

money to achieve university training, and three of our teachers Dr. John Oille, Dr. Herman Sanderson, and Dr. Mayle ^{to} ~~Futon~~ used this means. Miss Phoebe Scott taught in 1885 and 1904, and then finished a distinguished career teaching in Toronto. Miss Bessie Haight taught in 1901, and is now living in Sherbrooke. Until a year or so ago she was driving her own car and visited friends in this community. Of course marriage was the pitfall of many of our teachers, but fortunately Miss Effie McFarlain was induced by Mr. Harold Nichols to remain in our Section, and for the past thirty years has served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Board. Mr. Keith Axford our present teacher has the distinction of the longest service as teacher, this being his twelfth year.

There are many others whose services should be remembered. Janitoring is a very important service in school operations, and when we read that Frank Schooley and his brother Arnold, swept the school and started the fires for one year for \$18.35, one feels that at least a posthumous recognition is due them. The records of the annual meetings are records of faithful and unselfish efforts to serve on behalf of nearly all the heads of families within the Section, and certainly deserve our utmost appreciation.

The whole purpose of a school is the education of our children. I am sure our Mr. Axford would be aghast, if he were confronted with the problems of sixty years ago. In the first place, he would be faced with an extra class, the equivalent of grade 9. Secondly, it was a common practice for the older pupils to help on the farms, and therefore attend school for the winter months only. In the 1904 register there were eleven pupils of 16 years and over. Even seating the pupils must have been a problem. The roll of 1904 contained 81 names.

The pupils of section 13 were the product of hard working thrifty farmers, and because employment could generally be found on the farms, remained there. But on examination of some of the old registers, I was lead to disquieting conclusions of the enrollment of 1902. Of 71 pupils, only one graduated from any university. What is the reason for this lack of desire for higher education? It cannot, ^{be} ~~be~~ economics because the land of this section is unequalled in the country. It is possible that the isolation of the section from many urban contacts may be the explanation. Whatever it has been, the fact remains that our one roomed school has failed. ^{to produce university graduates} ~~it~~ has produced no records of delinquency, neither has it produced any Einstein's or Galbraith's. We may deplore the closing of our school, yet, if a consolidated school can provide a mre valuable educational program, if it can through wider social contacts, and through the stimulus that the competition of larger groups may create, enhance the ambition of our pupils for higher education, we should be well satisfied.

} Earl Cole
} Walter Rogers

Official Opening

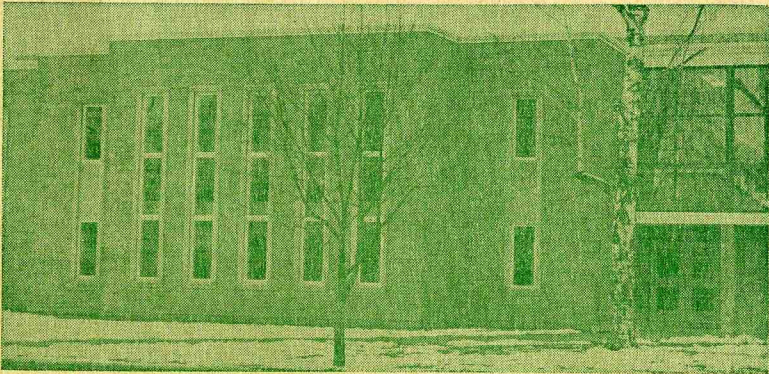
McGREGOR PUBLIC SCHOOL

(New Addition)

Monday, December 1st, 1969

8:00 p.m.

AYLMER, ONTARIO



ELGIN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

McGREGOR PUBLIC SCHOOL

The first school in Aylmer was opened by a Mr. Silcox in an old log building during the year 1818.

In 1870 the South brick school was completed and the frame school was sold, part of it to be used as a house. (The 1870 school was the building demolished in the summer of 1968 to make room for the present structure.)

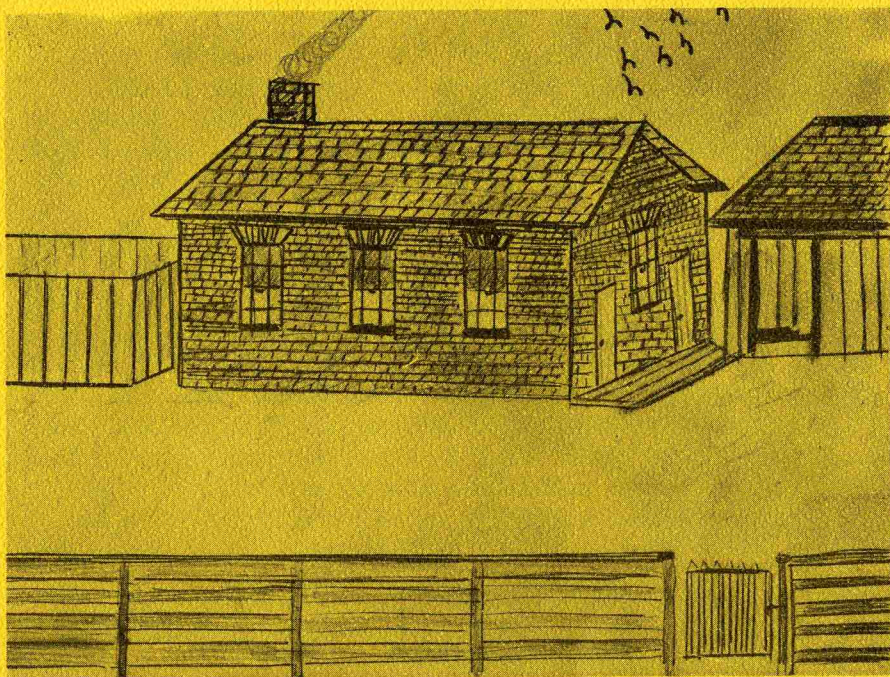
In 1873 the High School was established in the upper north room and hall of the South building where it remained until the completion of the north part of the North building three years later. Ten years later the High School building was sold for Public School use for \$3,500. 1887 saw the contract let for a new school — the south portion of the North building — and 1888 witnessed its dedication. This construction added \$4,225 to the value of the North building. (This building is the one currently under demolition.)

Mr. D. N. McGregor, the revered principal for whom this school is named, received his appointment in 1908. During his 38 years as principal, and for nearly six years thereafter, the ever-increasing enrolment was still accommodated in the North and South buildings.

On March 10, 1952, the south portion of the present building was officially opened by Mr. McGregor and it and the two older buildings became known as McGregor Public School.

Sixteen years later the two older buildings were condemned and plans were begun for the construction of the open area concept school which you have come to see and dedicate tonight. May it serve our community as long and faithfully as its predecessors.

Glen School



1849 - 1904



1904 - 1969

S.S. 23 Yarmouth

SCHOOL SECTION No. 23, YARMOUTH

The Glen School

It is believed, the original school was built of logs, and located on the corner of Concession 10 and what is now known as Radio Road, on land owned by the Baker family. Little is known of this early school.

The records show that a Crown Deed was given Dec. 15, 1848, for land for a school on the south half of Lot 12, Concession 10, the corner of Angus McIntyre's farm. The first school was a brick structure built in 1849. Among the settlers arriving in the early thirties, was John McGregor, who had taught school in Scotland, and no doubt made use of his education here. This part of the Section was known as "Glen Lyon," the McGregor's being responsible for the name - so called for that particular part of Scotland - their former home. Hence, the name "Glen School."

It is probable, that the land was given by the McIntyre family, to the Section. However, from county records under the name of "Award," we find that in 1877 an arbitration board consisting of A. F. Butler, Malcolm McGregor, and Thomas Penhale, reached a decision to pay Donald McIntyre \$15.00 for this piece of property, which consisted of slightly over 10 square rods. This was probably done, so that a record of the transfer of land, might be made in the Registry Office.

As far as we have determined, it was the custom for teachers during the period of 1848 to be paid a certain sum for each pupil. This could be paid in many different forms. May be it was a bushel of grain, or some garden vegetables. Money was scarce. The teacher boarded in turn at the home of the pupils. There was no privilege of choosing the boarding place given. The families that had the most children boarded the teacher the longest period.

At the time of 1848, the people that were chosen or suggested to be teachers were sent to London, Ont., and were lined up and questioned by the County Superintendent. This was done at intervals to give the necessary credentials. Around the 1860's the teachers "to be" attended the Collegiate in St. Thomas, and then attended a model school in St. Thomas. After three years

of teaching, in order to become a qualified teacher, it was necessary to go to the Normal School, in Toronto. Later a Normal School came to London. The old model school was eliminated.

A Special Meeting of the ratepayers was called in June, 1888, to decide whether to repair the schoolhouse or build a new one. It was moved by Mathew Gilbert, and seconded by James Westlake, that the trustees be authorized to thoroughly repair the building. During the summer, \$300.00 was spent on repairs.

It was customary during those early years for the parents of pupils and guests from neighbouring Sections to visit the school and attend Public Examinations, often as many as 70 or more persons registering at these functions. The following is a report of one of those visits, taken from the Visitor's Book of that time:- Quote -

June 20th, 1881.

"Called at the school today, and had the felicity of hearing one of the classes in Grammar; was much pleased with the good attention, and aptitude of the scholars, showing the good training which they have had under Miss Parlee's instruction."

signed: B. Raymour
B. Lewis

In 1884, the teacher's salary was \$350.00, and in 1886, it was \$400.00

In 1902, \$130.00 was paid in award to S.S. No. 18, Yarmouth, for a change of property from S.S. No. 23, to S.S. No. 18.

On March 14, 1904, a Special Meeting of ratepayers was called to decide whether to repair the old school or build a new one. The trustees, John Gilbert, John J. Smith and Neil C. McIntyre were instructed to build a new school. The plan drawn by N. R. Darrach, Architect, St. Thomas, was approved, and the contract awarded to Archibald Palmer. Debentures were issued for a term of five years for payment. In 1904, additional land was purchased from the McGregor farm. A modern red-pressed brick structure with slate roof was built, and heated by a hot-air furnace in the basement. As years went by, the school was fully modernized with installation of hydro, modern sanitation, etc.

Beech and maple wood was required for the furnace. It was stipulated to be 16" long, and piled in basement by Sept. 1st each year. It was furnished by neighbours at \$2.15 per cord in 1904, to \$6.50 per cord in 1918. Six cords of dry wood, and ten cords of green wood were needed. In 1918, 6 tons of coal were bought. In 1954, a new forced-air furnace, using fuel oil, was installed.

In 1909, a wooden flag pole was erected in the yard in front of the schoolhouse.

A Literary Society, to meet on Friday evening, every two weeks, with an annual membership of 25¢, was formed in 1921, with these officers: President - J. Taylor; Vice President - Ida Lewis; Secretary - C. L. Walker; Treasurer - Mary Campbell.

In 1922, the School Fair activity was started, and the many pupils took great pride and interest in this.

In 1922, a venture was started for nurse inspection, but in 1944, the services of the School Nurse for Elgin County was made available.

In 1930, more land was purchased at a cost of \$100.00.

At the early beginning, there were four classes in the Public School operating for the students. The Fifth Class was given to help those that could not conveniently go to St. Thomas for more studies. Through the years the Junior and Senior Books became Grades I to Grades VIII. The Grades came throughout the early thirties. The final High School Entrance Examinations at one time were set by the Department of Education for the whole Province, and were written in a central area. The pupils from the Glen School wrote the Examination in June, at Belmont, Aylmer and Yarmouth Heights. In 1934, the Examinations were written in their own school, under the supervision of their own teacher. By 1938, the pupils passed on their teacher's recommend.

Pencils and scribblers have been supplied by the School Board since 1936, and text books have been supplied since 1951.

The earliest text books used in the middle of the 19th century were the Bible, the English Reader, Cobb's Spelling Book, and Daybald's Arithmetic.

From this basic beginning, we have now reached the era of countless sets of beautifully bound and well illustrated volumes for every subject.

In 1944, because of low attendance, the question of closing the school was raised, but, a Special Meeting of the ratepayers was called, and the trustees assured the Department of Education, that the attendance of 5 would be increased to 8, the required number, to keep the school open.

In 1945, provision was made for hot lunches for the pupils, and further equipment provided in 1960.

In 1954, a well was drilled, 305 feet deep, at a cost of \$1,525.00; and a pump and equipment cost \$550.00. An addition of a teacher's room, boy's and girl's toilets and washrooms and corridor, of brick veneer was added to the north side of the school at a cost of \$10,000.00. A new gate and fence was built. Aluminum windows were installed in 1964.

Pupils attending the Glen School in 1962, will remember the presence of "Bats" in the attic of the school. These were of the order of "Chirotera" and the high-pitched sounds they emitted were disturbing to the students. The Abell Waco Ltd. Company of London, Ont. removed them at a price of \$150.00.

In 1905, the janitor was paid \$25.00; in 1913, \$50.00; and in 1964, \$400.00.

The teacher's salary in 1923 was \$1,000.00; in 1949, \$1,700.00; in 1963, \$3,500.00; and in 1968, \$6,000.00.

The "Glen Women's Institute: was formed in 1963, and has contributed much to the equipment of the school as well as the social life of the community.

Music instruction began in the early thirties at a salary of \$5.00 a month. A piano was bought in 1921 at a cost of \$250.00, a radio in 1948, and a television in 1964.

The yearly school meeting was held as close to Jan. 1st as possible in the school at 9 a.m. Later these meetings were held at 1 p.m., and later at 8 p.m. The trustees, secretary-treasurer, and ratepayers met to discuss needed improvements, fuel, finances, etc. A

May meeting arranged the teaching personnel.

Tribute should be paid to the many people who through the years gave their time and services willingly and gratis that the Glen School and its many students might serve their community well.

Also, to those students who have passed through the doors of the little red "Glen School" we give all of them praise and sincere appreciation.

In 1965, the Yarmouth Area School Board, comprised of 5 members and a secretary-treasurer, elected by the Township ratepayers at the Municipal election, replaced the 3 member trustee school board, which had served the rural schools since they were organized over 100 years ago.

In 1968, an Elgin County Board of 14 men, 2 women and a secretary-treasurer, was formed to carry out the functioning of the Elgin County Board of Education.

Compiled by -

Mrs. C. M. Williams

Mrs. R. G. Bushell

Pictures by -

Miss Myrtle Paddon

(pencil sketch - age 9)

Mrs. J. R. Joiner

July 21, 1969.

ONE ROOM SCHOOL BOARD COME TO AN END

by - Keith V. Davis

One room school board come to an end on Dec. 31, 1964, and the Township School Area Board took over Jan. 1, 1965, consisting of five men elected by the ratepayers. Those on the School Area Board at that time were Chairman Bob Davis, Vice Chairman Stan Cook, Harvey Nicholson, Ed Trimble, Cecil Callowhill and Secretary Eleanor Smith. On April 29, 1965, R. Davis advised the Board to give serious thought to building

a Central School in North Yarmouth. They looked for sites.

On Oct. 27, 1965 they decided to build a Central School for the whole of Yarmouth to be built in South Yarmouth.

New School Board elected in Dec. 1965, and took office in Jan. 1966, consisting of Chairman Stan Cook, Vice Chairman Keith Davis, and other members Clare Greer, Harvey Nicholson, Ed Trimble and Secretary Eleanor Smith, elected for two years.

Building of Central School postponed at meeting in Feb. 17.

On April 13, 1966 school to be built in North Yarmouth.

On April 26, 1966 about 50 ratepayers from North Yarmouth attended a meeting to have school built in area closer to S.S. 23 instead of Yarmouth Centre area.

Oct. 18, 1966 sites were looked for in North Yarmouth.

On Nov. 29, 1966 plans for school were drawn up.

Nov. 1, 1967 no school in North Yarmouth unless Belmont included.

On Nov. 7, 1967 three farms optioned - Garton, Dykstra, Andrew Paddon.

New Board elected for 1968 with Stan Cook Chairman, Vice Chairman Keith Davis, Pat Martin, Harvey Nicholson, Don Mannell from Yarmouth and from Belmont Frank Pogue and Roy Barker and Secretary Eleanor Smith.

Jan. 31, 1968 school to be built at New Sarum and in Feb. 5, 1968 property and building approved.

April 17, 1968 it was passed that the three schools in North Yarmouth be graded with 7 & 8 going to S.S. 23; 1, 2 & 3 at S.S. 24; and 4, 5 & 6 at S.S. 27 and all children bussed.

May 23, 1968 plans were approved. July 17, 1968 final approval from Dept. of Education.

Aug. 28, 1968 Gilvesy Construction of Tillsonburg was awarded the contract. Sept. 5, 1968 construction

started on the Central School. On Oct. 2nd, final approval came from the Municipal Board.

Township School Area Board ended on Dec. 31, 1968. Elgin County Board took over on Jan. 1, 1969, and S.S. 23 closed June 27th, 1969.

MUSIC TEACHERS

James Medlyn

Mrs. Grandy

Miss Marilyn Hiepleh

Carl Edmonds

Mrs. Betty Lou Tillotson

Mrs. Helen Lancaster

Mrs. Betty Lou Temyik

JANITORS

C. Harvey Fishbach, Neil C. McIntyre, Duncan J. McIntyre, Patrick Ryan, Earlton Campbell, Willie Blewett, Lorne Campbell, Barney McKierman, J. F. Campbell, Gordon Fishbach, Mrs. Margaret McGregor, Mrs. Helen Fishbach, Mrs. Nora Campbell, Mrs. Jessie Campbell, Douglas Campbell, Miss Jean Campbell.

LIST OF TRUSTEES

1879-1904

A. J. Black, A. Douglas, Neil C. McIntyre, W. Blewett, A. C. McBain, A. J. McIntyre, Wm. Curtis, D. J. Lewis, J. C. Smith, John Ewin, John Gilbert, W. A. Woodham, Wm. Paddon, John J. McGregor, John D. Ferguson, John J. Smith.

1905-1964

Neil C. McIntyre, John A. Campbell, Nelson Penhale, C. Harvey Fishbach, Gilbert Taylor, Duncan G. Campbell, John D. Ferguson, Neil Curtis, Cedric F. Evans, Colin McIntyre, Roscoe R. Penhale, Angus Miller, J. F. Campbell, Mervyn W. Paddon, John C. Penhale, Bruce Smith, Russell McCallum, Robert Van Patter, Lorne Campbell, Carl Fishbach, John L. Gilbert, Robert Martin, Stanley Curtis, Earl Grawburg, Keith Davis, Calvin Watson, Mrs. Betty Elms, Morris Taylor.

SECRETARY-TREASURERS

1905-1964

Neil C. McIntyre, Duncan C. McBain, Duncan J. McIntyre, Angus Miller, Cedric F. Evans, Donna Evans (Mrs. R. Bushell), Mrs. Alma Penhale.

INSPECTORS

1882-1969

A. B. Butler, Welbern Atkins, J. A. Taylor, J. C. Smith,
A. D. McColl, Earl Rawlings.

Assistant Inspectors: A. B. Lucas, G. Gardner, Mr.
Preuter, K. D. Hall, J. F. Lawless,
F. S. Cooper.

LIST OF TEACHERS

1870-1904

Mary Sinclair - about 1870
Flora Black
Miss Potticary
Miss McColl
Archie McCallum
- Later Prof. A. B. McCallum
Miss McCordic
George Joyce
Angus McIntyre
- later Dr. Angus McIntyre
Clara Wigley 1879
Edith Parlee 80-81
George Emery 82
Hugh McIntyre 83-84
- later Dr. Hugh McIntyre
Miss Saxton 85
Wm. L. McKenzie 86
Archie Sproule 87
Colin Munro 88
- later Dr. Colin Munro
John G. Taylor) 89
John F. Turner)
John W. Emery 90-92
Annie Locke 93
Louie McPherson 94
Carrie Campbell 95-98
Annie V. Milloy)
Florence Nichol)
Lottie Gilliland) 99
Edith Danbrook)
Flora Buchanan 1900
Louise McKenny 01-02
Miss Margaret Lawson) 03
William Rapelje)
Jennie McGregor)
Miss Minnie McGregor 04

1904-1969

Miss Minnie McGregor 1904-05
Miss Hazel J. Gilbert 06-07
Donald G. Smith 08-11
Miss Evelyn Clark 12-13
Miss Mabel Baker 13-14
Miss Leola Williams 14-16
Miss Eva Dennis 16-17
Miss Mary Benner 18-19
Miss Hazel Taylor 19-20
Miss Ida B. Lewis 20-23
Miss Mary B. Campbell 23-29
Miss Jean E. McCallum 29-30
Miss Edith Kilpatrick 30-34
Miss Kathleen Armstrong 34-35
Clarence Horton part 34
Horace McGregor pt. 35-36
Miss Mary B. Campbell 36-37
Miss Dorothy Kilpatrick 37-39
Miss Eleanor Skinner 39-40
Miss Mary Pardy 40-42
Miss Bonnie Bissett 42-43
Miss Barbara McCallum 43-44
Mrs. Annie May Meek 44-50
Mrs. Caroline Elgie 50-54
Mrs. J. Audrey Faulds 54-61
Supply teachers in 1958
Mrs. Dorothy Cook)
Mrs. Hilda Brown)
Mrs. Jean Gredig)
Mrs. E. Anne Anderson
Churchill 61-65
Mrs. Lorna Lozon 65-68
Supply teachers in 1968
Mrs. Vernice Bates)
Mrs. E. Anne Churchill)
Mrs. Sharon Smithson
Scheiding 68-69