

## KENNEDY, Thomas (1849 – 1916)

**T**homas Kennedy was a Barrie based architect who was one of the earliest practitioners as a professional architect in a rural location. The reason for his success may have been the fact he established branch offices, not only in the Central Ontario towns of Collingwood and Owen Sound, but in the City of Toronto as well, where he managed to secure several commissions.

Nothing is known of Thomas Kennedy's childhood or early professional life. He is first noted in early 1879 at about age 30 among the two or three architects then practicing in Barrie. It seems Thomas Kennedy's success during his thirty-year practice based in Barrie lay in large part in his serving a number of smaller towns as well as Toronto. His impressive design talents and choice of partners were also factors. Although he initially practiced on his own by 1881 he was in a partnership, known as Kennedy & McVittie and later in 1882 he was joined by W.J. Holland who set up an office in Toronto. It seems that Kennedy was responsible for all designs even though he continued to live in Barrie. In 1884 the firm became Kennedy, Gaviller & Holland and by 1885 it became Kennedy & Holland and in 1890 Thomas Kennedy and Company.

Some of the commissions that Kennedy and partners carried out in Toronto include: St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Leslie Street (1883); Orient Hall Masonic Lodge, Queen Street East, Toronto (1885); Lakeview House, Parliament street (now Hotel Winchester, 1887); Cyclorama, Front Street at University (1887); and St. Mary's Separate School, Adelaide Street West, (1889).

Other designs around Ontario include: Central School, Coldwater Street, Orillia (1881); Bothwell's Block, Barrie (1880); Monteith House Hotel, Rosseau (1881); Kennedy's Block, Mississauga and Peter Street, Orillia (1881); Burton Block, King and Bay Street, Midland (1882); Barrie Post Office, Barrie (1882); Great Northern Exhibition Company buildings, Collingwood (1884); Church Street School, Aurora (1885); Reformed Episcopal Church, Barrie (1885); Agricultural Building, Stayner (1886); Presbyterian Church, Stayner (1887); Presbyterian Church and Business Block, Elmvale (1894); Agricultural Building, hockey rink and curling ice, Barrie (1896) and Meaford (1905); Collegiate building and public school, Penetanguishene (1906).