



Belmont Phones Go Dial

Feb 7th
1965

BELMONT — Dial telephone service and direct distance dialing will be introduced here tomorrow at 2 a.m.

In a final step that will take only two minutes, the telephone system will be changed from manual to dial operation.

All telephone numbers in the community will change. Each telephone user will have the prefix 644 and four other digits.

Total cost of the Belmont project is \$585,000.

Fire emergency and police numbers will also change. The new fire emergency number is 644-1234 and the Ontario Provincial Police number 438-1746.

A supplement to the London-St. Thomas directory contains the new Belmont numbers.

After the changeover, Belmont customers will be able to dial subscribers in Dorchester, London, Lambeth and St. Thomas exchanges free of charge.

The first official call from the Belmont dial telephone was placed by F. R. Taylor who spoke to his daughters in Port Credit, Ontario. Mr. Taylor was the president of the Belmont Telephone Co-Operative Association Limited at the time it was sold to The Bell Telephone Company of Canada. Looking on is Mr. G. F. Monteith, Bell Telephone Manager. (Picture by Beta Photo Studio, London.)

Two little Mapleton girls have ten Grand parents.

Brenda Lea, three years old and Bonnie Jean, six months, are the children of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Johnson of Mapleton. On their father's side they trace back to the 'Moore' family who settled east of Mapleton early in the century. (See Page 8, Mapleton Section, Vol. I)

Front row - Mrs. Donald Johnson, Brenda Lea, Mrs. Charlie Johnson, Mrs. James Moore, Mrs. Earl Sparkman and Bonnie Jean.
Back row - Donald Johnson, James Moore, Earl Sparkman, Llewellyn Sparkman, William Grass,

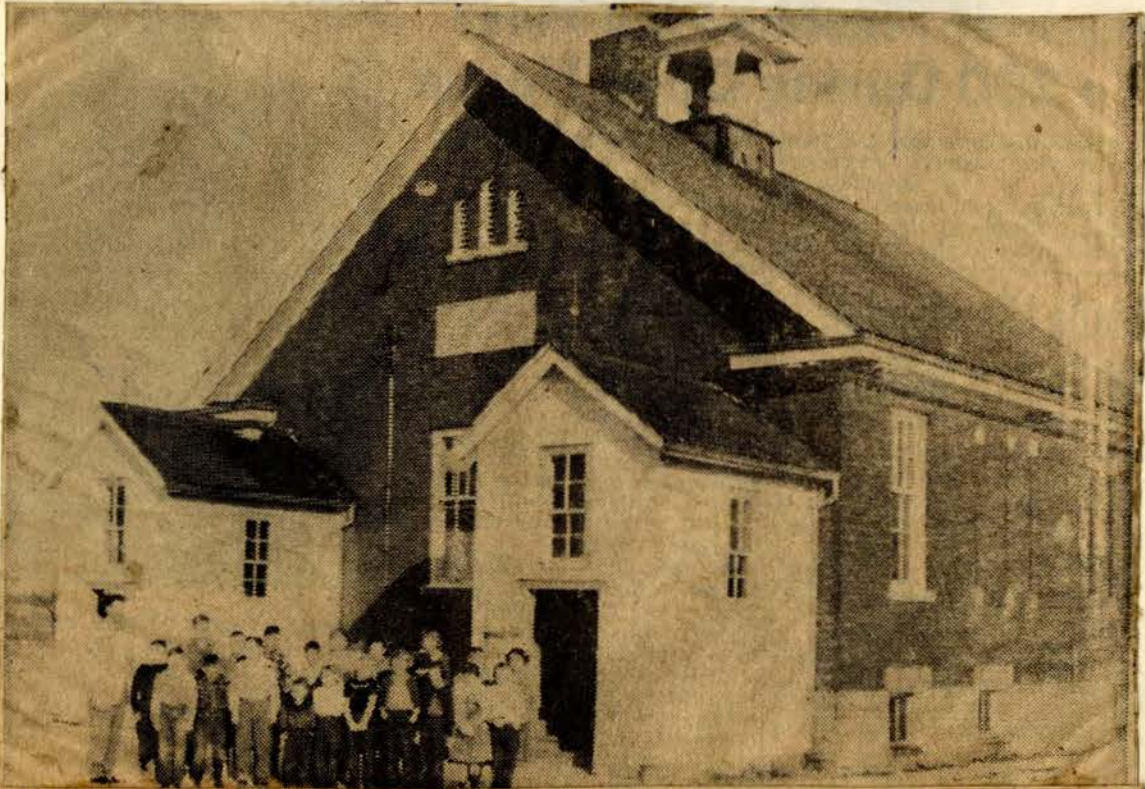


KINGSMILL
SCHOOL



Details of
this School
appear in
Book #1,
of this
Community
History.

This old red brick, one roomed School was torn down when the new one was ready for occupancy. An extra half acre of land had been purchased at the south end of the old grounds to enlarge the playground and while the new School was being built on the newly acquired land, School continued in the old building. Then it was sold by auction. J.C.Dance bought it. Demolition had begun when this picture was taken. Carlton Dance stands in the doorway.



KINGSMILL'S THIRD SCHOOL — Since the first Kingsmill Public School was built of logs in 1857, two brick school houses have been erected to serve the once-flourishing community. The second was built in 1860 and the third (the pres-

ent school), seen above, S.S. 15, Malahide, was erected in 1913. The school accommodates some 30 pupils who are seen in the foreground with the principal, Richard Lucas.—(T.-J. Aylmer Bureau Photos).

Goodbye, Little School

We leave the well-beloved place
Where first we knocked on Learning's door;
Those knowledge-permeated walls
Will ring with thoughts no more.

The little bell, whose lusty peal
Made known the hours of school to all,
Is silent now; on no swift breeze
Its echoes rise and fall.

Those dedicated teachers who
Implanted in young willing minds
The seeds of Truth—did they perchance
Some satisfaction find?

The wings of memory take us far,
Recalling all the dear dead days
Whose great impelling urge was this—
To walk in Learning's ways.

And when the day of work was o'er,
And homeward footsteps gladly turned:
Those little narrow wooded paths
Did many secrets learn.

But Time's relentless tread moves on,
And venerable years are gone;
Yet Progress in its quest for Truth
Must keep advancing on.

So bright new Knowledge Halls arise:
Now school is better then before;
And always come the fresh young minds,
Still yearning as of yore.

Now gently close with love the door
That shelters all those bygone days,
And hold aloft the Better Torch
To light the great New Way

MARGARET WELCH

Teachers of the Kingsmill School
(Continued from Book #1)

Miss Julia Mc Intyre (Mrs. Bruce Brown) was the last teacher in the old school and moved with her classes to the new school in 1913.

Julia Mc Intyre	Sept 1912 to June 1915
G. Kichenburg	Sept. 1915 to June 1918
Leana Smith	Sept 1918 to June 1919
Alec Betterley	Sept 1919 to June 1921
Lilah Tisdale	Sept 1921 to June 1922
Hazel Taylor	Sept 1923 to June 1923
Selma Caverley	Sept 1923 to June 1925
Leis Parkes	Sept 1925 to Feb 1926
Gwen Goff	Sept 1926 to Dec. 1928
Ray Harvey	Jan. 1930 to Jan 1936
Ethel Pratt	Jan. 1936 to June 1937
Austin Charlton	Sept. 1937 to April 1941
Marion Mc Intyre	April 1941 to June 1941
Mrs S. Elgie	Sept. 1941 to June 1942
Marion McLeod	Sept 1943 to June 1943
Mrs. Fred Brown	Sept 1943 to June 1948
A.C.Hutton	Sept 1948 to June 1950
J.L.Woolley	Sept 1950 to June 1951
Annie F. Moore	Sept 1951 to June 1952
Jean Wolfe	Sept. 1952 to June 1953
Betty Farrow	Sept 1953 to June 1954
Carol White	Sept 1954 to June 1955
Richard Lucas	Sept 1955 to June 1957
Irene Gracey	Sept 1957 to June 1966

Footnotes -

Nina (Sewler) Hearst
taught in 1890.

In 1958, when the school was so large they tried at first holding staggered classes with Mr. Clarence Herten and Mrs. Vera Gerred as teachers.

Next Mrs. Gracey undertook it alone but it was too heavy a school and they built the partition and used 2 teachers.

By 1960 the enrollment became too large for one teacher. After much discussion as to whether to build a new school, add an extra room or partition the room that was there, it was decided to partition the room and engage two teachers. Mrs. Gracey remained as the Principal and the Junior room has been served by :-

Jean Arthur	Sept 1961 to April 1962
Jean Walker	April 1962 to June 1962
Mrs. Gerald Newell	Sept 1962 to June 1966

Up to now, this has been a union school section cornering on the Townships of South Dorchester, Yarmouth and Malahide. Beginning in Sept. 1966, S. Dorchester pupils will attend the S. Dorchester Township school Likewise the Yarmouth and Malahide pupils will attend their own area Schools.

On July 14th, 1966, the school property was sold at auction to Mr. Dick Hartemink for \$ 5,900.00

Hear Ye!

Hear Ye!

Hear Ye!

KINGSMILL SCHOOL

Calling all Teachers and pupils from
1857 - 1966

to a reunion at the school on

Sunday Aug. 14

Registration from 11:30 to 1:00 P.M.

1:30 - POT LUCK SMORGASBORD

Bring: Food, Plates, Cups, Cutlery, Lawn Chairs

Beverage to be Provided

Looking forward to seeing you.

Pres.

Mrs. Lorne Orris,
Kingsmill,
Ont.

Recapture Vivid Memories Of Old Kingsmill School Days



END OF AN ERA—More than 300 former students and teachers of the Kingsmill Union School, S. S. 15, Malahide, attended a reunion on Sunday at the old red school house. The school, which has been operating since 1857, closed last spring and students attending will be absorbed into other schools. Mrs. Everett VanPatter, 88, of R. R. 6, Aylmer, oldest teacher present at the reunion, is seen showing some old photographs to last year's Grade 1 students, Sandra Provoost, 6, of Kingsmill (left) and John Teskey, 7, of Kingsmill (centre). Mrs. Everett was a teacher at the school from 1903 until 1906, and a student at the same

KINGSMILL — Memories of days in the old school house of Kingsmill Union, S. S. 15, were brought to vivid life on Sunday when more than 300 former pupils, teachers and friends gathered on the grounds of the school which closed for the last time at the end of the June term.

An address by Mrs. Aleta Dance Sweet gave a comprehensive history of the school, many of its teachers, and life in the old days as it was remembered by the pupils. Text of the address follows:

My Friends, we've come to another of those parting of the ways. Life seems full of such occasions. While some are a sort of relief, others like this one are weighted with sentiment and sorrow. I'm sure that today we all feel more or less sentimental. During our school days here, we developed strong attachments, and affection toward special chums and teachers. The memories will last even though the schools are no more.

We will never know the debt we owe to the first settlers of this and other pioneer communities, for their insistence that their children get the best education they could give them. In some places, before the settlers could get around to building a school and getting a teacher, they had a travelling teacher come in, who walked from home to home and stayed overnight wherever night overtook him, teaching the children and assigning work for them, to be done by the time he made his next rounds. This was done in this section.

As soon as the hard-pressed pioneers could manage it, they built small log schools. The one in this community was built north of here against the next

TEACHERS



Front row - Mrs. Harold Stever 1936 - 37.
Mrs. R. Gracey, 1959 - 66, Mrs. Louise Van
Patter, 1903 - 06, Mrs. Myrtle Newell, 1964
- 66, Mrs. Gwen (Geff) Beal 1926 - 28, Mrs.
Annie Moore 1951 - 52.
Back Row - Dr. Eller McKeller 1917 - 18.
Roy Harvey 1930 - 36.

road on the N.W. corner of what is now the Cox farm, in 1857. The first teacher was Cynthia McDonald and she continued to teach until, four years later, teacher and pupils moved to the new school that preceded this one.

No doubt the people intended the little log building only as a makeshift until they could build a better one, and even judged by modern standards, the new building was a real triumph. It was located on the north end

of the present school grounds. It was a square, roomy building built of red brick with plenty of large windows. It had a belfry on top, housing a bell that could be heard at least a mile.

The heating system was a big box stove situated near the back of the room, with a long length of stove pipe that ran across the whole room to the chimney at the back. In cold weather when it was stoked with huge blocks of wood, while those in the far corners of the room nearly froze,

those who sat close to it fairly roasted. I believe that later, another stove that burned coal came into use, but that one is the recollection of my own school days here.

Anyway, the new school was considered a splendid building and they named it Goldsmith Seminary. Strong seats and desks for two pupils each were fastened securely to the floor with screws. A strong plain table and chair up front for the teacher and a few benches completed the furnishings.



TEACHERS MEET AT REUNION—Former teachers of the Kingsmill Union School went over the past by comparing photographs of the school years when they taught, during the school reunion held on Sunday. From left to right are, Mrs. Gerald Newell of Springfield, last teachers of the school from 1964-1966; Mrs. Harold Stover, Lyons, 1936-1937; Mrs. Everett VanPatter, R. R. 6, Aylmer, 1903-1906; Mrs. Albert Beal, St. Thomas, 1926-1928; Dr. H. Ellar McKellar, St. Thomas, 1917-1918; Roy E. Harvey, Union, 1930-1936; Mrs. Lewis Brown, Kingsmill, supply teacher; Mrs. Wilfrid Faulds, Kingsmill, supply teacher, 1935, and student, 1920-1924; Mrs. Ron Gracey, Springfield, 1959-1966.—(T.-J. Photo)

Many dedicated teachers taught in that old school. In the early days as soon as spring work started there was so much to do that the older boys and sometimes girls stopped school to help with the work at home. Then late in the fall when the work slowed down they went back to school for the winter months. I've heard my mother say that one winter, she taught young men and women, older than herself. She didn't teach in this school, but Mrs. Ansel Bray, the mother of the Bray family who grew up north of Mapleton, taught here. She told of one winter when she had 115 pupils of all ages, the smaller ones crowded three at a desk. Some sat on benches around her table at the front of the room and the rest on benches around the walls.

There isn't a complete record of the earliest teachers. Etta McCreadie was one, she later went as a missionary to South America. There was Mabel (Wicket) Liddle, Alicia (Marshall) Boughner, Angus McIntyre and Arthur Brown both of whom later became doctors), Louise (McKenny) Van Patter, Leone (McKenna) White, J. J. Campbell, Clarence Laidlaw, Edwin Bowes, Minnie Bottrill, Jean (McGreggor) Culham, Gordon Newell, Edith Meikle, Emma Cline, and Julia (McIntyre) Brown who was the last teacher in the old school and moved with her classes in 1913 into the present one.

Following her have been Dr. E. McKellar, Gertrude Eichenburg, Leone Smith, Alex Betterley, Lilah Tisdale, Hazel Taylor, Selma Caverley, Lois Parkes, Nita Pearce, Elsie Taylor, Gwen Goff, Roy Harvey, Ethel Pratt, Austin Charlton, Marion McIntyre, Mrs. Elgie, Marion McLeod, Mrs. Fred Brown, A. C. Hutton, J. L. Wooley, Annie F. Moore, Jean Wolfe, Betty Farrow, Carol White, Richard Lucas, Irene Gracey.

In 1960, the enrollment became too large for one teacher. After much discussion on whether to build a new school, to build an additional room on this one, or build a partition in in this one—they built the partition. Mrs. Gracey has continued as the principal and the teachers in the junior room have been Jean Arthur, Jean Walker and Mrs. Myrtle Newell.

Both schools have been used for other purposes. From my earliest recollection Sunday School was held in the old school

on Sunday afternoons and continued for some years in the present building. Sunday School superintendents have been J. C. Dance (my father) S. L. Parkes, Harvey Martindale, Austin Charlton and Lloyd Laidlaw.

At one time church services were held in the old school. In the horse and buggy days, people in this community seemed a long way from a church.

The Methodist church organized a three point charge, which included Orwell, Kingsmill and Crossley Hunter. This plan continued, I believe, until the Methodist Church was absorbed into the United Church and other arrangements were made.

Then again in quite recent years, Rev. Roy Hall, St. Thomas, experimented with holding church services in this building for a while.

Back in the '30's a flourishing Literary Society met in the evening every two weeks. It was sparked by rousing debates and oratory contests which aroused considerable interest and enthusiasm.

Card parties have often been held here, sometimes sponsored by the Kingsmill group of the W.I. and sometimes by the teachers. They served a double purpose of an evening's entertainment for the community and a means of raising money to take care of the cost of a bus trip for the children, and to buy tables and other necessary items to use in the school.

The Institute group put on a

supper once a year, to raise funds as well as for good fellowship. Then also showers for bridal couples, and other gatherings of community interest have been held here.

Apparently there is no record of what became of the little log school. Although the second school was a well - built building with many more good years in it, the Department of Education was demanding larger playgrounds and furnace - heated classrooms, with separate entrances for boys and girls and a teacher's office. In 1912 the school board bought another one half acre adjoining the old school grounds and began building the new school on it while classes continued in the old school. When the new school was ready, J. C. Dance bought the old building and tore it down and removed it. For 53 years classes have been conducted in this building and the children have had an acre of ground instead of one half an acre to play on.

Now it too goes the way of all the earth. Call it progress, if you will. The children who studied together and played together here last year will go by bus in September to several different schools and we wish them well.

On July 14th this building was sold at auction to Mr. Hartamink across the road and we wish him well too. He can have the building and the land but we will keep our memories.

The Committee who planned the Reunion - Left to right



Mrs. L. Orris
W. Herbert,
Mrs. M. Ashton
Mrs. Audrey
Faulds,
Mel. Ashton,
Mrs. Gretta
Teskey.

Absent when the
picture was
taken -

Mrs. W. Herbert.

Kingsmill School Days



Because the weather was threatening, a large tent had been set up and in it, on long tables the smorgasbord was spread. People piled their plates and found seats to do justice to it.

With Mrs Gracey as Chairlady,

Letters, acknowledging their invitation to the reunion, from former pupils were read from Maud (Miller) Bingham, Grosse Point, Mich., Don Houghton, St. Thomas, Minnie Beckett, Tillsonburg, Mabel (Dance) Elves, Calgary, Bertha (Cenden) Knight, Saskatchewan. A poem written for the occasion, composed by Myrl (Cenden) McCulley of Pontiac, was read. Short addresses were made by two former teachers, Dr. Eller McKeller and Roy Harvey.

Gifts were presented to special guests. left to right. Robert Ferguson of Pontiac, who came the farthest, Charles Caswell, Old-
est pupil, ^(man) Mrs. E. VanPatter, Oldest teacher (lady), Mrs. Mabel Stafford Smythe, Old-
est pupil (lady), Dr. Eller McKeller, eldest teacher (man).



Kingsmill Public School

June - 1910

By J. P. Farrah.



Back row - Eva Herbert, Veda Brown, Winnie Loucks, Alta Homes, Stella Crossett, Sadie Condon, Carman Hoover, Lloyd Potts, Rollie Farrah, Roy Crossett, Clarence Brown.

Second row - Myrl Condon, Viola Potts, Hazel Holmes, Gertrude Parkes, Lulu Brooks, Vera Ashron, Marie Farrah, Arthur Parkes, Graham Lloyd, Gordon Potts, Herman Ralf, Harold Wagner, Jack Condon.

Third Row --, Florence Ashford, Gladys Charlton, Gladys Brooks, Ida Lloyd, Harold Jamieson, Mabel Walters, Vera Brandow, Jay Lloyd, Kenneth Condon, Ormand Derrough, Harold Stuart, Norman Derrough. --

Bottom row - Leslie Wagner, Clifford Brandow, Willie Potts, Wilfred Herbert, Hector Condon, Lois Parkes, Irene Stuart, Evelyn Jamieson, Ensley Walters, Clarke Follick,

Emma Cline (Teacher)

The last class in the old School.
1913. ✓



Back row - Carman Hoover, Viola Potts, Ruth Crosssett,
Vera Ashton, Marie Farrah, Ida Lloyd, Gladys Brooks,
Florence Ashford, Arthur Parkes, Gordon Potts.

Second row - Melbourne Ashton, Hazel Holmes, Gertrude Parkes,
Gladys Charlton, Orman Derrough, Norman Derrough, Sadie
Condon, Violet Cline, Myrl Condon, Emma Cline (Teacher).

Third Row - Tom Crosssett, Kenneth Condon, Leslie Wagner,
Horace Lloyd, Irene Stuart, Lydia Lloyd, Lillian Jamieson,
Lois Parkes, Wilfred Dalton, Jack Condon.

Front Row - Kenneth Mc.Clintock, William Potts, Arthur
Derrough, Hector Condon, Harold Jamieson, Stanley Wagner,
Clifford Brandow, Wilfred Herbert, Harvey Dalton.