



### **Ukrainian Church**

St. Nicholas Ukrainian Orthodox Church was moved from the rural community of Arbakka, near Vita, Manitoba, by the Ukrainian Connection of Portage la Prairie in January, 2003.

The first St. Nicholas Church was built in 1914. It was destroyed by fire in 1935 during a fierce electrical storm, but by 1939, the parishioners, then 50 or more, had gathered sufficient resources to erect a new church. It was built in the Byzantine architectural style by master builder Anton Prychun of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

This traditional pioneer Ukrainian Church was built in the shape of a cross with a tall onion shaped dome (banya) on the centre of the roof. The banya is open on the inside and adorned with icons (paintings) of Christ, angels, the apostles and biblical events that symbolize the great spiritual qualities of saints such as sacrifice, humility, devotion, faith and love. The sanctuary has a main alter and a table of oblation. There are beautiful cross-stitched cloths covering the alter. The traditional church art or icons that are placed throughout the building are the items that were salvaged from the original church as it burned.

