

Edith Nutter laid to rest at cathedral service

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

The life of Edith Nutter, widow of former Archbishop Harold Nutter, was celebrated at Christ Church Cathedral Sept. 17.

Edith, in her 98th year, died July 29 in Perth, Ont. where she had lived for 10 years. A small, intimate service for family and friends was held there in early August, but the family wanted to come home for a memorial service and her burial next to her husband, thus the September service.

Dean Geoffrey Hall presided, while the Rev. Keith Joyce, former dean of the Cathedral, preached. The Rev. Bruce Nutter, Edith's son, presided at the Eucharist, assisted by Archbishop David Edwards and the Rev. Craig O'Brien.

Music director Thomas Gonder provided the organ and piano music. Keith accompanied several hymns on the trumpet.

Sally Dibblee was the soloist. She sang *The Eriskay Love Lilt*, from *Songs of the Hebrides*, at the request of Edith, who heard Sally sing it at Sally's mother's funeral.

Daughter-in-law Priscilla, and Father Craig gave readings, while family friend Lynda Wood offered intercessions.

The Nutter family was in attendance: daughter Patricia and her husband, Paul Gervais; son Bruce and his wife, Priscilla; grandson Timothy Hunsley and his wife, Rachel; grandson Christopher Hunsley; and great-grandson Gavin.

The service began with a small processional, led by Geoffrey, with Patricia carrying her mother's ashes.

Timothy offered a family remembrance, noting it was four years almost to the day that the family gathered in exactly the same spot for the funeral of his grandfather, Harold Nutter, bishop of Fredericton from 1971-1989.

But his comments were focussed on his beloved grandmother.

"We are metres from her house, which, as a child, I found very large and a bit spooky," he said. "We're in the province and the community she adored.

"In the 10 years she was in Ontario, she didn't lose touch

with her friends. You were so very special to her.

"Her heart never really left the shores of the St. John River," he said. "There is something so special about this place. Each time I return, I come closer to getting my finger on it."

He remembered a grandmother keenly interested in the lives of her grandsons, every moment with her precious.

"She loved us without terms and conditions, but you probably all know this," he said.

To further understand his grandmother's role as the wife of a bishop, he Googled the

term, finding an article written by a bishop's wife. It described life as a surf board, with constant watching and preparation for the next wave.

"This role is not for the faint of heart," he quoted.

Beyond her roles as daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Edith had a career in social services, convened large gatherings, entertained often, and cooked delicious pies he and his brother remember fondly.

Her last words to her family, earlier this summer, were "I will see you soon," he said.

In his homily, Keith re-

minded those gathered that we do not carry our burdens alone.

"Life will be different from now on, yet God will be with us through Jesus, his son," he said.

He recounted his visits to Perth, when he, Edith and Patricia would have lunch together.

"She was always up on the news of the diocese," he said. "My life is enriched in knowing Edith."

Patricia, when asked about her mother's legacy, noted Edith's love.

"It's a legacy of love held for

this province and the Church, and the extent to which she went to support my father's work in the community and in the world," she said.

"She was an extraordinary woman in many ways."

This being the second time in four years coming home to bury her parents, Patricia found strength in familiarity.

"I love to come," she said. "It felt good coming home, even for this purpose."

Edith's ashes were buried with her husband at the Woodstock Anglican Cemetery on Sept. 18.



MCKNIGHT PHOTOS

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Grandson Timothy Hunsley gives the eulogy; Dean Geoffrey Hall leads the procession, with Edith's daughter, Patricia, carrying her mother's ashes; daughter-in-law Priscilla Nutter reads a lesson; the Rev. Keith Joyce gives the homily.