

# Norval United Church celebrates 100 years

## Gothic church built for just \$4,400

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** On Oct. 29 the Norval United Church will celebrate its 100th anniversary. Here, Dorothy Watson McLean discusses the history of the church in Norval.

By DOROTHY WATSON McLEAN  
Herald Special

In 1850 Norval Methodist Church was in the Georgetown Circuit with a travelling circuit rider conducting the services, most likely in private homes.

The first Methodist Church built in Norval was in 1853 at a cost of approximately 120 pounds on property purchased from Alex McNab for the sum of five shillings. Trustees at that time were James Gooderham, James Forester, Thomas Forester, Thomas Hockley, and Thomas Donaldson.

In 1889 this first brick church was torn down and a new Gothic style red brick church was erected on the same site at a total cost of \$4,400. The minister at this time was the Rev. R. Davey.

Caroline Mercer sang a solo at the opening of the new church in 1889. This was just before she married Aaron Laidlaw.

In 1893 a new charge was formed of Norval, Glen Williams and Terra Cotta until 1925. A house at the bottom of Georgetown hill in Norval was purchased for the parsonage in 1894. This is still the ministers' home.

Trustees in 1913-14 were R. Watson Sr., James Cleave, Ed Greensword, J.W. Switzer, Matthew Laidlaw, Jas. McKinney, J.W. Campbell, and Wesley May.

In 1917 a new roof was put on the parsonage with Mr. Switzer as overseer. Men of the charge were

requested to give one day's work free or to pay for a day's work at \$2 per day.

From the 1890s to the 1920s garden parties with performing talent were a popular method to raise funds.

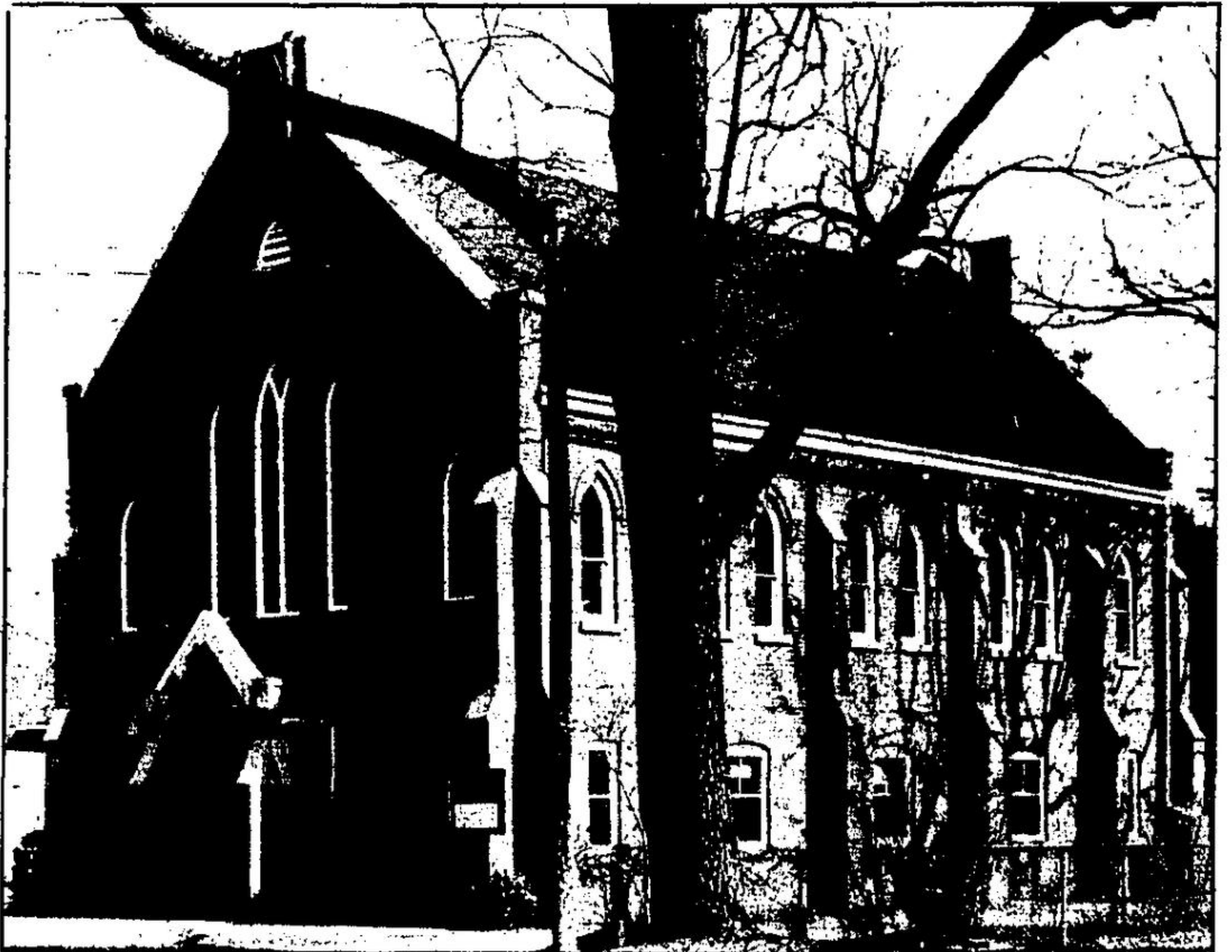
In 1925 the United Church of Canada was formed that included all Methodist Churches of Canada. The board members elected to serve for the first United Church in Norval in the former Methodist Church were Ed. Greensword, Frank Hustler, Aaron Laidlaw, James McKinney, Percy Laidlaw, Norman Cameron, Charles McLaughlin, James Hyatt, Herb Jackson, George Brown and James Barnes. The Rev. W.Y. Douglas was the minister.

In 1929 a new organ necessitated moving the organ from the back of the choir loft to the back of the pulpit so the organist could see the choir.

In 1952 a new Hallman electronic reed organ was installed.

The church has survived two close calls of being destroyed by fire! The first was several years before electricity. One night at choir practice downstairs the coal oil lamp was accidentally knocked off the piano and set fire to the wooden floor. The young people ran from the church for help but

Continued on Page 11



Norval United Church is still standing on the same spot it was built on 100 years ago. The church was erected on the same site as a brick Methodist church built in 1853. On Oct. 29 members of the church will gather for a special service commemorating the 100 year anniversary. (Photo submitted)

26 Guelph St.  
Georgetown, Ont.  
877-9896  
Division of Halton  
Floor Fashions Ltd.

**NOW Available...**

**"FIREWOOD"**  
Seasoned Hardwood

**\$60.00** Face Cord  
**\$235.00** Bush Cord  
— Delivery Extra —

**Willowcreek Nurseries & Garden Centre**

R. R. J GEORGETOWN 5 Sideroad, 3 Km. N. of 401 1/2 Km. W. of Trafalgar Rd. 878-3852

**89's & 90's** SEMI-ANNUAL CLEARANCE

**\$177.88\***

**NO DOWN PAYMENT**

- MICRA
- SENTRA
- PICK-UPS

\*3 DR. MICRA \$7,995 plus PDI tax. Pay as low as \$177.88. 11.9% - 60 mo.

8.9% FINANCING on full price up to 24 MONTHS O.A.C.  
8.9% FINANCING on full price up to 36 MONTHS O.A.C.  
10.9% FINANCING on full price up to 48 MONTHS O.A.C.  
11.9% FINANCING on full price up to 60 MONTHS O.A.C.

**NISSAN** NORTH END NISSAN  
610 MARTIN ST., MILTON — 878-4137

We're Just South of The 401 on Hwy. 25

3 Yr. 60,000 Km. Full Coverage  
5 Yr. 100,000 Km. Power Train  
6 Yr. Unlimited Corrosion Protection  
No Charge — No Deductible

**Join the Reserve**

Build on your civilian career while you earn extra working part-time in the Militia, Canada's army reserve. Live this uniquely exciting experience, work with interesting people; once or twice a week, and selected weekends during the year, with varied opportunities for summer employment and travel.

Join us now! For more information, contact:

The Lorne Scots  
1 Park Street  
Georgetown, Ontario  
L7C 1Y4 877-3311

**THE CANADIAN ARMED FORCES**  
It's also the Reserve

Canada