

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910780420503321
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Titolo	Awaiting the millennium : the Children of Peace and the village of Hope, 1812-1889 // Albert Schrauwers
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Toronto, [Ontario] ; ; Buffalo, [New York] ; ; London, [England] : , : University of Toronto Press, , 1993 ©1993
ISBN	1-282-05641-7 9786612056413 1-4426-7112-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (327 p.)
Disciplina	289.9
Soggetti	Millennialism - Ontario - History - 19th century Livres numeriques. History Church history e-books. Electronic books. Ontario Church history 19th century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	""Contents""; ""List of Figures and Tables""; ""Acknowledgments""; ""Preface""; ""Photographs""; ""1. The Yonge Street Settlement""; ""The Society of Friends""; ""Quakerism and the State""; ""The Yonge Street Monthly Meeting""; ""A Shared Culture?""; ""2. The Separation of the Children of Peace""; ""David Willson's Ministry""; ""David Willson's Heresy""; ""The Schism""; ""Yonge Street""; ""3. Organization""; ""Egalitarianism, Honour, and Status""; ""Crisis""; ""The Pattern of Discontent""; ""The New Discipline""; ""4. At Home and Abroad""; ""The Village of Hope"" ""A Village Like Any Other?""""An Itinerant Sect""; ""5. Market and Moral Economies""; ""The Annual Reproduction of the Household""; ""The Cyclical Reproduction of Households""; ""Strategizing Individuals in a Moral Economy""; ""6. Ornamenting the Christian Church"";

""Ornamenting the Church""; ""An Irreconcilable Difference""; ""The
 Basis for Consensus""; ""7. The Millennial Kingdom""; ""The Inner Light
 and Religious Authority""; ""Church and State""; ""The Millennial
 Kingdom""; ""What Makes a Millenarian Movement?""; ""8. Upper
 Canadian Politics and the Rebellion of 1837""
 ""Politics and Patronage""""Evangelists or Politicians?""; ""Rebellion?"";
 ""9. Aftermath""; ""Bleeding with the Wounds""; ""Church and State"";
 ""A Church Like Any Other""; ""10. The Children of Peace in Theoretical
 and Historical Perspective""; ""Theoretical Considerations"";
 ""Awakenings and Conflict""; ""Rural Millenarianism""; ""Concluding
 Remarks""; ""Appendixes""; ""1. Active Members of the Yonge Street
 Monthly Meeting""; ""2. Disownments from the Yonge Street Monthly
 Meeting""; ""3. The 'Builders of the Temple'""; ""Notes""; ""Bibliography"";
 ""Name Index""; ""A""; ""B""; ""C""
 ""D""""E""; ""F""; ""G""; ""H""; ""J""; ""K""; ""L""; ""M""; ""O""; ""P""; ""Q"";
 ""R""; ""S""; ""T""; ""U""; ""V""; ""W""; ""Subject Index""; ""A""; ""B""; ""C"";
 ""D""; ""E""; ""F""; ""G""; ""H""; ""I""; ""J""; ""K""; ""L""; ""M""; ""N""; ""O"";
 ""P""; ""Q""; ""R""; ""S""; ""T""; ""U""; ""V""; ""W""; ""Y""; ""Z""

Sommario/riassunto

In a small town north of Toronto there stands a beautiful and unusual church, well known locally as the Sharon Temple. It is the last remaining evidence of a nineteenth-century Quaker sect, the Children of Peace, one of the few examples of a millenarian movement in Canada. Albert Schrauwers explores the history of this intriguing group, which rebuilt Solomon's Temple and prophesied the coming of a Jewish Messiah who would abolish British colonial rule. Schrauwers discusses the social, political, economic, and theological context in which the Children of Peace were established and, for a time, flourished. He identifies three main periods in the development of the sect: their initial break with the Quakers during the War of 1812; their reorganization following completion of the temple in 1832; and their final reorganization following the Rebellion of 1837. Using assessment rolls and a careful analysis of relations of production, he shows how material factors influence the political process by which the sect decided what was sacred and what was not. Ultimately he provides a detailed portrait of a remarkable group of people and the times in which they lived.