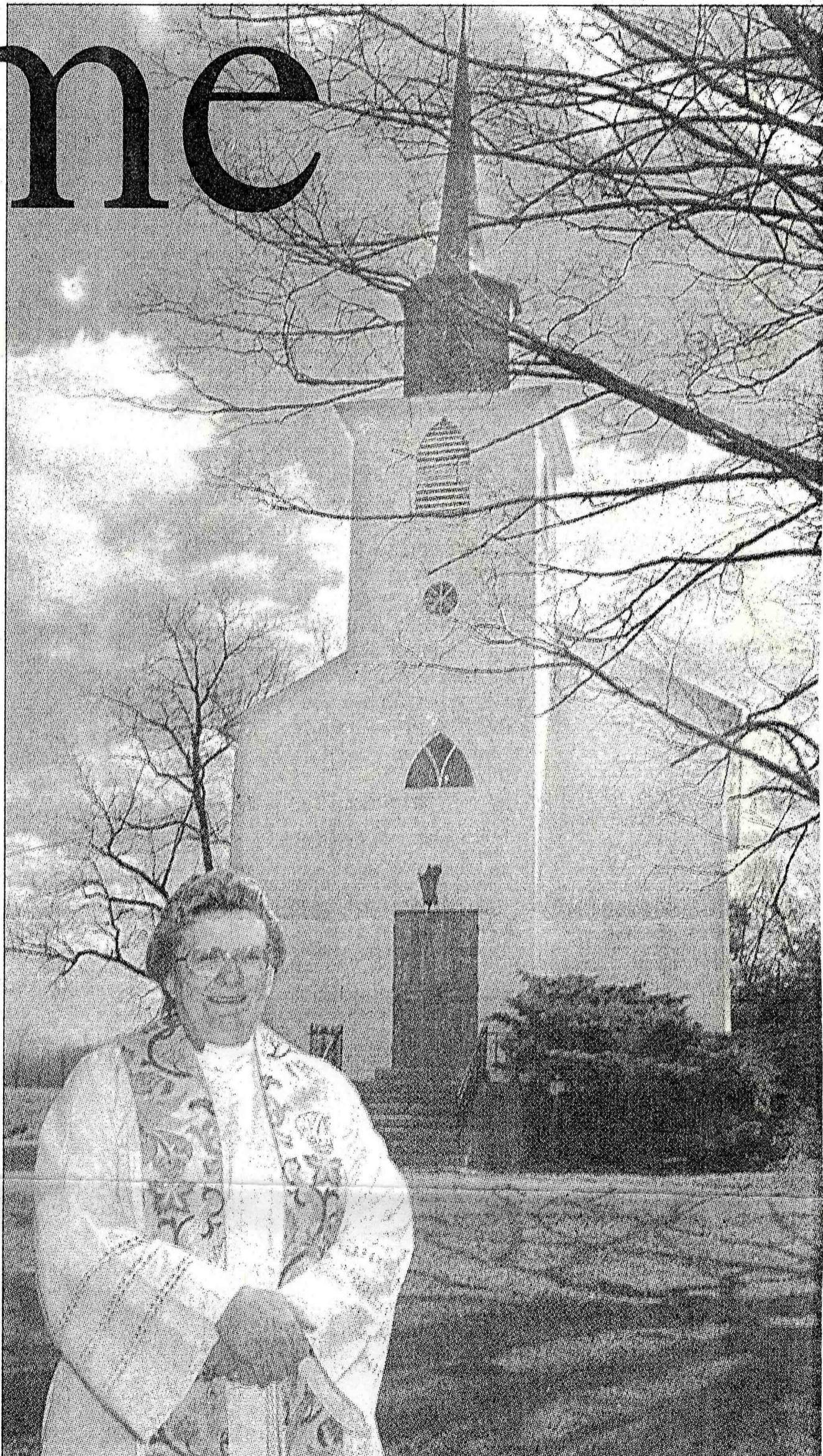
**LOCATIONS:** The movie was filmed mainly in Toronto and Niagara-on-the-Lake. For the Tyrconnell shoot, none of the movie's stars nor director Carl Reiner was present.

"We were looking for an Upper New York State or Connecticut-style clapboard church," Large says of the search for the setting. "I had a scout out scouting Southwestern Ontario." He said they asked regional church offices to suggest possibilities and narrowed it down to a few churches before choosing St. Peter's.

One thing the church had to have was a bell tower with a window. That's because in the movie, the bride looks out the window to watch guests arriving below.

But Mills finds it amusing that the scenes of the bride in the belfry and the wedding ceremony were not made at St. Peter's. The church's interior is too small to fit the actors and the movie crew.

The wedding was filmed at the larger Holy



GEORGE BLUMSON / The London Free Press

Rev. Anne Mills is rector of St. Peter's Anglican Church at Tyrconnell just north of Lake Erie. The church was the setting for a film crew who spent one day filming a part of the movie *That Old Feeling* at the site last June. The community was founded by Col. Thomas Talbot who is buried in a nearby cemetery.

and the movie crew.

The wedding was filmed at the larger Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Thornhill and the belfry scene was on a studio set.

That Old Feeling is an almost farcical story about rekindled passion between the bride's divorced parents. They had split 12 years previously and hated each other with a passion. But at the wedding, they discover they still share the other kind of passion — although they've both remarried.

Caught in the middle is their daughter Molly, who would rather they stayed separated, and her strait-laced groom Keith.

Mills says it's an exaggerated version of some weddings at which she has officiated.

"I have had some where the young couple worry just as much as those two did about their parents. But I tell them usually they don't do anything to spoil your day."

Mills says her church treasurer kidded her she shouldn't attend the film since it's about adultery. But Mills says she enjoyed the movie for the comedy it is.

Mills and about three dozen other area residents also enjoyed watching the full day of filming in Tyrconnell last June.

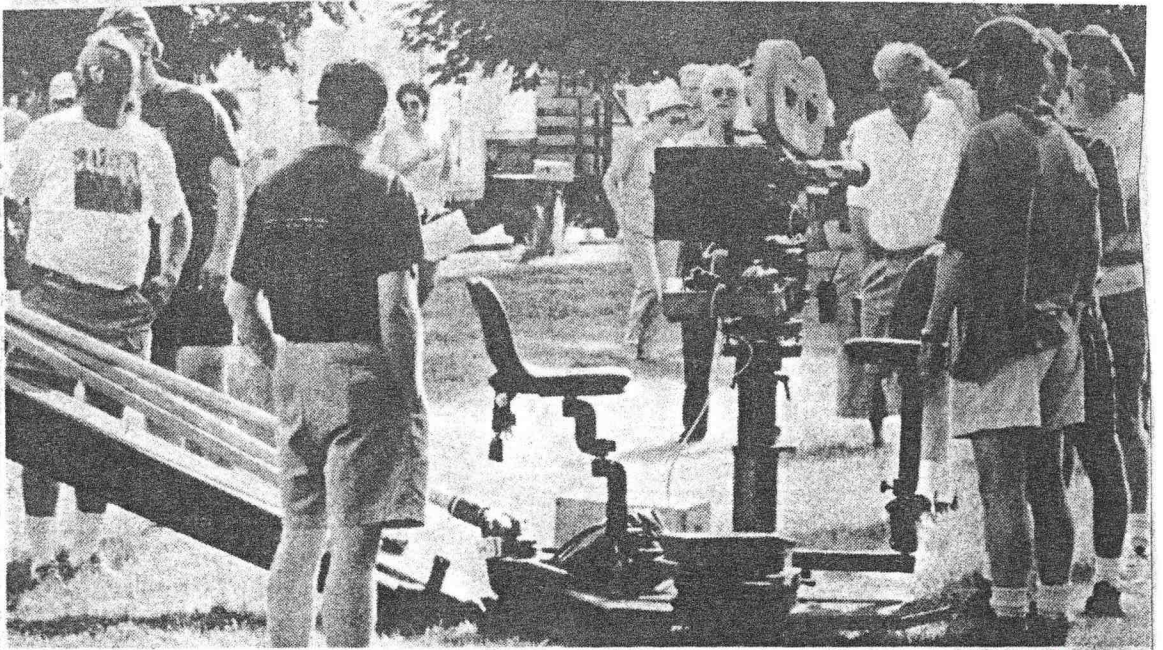
Elaine Brown of Tyrconnell says she was intrigued by some of the tricks of the trade.

The scene was supposed to take place during the day. So as the sun got lower in the sky, the crew used a mirror to deflect more sunlight on the scene, she says.

And she noticed the crew planted a flower bed with real flowers in full bloom within minutes.

Mills says she had a closer look than most because Large gave her free access as the church's minister. "It was fun for me because I was able to go anywhere except in front of the cameras," she says.

And for the small country church, the moment in the spotlight had a very practical side effect: The movie's crew took on the needed chore of repainting the church and putting new gravel on its driveway.



**GETTING READY TO ROLL** – The film crew shooting "That Old Feeling" was busy changing cameras, landscaping and making sure everything was just right before moving in for that final shot. Here, crew members have completed preparations for the second scene.

