

Women elders a first for Norval Presbyterian

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff Writer

It's about time. Women have breached another male bastion, this time in the village of Norval.

Although an accepted Presbyterian church policy since 1956, it wasn't until this past Christmas that Norval Presbyterian elected women elders and women members to its board of management.

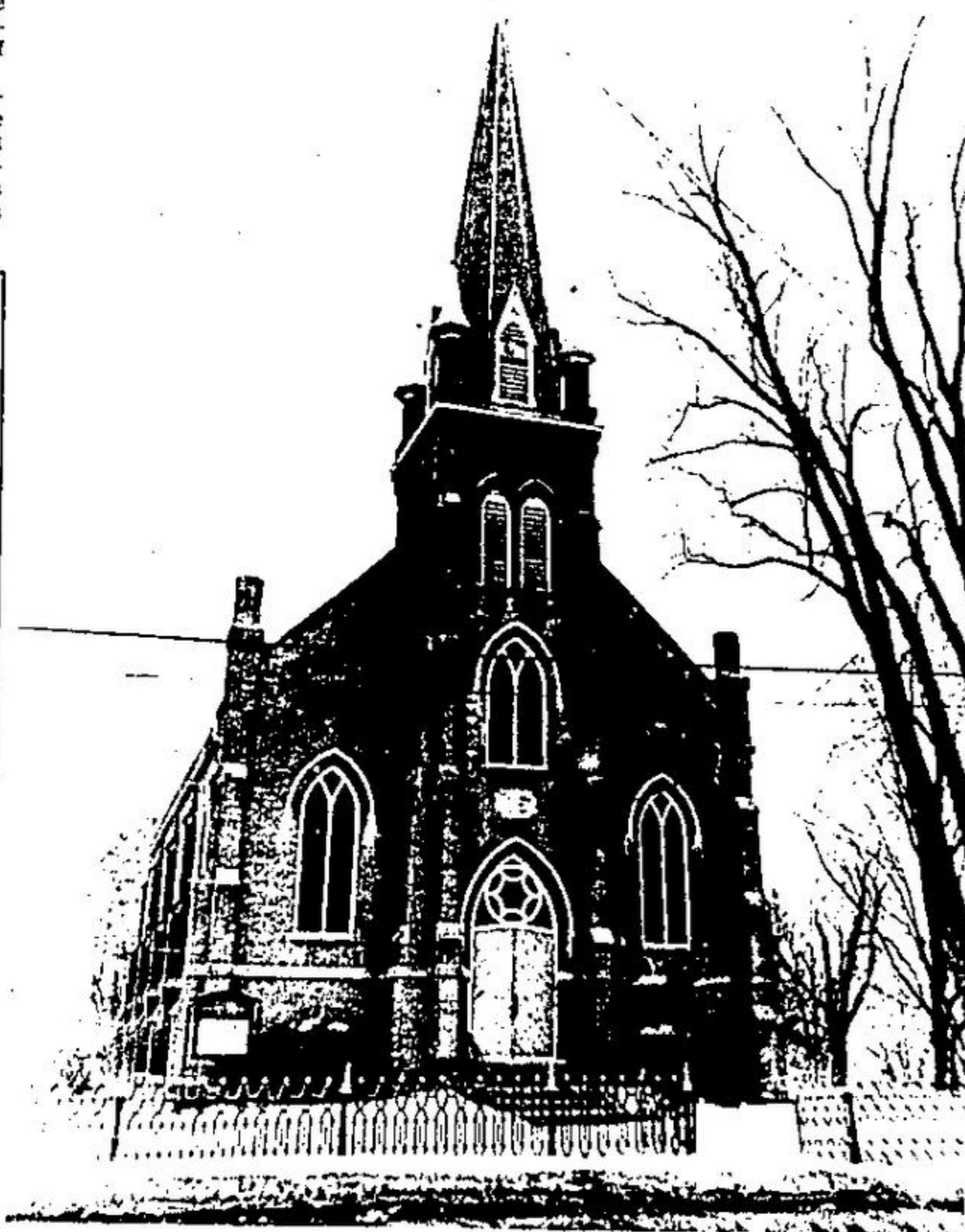


Twenty-eighth in a series

The latest step forward for women saw Gertrude McGee and Karen Carney nominated as elders by the congregation, then elected to the position by the all-male board of elders. Tina Gray and Mary Bond were nominated to the church's board of management. However, Mrs. Bond said she declined the position for personal reasons.

"It's a terrific development. They bring quite a fresh approach," Rev. Ian MacPherson, minister at the church since 1976, said.

He said the two women elders had been selected for their spiritual maturity and readiness out of a dozen



Norval Presbyterian Church

nominees, half of whom were women.

Rev. MacPherson said the church put emphasis on recruiting women for the two openings on the Session. One of the life-long positions was open due to the death of an elder and the other because the congregation had grown large enough to require a ninth elder.

NOT OPEN
Openings for the position don't come up often, considering the term of the position. The last time there were openings was in 1976.

Asked why women hadn't been chosen for the position previously, Rev. MacPherson said it was a long tradition of having men as elders, and it took time to break the ice and introduce women into the Session.

"However, we have two very gifted ladies now," he said proudly.

Mrs. McGee, a member of the Norval church for 37 years, said her husband had been an elder before he passed away six years ago, so she's carrying on the family tradition.

"It's a first for Norval Presbyterian and I think it's terrific," Mrs. McGee said enthusiastically. "I think it's a real challenge and it's something to sit in on their meetings and have their view plus my own views as a woman."

She said there are often big differences between the male and female points of view.

"They're the majority, so you pretty well have to go along with them," Elder McGee said. There are seven men and two women on the Session.

Mrs. Carney, church member for 19 years and mother of two school-age sons, said she was surprised and honored to be chosen as an elder.

VOTED TWICE
"I've voted for elders twice before, but I always voted for a man. It never crossed my mind that a woman would like to accept the position," she

said. "With as much as women do within the church today in its organizations, the congregation seemed to think 'What's wrong with a woman being an elder as well?'"

Mrs. Carney said she doesn't feel intimidated about working with seven men because she has known the other elders for many years.

"We all know each other from way back. Having known one another for so long makes it easier to discuss what's good for the church," she said.

Clerk of Session Harold McClure, 70, was one of the elders voting for having

women elders at Norval Presbyterian Church.

"We thought they could add something to the Session," he said. "It's the trend now."

Church member Margaret Russell, 78, approves the step forward the church has taken. "I think it's fine. I voted for one of them," she said. "I see nothing wrong with it."

Georgetown's Knox Presbyterian Church also has women elders, but they're outnumbered by the men—33 to three.

NOT YET
Rev. Peter Barrow said women just aren't vying for the position when openings

come up. However, he said there are more equal numbers of men and women on the managing board of the church.

"The only stipulation for being an elder is that you're over 21," Rev. Barrow said.

Continued on page C2

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If only your husband knew

Only two more evenings for the FOCUS series at Holy Cross Church in Georgetown. Tonight at 8 p.m., "What Wives Wish Their Husbands Knew About Women". Now that's a topic that will interest all wives and should interest ALL husbands if they care about their wives.

Sorry about the notice last week, the column was placed in the Weekend paper and hence the late news.

Make sure you get out with your spouse to the last two of the Focus series of films by Dr. James Dobson. Next week's title is the same but an extension of the theme. ALL people and faiths welcome.

Holy Cross had made a big move, for which they are to be commended. The letter to council in regards to the proposed application for a licence to operate a strip show in Georgetown is hot news. All of our churches should follow suit, and even private citizens should apply pressure on our elected officials to keep this type of "entertainment" out of Georgetown.

We have no control over what happens in Brampton or Toronto but we have in Georgetown. We don't need strippers, we don't want strippers, and they can be nothing but a detriment to our town and the moral life of our people.

Shows of this type are an invitation to other types of activities that we wish to keep out, and not to expose our youth to. There are enough of our young people getting into bars and lounges and drinking under age in Georgetown now. We can not afford to expose them to any other vice.

A brand new film is to be shown at Maple Avenue Baptist in Georgetown (next Sunday) March 28 at 8:30 p.m. For those churches without evening services, attendance is encouraged. The film is on Hudson Taylor, the pioneer



IN THE CHURCHES

By Bob Ollivier

missionary to China.

It has been said "homosexuality is no longer a sickness - it is an alternative". It

NEVER was a sickness; it was and still is SIN. S-I-N plain and simple.

Homosexuality is another form of Satan worship through

what is named in Ephesians 6:12 and other scriptures. Sexual lust is prevalent today along with the occult, addition of various kinds and religious discontent. True Christians should examine the orders, sometimes called "degrees" of the lodges and organizations they belong to. Many are directly joined to Satan worship, and if these rules or laws are not made public now, they will be in the last days.

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Crossword Puzzle Answer on Page C5

ACROSS: 1 Mediocore; 5 Entrances; 10 Journey; 11 Fare; 12 Talented; 13 Threatening ultimatum (2 wds.); 14 St. Lawrence (abbr.); 15 Hobo; 16 N.Z. parrot; 17 Tramp (2 wds.); 19 Walden; 20 Famed fan dancer; 21 "The Women" playwright; 22 "Crackers"; 24 With — breath; 25 Bacchanal's cry; 26 Sonny; 27 "Fortune in — Eyes"; 28 Sailor's jacket; 31 Work unit; 32 Mohammedan saint; 33 Kickoff device; 34 Grow high-strung; 36 Breakers; 37 Ever-abiding (poet.); 38 Pennsylvania city.

DOWN: 2 Telstar's path; 3 Eloquent (hyph. wd.); 4 Uncluse (poet.); 5 Micro-organism; 6 Zoo attraction; 7 Have a big mouth (4 wds.); 8 Perfume; 9 Was of avail, old African water; 11 Plump; 15 Oseous; 18 Heads; 19 Level; 22 Greek Ceres; 23 Broke one's diet; 24 South African; 26 Salt; 29 Unearthly; 30 Allude; 32 Famous Quaker; 35 Malay-coin; 36 — legs

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