

NORVAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1838 - 1988



Norval Presbyterian Church has a storied history

By JEAN CRICHTON Herald Special

The congregation of Norval Presbyterian Church is celebrating it's 153rd anniversary this Sunday at 11 a.m. The guest speaker will be Dr. James Farris of Knox College, Toronto.

Assisting in the service will be a soloist and the Choralets - a choir of 40 men. Everyone is invited to join us in fellowship.

A family church picnic has been planned for Saturday afternoon June 1st from 2-7 p.m. on the church lawns. There will be clowns, games and prizes for the young and young at heart, and a walk down memory lane with pictures and stories. Then a barbeque at 4 p.m. (hot dogs, salads,

The present church was built in 1878 and was opened for public worship on Feb. 23rd, 1879. The total cost of the church was approximately \$7,000. The church has come to be recognized as one of the finest samples of Gothic architecture to be found anywhere in Ontario.

Ten years later, the present manse was built just west of the church at a cost of \$2,700. This serves both congregations of Norval and Union.

Over the years each minister and his family brought their own style of worship and friendly interest. No doubt to become the best-known - a few years later were Rev. Ewen Macdonald from Feb. 1926 to 1935 and his wife the famous L.M. Montgomery. Her "Anne of Green Gables" books have been translated into many languages around the world.

While at Norval, she wrote Emily's Quest, Pat of Silver Bush, Magic for Marigold and Mistress Pat.

Many of the Norval residents remember Rev. Leonard elf -1943-1950. His wife Joan taught music lessons during her stay. Rev. Self was keenly interested in sports, and as a result had a rink built in the village and organized hockey, lacrosse and softball. Rev. Self felt that if you can get a child interested in sports, you make contact with the parents,

For More

Details!

brothers, sisters, uncles and aunts and even grandparents. He also claimed music was a universal contact, and many a savage heart could be tamed with music.

In June 1951, Rev. Lockhart Royal graduated from Knox College. He and Audrey stayed with us until his call to Goderich in December 1960, where he ministered until his retirement two years ago.

During his time, a new memorial organ was installed in 1959 by the Keates Organ Co. of Lucan, in memory of those lives sacrificed in World Wars I and II.

These were active years when the Royals were raising a young family at the same time as many of the congregation. Mr. and Mrs.

Royal were greatly loved and respected for their hearty goodwill and friendliness to all in the community as well as the congregation.

In July 1990 the churches of Norval and Union extended the call to the Rev. Mary Campbell B.A. M.Div., following her graduation. With her warmth and enthusiasm, she has endeared herself to everyone in the church family.

Regular church services are at 9:45 Sunday mornings at Norval, with a nursery and Sunday School for the children during the worship hour.

We extend an open invitation to all to join in fellowship with the congregation at Norval.





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