

THE SEVEN WONDERS OF LANARK COUNTY

St. Peter Celestine Church

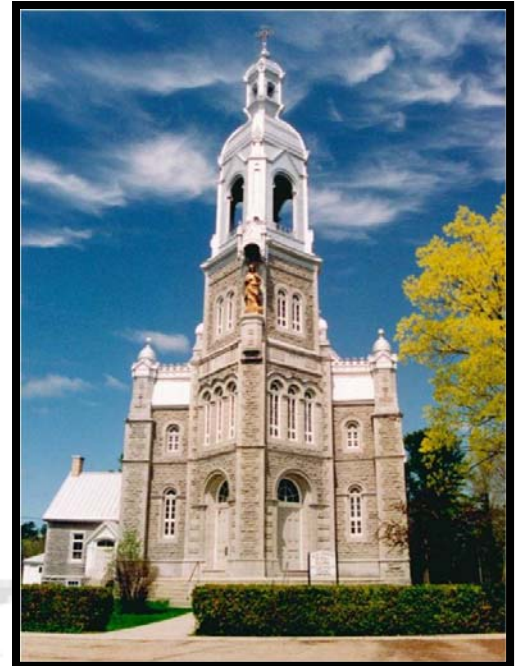
St. Peter Celestine Church in Pakenham well deserves to be one of the Seven Wonders of Lanark County. The church is widely known among connoisseurs of heritage architecture for its fine building and in particular for its superb original interior decor, which survives intact from a century ago and which was professionally restored as part of the church's centennial celebrations in 1993.

St. Peter Celestine sits on the bluff that looks down on the village of Pakenham. From its silver bell tower you can see far across the Mississippi Valley to Almonte and Arnprior. The ashlar limestone of the exterior displays the finest quality of nineteenth-century church architecture, remarkable as the only church in Lanark County built in the French Classic style otherwise unknown in Lanark County.

It is the interior that really sets St. Peter Celestine apart, because not only is the decor unique to Lanark County, it is one of only three Canadian churches known to retain this remarkable



of the Seven Wonders of Lanark. It is in fact one of the more unusual and valuable heritage buildings in the province.



Classic Italianate decoration in *trompe l'oeil* and *faux marbre* technique. The walls are decorated with religious imagery and the windows continue the theme in detailed stained-glass pictures. A striking feature of the nave is the original pulpit, built in the form of a huge, heavily ornamented chalice.

St. Peter Celestine, Pakenham richly deserves the title of one