

**Acknowledgement:**

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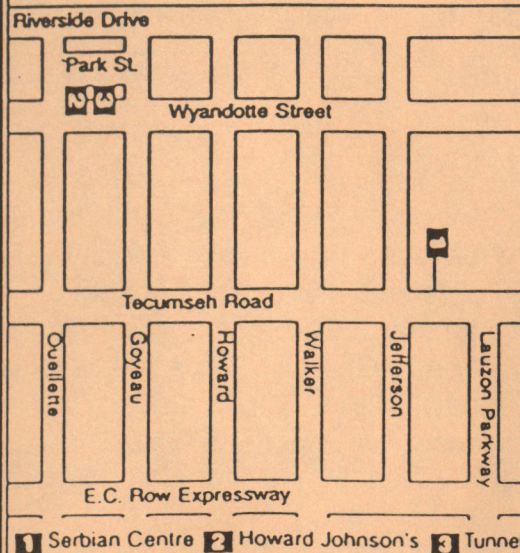
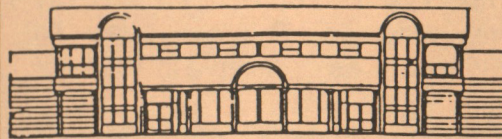
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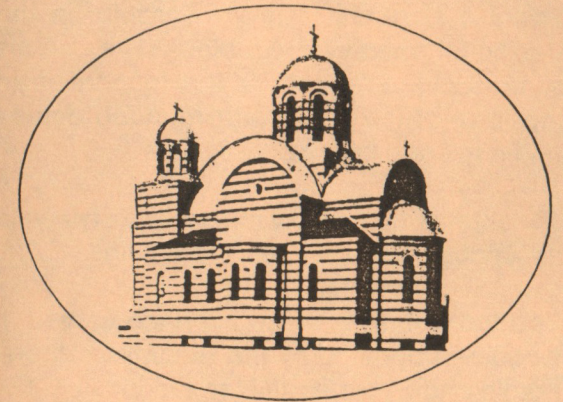
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**SERBIAN COMMUNITY CENTRE**  
6770 Tecumseh Road East  
Windsor, Ontario

From Highway # 401. Exit Essex Road #19 to Tecumseh Road and left on Tecumseh Road to # 6770



**Serbian Heritage Museum  
of Windsor**



**Exhibit:**

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Serbian  
Orthodox Church Gracanica**

**October 26 - December 15  
2002**

The Serbian Orthodox Church Gracanica is dedicated to the Assumption of the Virgin Mary. It was completed in 1952.

It was named Gracanica after the Serbian medieval monastery, which was built in 1321 by the Serbian King Milutin.

The church was designed by the late Petar Popovic an architect from Toronto, in the traditional medieval Serbian style. This style is characterized by the foundation in the form of the cross with rounded domes and elaborate brickwork.

The interior also follows the same style with its Iconostases and Fresco paintings.

The Iconostases, which is hand-carved in wood was donated by the Budimir brothers, Nikola and Stevo and Milan Dobric in 1969. It was made in Yugoslavia in the style of the famous medieval Debar school. It was brought over in numbered pieces for easier assembly.

The bells were donated by the owners of the N&D Supermarket and Rade and Ljubica Peles. They were installed in 1964.

The stained glass windows compliment the existing church architecture, the interior design and the wood carved iconostases. The final design and production was made by Martino Studios Inc. from Windsor, Ontario. All designs were constructed by Margaret Cavanaugh. Most of the windows were donated by various organizations, individuals and from the bequest of Mrs. Ljubica Peles. This project began in 1956

and had been worked on until its completion in 1996.

The frescoes were painted in 1978 by Greek painters, who were specialists in Medieval Byzantine – Serbian style. The project was initiated by the Circle of Serbian Sister's, "Kneginja Jelena" and was paid for by donations from various parishioners.

Seating around the walls for the senior members was built and installed by Jevrem Mrkonjic. This project started in 1956 and was completed in 1996.

The special elaborate seat for the Bishop, the façade of the choir loft and the lectern for the Gospel reading were all made by Jovan Milojevic.

Gradually during the 50 years of existence, Gracanica Church has become one of the most beautiful and authentic Serbian churches on this continent.

1. Serbian Church Leader: His Holiness Serbian Patriarch Pavle and His grace Bishop of Canada Georgije. Serbian Church Coat of Arms. Mihajlo Ducic, the first Kum of Gracanica Church in 1952.
2. Holy Gospel used for Holy Days and Sundays.
3. Model of the Gracanica Church, which was built in 1952. Petar

Popovic architect from Toronto designed the Church in the traditional Medieval Serbian Stile.

4. Vestments worn during the Liturgy by Priest and altar boys. Illustrations display the Parish Priests from 1946 to present day.
5. Original icons before the frescoes were painted. Fresco painting in the present day Church.
6. Book of Services for the Saints.
7. Display of the sacred vessels and utensils used during proskomedia.
8. The first wedding in Gracanica Church in 1952 was that of Donald and Deanna Pavlov. Displayed are Mrs. Pavlov's beautiful wedding gown and their candles. Also displayed is a baptism gown and picture of Nikola Drekić. He was the first baby to be baptized in Gracanica in 1952.
9. Some other vessels and utensils used in the Orthodox Church.
10. Stained glass window, one of the older versions that was in the Gracanica Church.
11. Wedding Crowns and Wedding Cup used during the Holy Sacrament of Matrimony.
12. The original Royal Doors from 1952.

The beautiful icons in the exhibit were painted by the local artist Milica Jaksic-Steel in the Serbian medieval stile.