

# Mansonville United Church



The Mansonville United Church has its roots in early Methodism, beginning its congregational life as the Mansonville Methodist Mission in 1873. In those early years the Mission was divided into "Classes" which met in various locations in Mansonville, Vale Perkins, South Bolton, Province Hill, West Hill, Dunkin, Leadville, Owl's Head, McNeil's Crossing and Highwater.

The first church building was completed in Mansonville in 1879 but was destroyed in the fire of 1893. The present building was dedicated in 1894 and the manse completed in early 1897.

In these early years, and until the formation of the United Church of Canada in 1925, the local congregations were supported in part by the Methodist Board of Home Missions. When the Methodist, Congregationalist and the majority of Presbyterian churches joined to become the United Church, the Mansonville area continued to receive support from the new national church. Vale Perkins continued as a separate preaching point until its members voted to close their church and attend at Mansonville. In a reorganization of local area preaching points Bolton Centre joined with Mansonville in the 1960's. In 1969 the Mansonville-Bolton Centre Pastoral Charge became completely self-supporting and remains so today.

Throughout all these years members of this Charge have been involved in all aspects of community life: Town Councils, fraternal lodges, Fish & Game Club, Ski-Doo Club, Potton Library, Golden Age Club, The Royal Canadian Legion, Fire Department, Chambre de Commerce, Girl Guides & Boy Scouts of Canada and

Le Centre de Loisirs des Retraités etc. Mansonville United Church celebrated its centennial in 1973.

The United Church Women have been an important organization in church life for many years and continue to bring a crucial element of spiritual vitality and practical support to their church and to the wider community.

This year the Vale Perkins church was re-opened as a preaching point sharing services with the congregation of St-Paul's Anglican Church. The present Mansonville-Bolton Centre-Vale Perkins Pastoral Charge serves approximately 200 families in the communities that surround Owl's Head Mountain. Through its ministry to teen-age youth open to all residents and its new ministry to week-end skiers, the Charge seeks to serve the whole community.

Since its inception as a congregation in 1873, Mansonville United Church has had an uninterrupted history as a worshipping fellowship. Thirty-five ordained ministers have served the church community during those years.\*\*

## MEMBERS OF THE PRESENT CHURCH COUNCIL - 1982

Chairperson-The Rev. Dennis F. Dwyer

Secretary -Mrs. Hazel Steinbach

Members of the Council: Mrs. Ruth Bailey, Mrs. Hilda Cousens, Mrs. Audrey Clark, Mrs. Jean McNeil, Mr. Rupert Clark, Mrs. Mary Jewett, Mr. Gaylon Davis, Mrs. Bertha Nichols, Mrs. Gilda Clark, Mrs. Faye Davis, Mrs. Marguerite Ommerli, Mrs. Lila McCoy, Mrs. Arlene Hamilton, Mrs. Louise Oliver, Mrs. Eleanor Clark.

\*\* A definitive church history written by Mary F. Bailey is available at the church office. This history covers the years 1873-1973.