

Norval United history soon in booklet

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff Writer

It's got to be the most church for funerals, says Reverend Walter Ridley, 52.

With a steep set of stairs winding up to the sanctuary, it's tough getting a casket into the Norval United Church.

Built in 1889, a date recorded in colorful bits of stained glass in the church windows that face onto Norval's Guelph Street, the red-brick gothic-style structure opened in January, 1890.



Thirty-first in a series



The long narrow windows facing onto Norval's stretch of Highway 7 give away the age of this church. The Norval United Church was built in 1889, a fact that's recorded in the stained glass windows. Rev. Walter Ridley, minister at the church since 1968, also cares for the Huttonville parish in Brampton and the Home Church parish in Caledon. A theology student helps Rev. Ridley in his work. (Herald photo)

with the Glen Williams and Home United churches. Home Church is north of Georgetown on Sideroad 17.

Arriving in 1966, Rev. Ridley cared for the three parishes until 1971 when the Glen parish joined up with St. John's United Church in Georgetown. Although losing one parish, the Norval pastoral charge took on two others. Thus Rev. Ridley became responsible for the Huttonville and Meadowvale United churches as well as the Norval and Home churches. A theology student was hired to help the minister serve the four country parishes.

The four-church load was decreased in 1978 when the Meadowvale church closed. Now the student takes on one Sunday morning service and Rev. Ridley the other two.

He said the majority of the 200-member congregation are middle-aged families, with Sunday School enrolment small - about 25 children.

BEING OUT

"For being out in the country, it's surprising how small the lot is," Rev. Ridley said, of the church property. It hasn't been increased since May, 1980, when the congregation purchased property at the back of the church for \$60.

Looking through old financial records, Mrs. McLean found that the caretaker was paid an annual salary of \$30 in 1890 and the preacher \$600 in

1893. The records also tell of a garden party being held in 1895 to raise funds for the new church building then in the planning stages.

A member of the young peoples' group at Norval United, Mrs. McLean can remember a winter visit with the Mount Pleasant group at their church.

"We went in a team of horses and a sleigh over what is now Highway 7. I don't remember anything about the meeting but we had an awful lot of fun getting there and back," Mrs. McLean said. "And now, when you think of the traffic on that highway today, and we went there at night on a sleigh," she shook her head.



A man with an adventurous spirit, Rev. Walter Ridley of Norval United Church had his imagination sparked through talking to missionaries while a university student. Applying to the overseas mission board with India and Angola in mind, he was accepted in 1953 for work in Japan. The next ten years of his life were spent providing assistance, through outreach work, to Japanese ministers of the United Church of Christ-Kyodan, as it translates into Japanese.

For hard-boiled eggs, use the oldest ones you have on hand; fresh eggs are harder to peel when cooked.

Sustaining Easter's annual message

There is always controversy over the Easter message. Even the name "Easter" is derived from a pagan deity and non-Christians are always eager to grasp anything that gives them opportunity to destroy.

The name is not important; the message is. This message of new life should carry through the entire year, and the message of Easter is clear: tell others of the Christ who rose again.

Our local churches held special programs over the past weekend, and some of these were of special note. It is hoped that the 30 or so members of the east who performed last Sunday at Hutton Gospel Temple will consider other like programs, possibly even visiting other churches in the area.

As a member of the choir in my own church, it is not possible to visit with others,



IN THE CHURCHES

By Bob Ollivier

yet there are some programs that should not be missed.

Members of Knox Presbyterian Church honored their minister Sunday. The occasion was the tenth anniversary of Rev. Peter Barrow in this pulpit. Rev. Barrow has been very involved in the community during his stay here, along with his wife Carol.

On Easter Sunday, 1922, the bells or carillon of Knox Church were dedicated. This consisted of eight bells, a memorial to Henry Pratt Law-

son made by John Taylor and Company, Bell Founders, Loughborough, England. Two great, great nephews of Henry Pratt Lawson are members of Knox Church today. Knox family supper will be April 18 at 5:30 p.m. with Rev. Bob Spencer as guest speaker.

The Hutton Hills Christian Women's Fellowship is inviting all ladies to dessert and coffee at St. George's Anglican Church Hall for their regular monthly program. The date is

April 20 from 1:15 to 3:15 at a cost of \$3.25. The guest speaker will be Carol Peterson, who will be sharing a tremendous message of personal victory. Mr. Hutton of Hutton nurseries will present a timely program, "Planting your vegetable garden". Marilyn Olson, violinist with the Oakville symphony will entertain musically. Reservations and cancellations by calling Ruth Butrey at 877-4158.

First we have stripjoins to degrade our town; now we have the prospect of "dog races" to ruin the fall fair. Not only that, but it has been "decided" that the fair should also run Sunday. If the fair needs that much bolstering, then it has run its course and should be cancelled.

Personally I don't think that is the case. It must be presented once again as a family day,

and not made into a centre for gambling and a distraction from Sunday worship. Dog races WILL produce gambling even though it's against the law. I have seen these races and there is NOTHING good about them. Write your town council and have them stepped.

Thank you to those who send me news for the "Churches" column. There is a deadline I have to meet and if news could reach me by the Friday prior to publication (Wednesday) it would then be fresh.

Next week, an interview with "Pastor Ed". Be sure to read this one, and share it with others.

Breakfast should meet at least one-fourth of your daily nutritional needs.

The cost of cancer

Continued from page A4

just nine per cent for administration and fund-raising costs.

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TWO MEN

Her grandfather, who died when she was only four, was a certified preacher along with the late Matthew Laidlaw, Mrs. Dunlop's grandfather. The two men were capable of taking on the service if the travelling preacher couldn't make it although they couldn't give communion. The occasions were not so rare when their services would be required, as inclement weather often postponed or delayed the preacher's visit by horse and buggy.

President of the local Women's Institute, Mrs. McLean, 69, is also working on the Tweedsmuir History Book recording the early roots of Norval. The history of Norval United will be included in the fat volume she stores in her refrigerator in case of fire.

When, in 1925 church union came through, by which Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational churches united to form the United Church of Canada, the Norval Methodist Church became Norval United.

At the first meeting following union, it was decided to elect five Presbyterian unionists, five Methodist unionists and one Congregational unionist as managers of the church, Mrs. McLean said. It was an attempt to give fair representation to the new members - about 30 families who joined the Norval congregation at that time. They came mostly from Presbyterian churches which rejected union.

FAIR NUMBER

"A fair number of Presbyterians came over here from across the street (the Norval Presbyterian Church)," Mrs. McLean said.

Following union, the Norval United Church began sharing a minister with the Mount Pleasant United Church, further north on Highway 7. That relationship continued until the Mount Pleasant church closed in 1949.

A three-point pastoral charge was then organized with Norval sharing a minister

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