

## **Our Heritage**

### **History Of Cook's School**

Compiled by Grades 5 & 6,  
Education Week, April 9-April 13, 1973

#### **Building**

School Section No. 4 is fortunate in having records of school administration dating back to 1871. These records contain minutes of meetings and disbursements, tracing a story of the growth of the school section from the days when it was almost entirely a rural area.

With Thos. McGuire, Chairman, and Geo. Beatty, Secretary, a meeting of Ratepayers on October 30, 1872, authorized the Trustees to apply to Municipal Council to pass a By-Law for the purpose of raising sufficient funds to purchase a site and build a new school house, principal and interest to be paid off in three years.

Cook's School takes its name from the site of  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an acre purchased from John Cook in 1872 for \$80.00. The builder of the school, John Thomson, appears to have received the sum of \$1,060.00 for his work.

This, however, was not the first school in the section for receipts of 1973 show the sum of \$6.00 being received for the 'old school lot' and \$29.50 for the 'old school building', which were located on the south-west corner of the Danforth Road and Highway No. 45.

In 1895, the Trustees, acting from the pressures of economizing or from pioneer independence, decided "to go no further than they are compelled to by the Inspector towards repairs to the school house". The chairman of an early Annual Meeting affixed his signature to the minutes in the form of an "X".

Water for the school was purchased from a Mr. Stone for \$3.00 per year until 1900 when D.J. Smith was paid the sum of \$25.20 to dig a well and install a pump. In 1932, the Trustees were authorized to investigate the cost of putting in hydro but it was not until December of 1938 that the hydro was turned on at a cost of \$100.00.

The school site was enlarged by an acre in 1924 and in 1960, an additional 2.06 acres were purchased. In 1953, an additional classroom, wash-rooms, teacher's room and oil furnace were added to the school. Mr. George Turner was the builder at a price of \$22, 738.40. Trustees during this period were H. Lang, G. Hie and C. McGregor.

In 1961, the School Board (Mr. Martin Lang, Mr. Clifford Hie and Mr. Jack Allin (resigned Dec. 1961) Mr. S.C. Weller with Mrs. Robert Cooper as Secretary) added two more rooms at the west end of the existing rooms. The original room was used for

meetings and as a gymnasium until September 1967 when it was converted to a Kindergarten room.

### Secretaries And Trustees:

Mr. Frank Benedict acted Trustee and Secretary of the Board for 50 years. After he retired Mrs. Robert Cooper was secretary of the Board until School No. 4 joined Hamilton Township under a Township Board in 1966. Some of the trustees since 1871 to 1973 were as follows, Benedict, George, Harry Hayne, S. Davidson, N. Love. Wm. Lang, James Smith, Martin Lang, Clayton McGregor, Clifford Nie, Samuel Weller, James Mayhew, Herbert Arbuckle, John Allin.

### School Inspectors:

School inspectors include Albert O'Dell and his brother Col. O'Dell. Inspector Mr. G.W. Nelson followed Mr. W.H. Carlton. Under our new County system Mr. Thom is Director of Education, Mr. G.A. Macleod, Superintendent Instruction and Mr. J.W. Reid our Area Superintendent

### Displays:

Old registers, pictures, and papers connected with the school are on display.

### Teachers:

1916	- Mrs. Zella Usher(later Mrs. Albert Hircock)
1917	- Miss Lary Reddick(Now Mrs. Clark)
1918	- Miss Irene Vanstone(Later Mrs. Moore)
1919	- Miss Rosa Tinney
1920	- Miss B.N. Lowes
1921	- Mr. Grandy Nicholls
1922	- Mr. Grandy Nicholls- Mr. Nicholls taught at Cook's School for 12 years until June 1933.
1933	- Mr. Alvin Keeler
1934	- Mr. Alvin Keeler
1935	- Mr. Clarence Massey
1936	- Mr. Clarence Massey
1937	- Miss Eunice Chapman
1938	- Mr. Alex Lucas
1939	- Mr. Alex Lucas
1940	- Mr. Alex Lucas
1941	- Mr. Alex Lucas
1942	- Mrs. Edith McKenzie
1943	- Miss Audrey Robertson
1944	- Mrs. Edith McKenzie
1945	- Miss Theodora Hartford
1946	- Miss Jean Waterman

- 1947 - Mrs. Helen Cooper
- 1948 - Mr. Hugh Grant
- 1949 - Mrs. Lary Birney(Grades 1 to 8)until September 1953.
- 1953 - Mrs. Lary Birney(Grades 5,6,7&8)  
- Mrs. Olive Tapscott(Grades 1,2,3 and 4)
- 1954 - Mrs. Lary Birney and Mrs. Tapscott
- 1955 - Mrs. Birney and Mrs. Tapscott
- 1956 - Mrs. Birney and Mrs. Tapscott
- 1957 - Mrs. Birney and Mrs. Curtis
- 1958 - Mrs. Birney and Mrs. Gunn
- 1959 - Mrs. Birney and Mrs. Blodgett
- 1960 - Mrs. Birney and Mrs. Blodgett
- 1961 - Mrs. Birney and Mrs. Blodgett and Mrs. Tapscott
- 1962 - Mrs. Birney and Mrs. Carleton and Mrs. Tapscott
- 1963 - Mrs. Birney and Mrs. Carleton, Mrs. Schroeder, Mrs. Wellman,  
Miss Smith, Mrs. Tapscott
- 1964 - Mrs. Birney, Mrs. Carleton, Mrs. Hobart
- 1965 - Mrs. Birney, Mrs. Carleton, Mrs. Hobart
- 1966 - Mrs. Birney, Mrs. Carleton, Mrs. Hobart
- 1967 - Mrs. Birney, Mrs. Hobart, Mrs. Boughen, Mrs. Hubbel(kindergarten)
- 1968 - Mrs. Birney, Mrs. Hobart, Mrs. Boughen, Mrs. Hubbel and Mrs.  
Tapscott(Kindergarten).
- 1969 - Mrs. Birney, Mrs. Hobart, Mrs. Boughen, Mrs. Hubbel and Mrs.  
Tapscott(Kindergarten)
- 1970 - Mrs. Birney, Mrs. Hobart, Mrs. Boughen, Mrs. Linton(Kindergarten)
- 1971 - Mrs. Birney, Mrs. Hobart, Mrs. Boughen, Mrs. Linton(Kindergarten)
- 1972-73 - Mrs. Birney, Mrs. Hobart, Mrs. Boughen, Mrs. Linton(Kindergarten)

### **School Boards:**

Cook's School Section was under the administration of a Three man Board until December 1968. Then it became part of Hamilton Township School Area with a five man board of which Mr. R.E. Drope was Chairman. In 1966, Cook's School became a Junior School with Grades 1-5. Our Grades 7 and 8 became part of Hamilton Township Senior School at Dale Road. In September 1967, the School, S.S. #4 Hamilton, became Cook's School No. 049 under the administration of Northumberland and Durham County Board of Education.

### **Former Students**

A high percentage of former students have been very successful in their chosen life careers.

Mr. Alex Lucas became a teacher at Cook's School. Later he obtained University degrees and is now a professor at McGill University in Montreal. Mr. Leonard Lucas is a university graduate and is this year retiring from the staff of Bowmanville Collegiate Institute where he has been principal for a number of years. Miss Margaret

Halle Hon. B.A. majoring in French now a retired High School teacher. George Murray is a retired professor of a College in the U.C.A. Laura Lang is a nurse who owns and operates a home for retarded children. Derek Arbuckle, B.A. is now Vice-Principal of a school in Scarboro. He was a member of the Ontario Voyageur's Canoeing Team and crossed Canada in 1967, as part of Canada's Centennial Project. As a youth he was a Queen's Scout with Creighton Heights Scout Pack.

Dr. Martin Dobkin is now coroner of Mississauga and has a private practice of his own. He also was a Queen's Scout. Dr. Earl Dobkin has his own private practice in Toronto. Lawrence Dobkin is studying in his fifth year at the University of Toronto. Don Dobkin is studying to be a lawyer at the University in Windsor.

Judy Morford is an accountant at the Canadian Arthritic Hospital in Vancouver. Don Morford is in his last year at Sir Sanford, Peterborough, taking a machinist's course. Don Carter, B.A.- clever student who won many scholarships as he studied for his degree. He teaches now in a collegiate in Oshawa.

Reta(Waddell) Fisher, teaches now at Grant Sine School, Cobourg, Ont. Grace(Tapscott) Goulay is a nurse. Mary(Tapscott) Lacey became a teacher. Paul Tapscott now a teacher at Dr. Powers School in Port Hope. Paul spent some time teaching at Hay River in North West Territories and has spent several summers as a guide at an exclusive summer retreat on Bathurst Inlet on the Arctic Coast.

Bill Griffith is now studying for his Doctorate in Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering at the University of Washington in Seattle. Last summer he represented Canada in the Olympics in Munich, Germany in White Water Canoeing. This summer he is representing Canada in Switzerland, competing for World Championship. He also was a Queen's Scout with 1<sup>st</sup>. Creighton Heights Scout Pack.

Terry Ashcroft graduate(honour) of Trent University is now a teacher at Wilburn Collegiate, Scarboro. He has just completed a chapter on Biology in a book now being published. He was also a Queen's Scout. David Ashcroft now is studying at St. Augustine Seminary and taking courses at University of Toronto.

Garnett Birney is a graduate of Queen's University and is presently principal of North Hope Central School. He was a Queen's Scout. He built and raced his own Formula I B at Mosport. Later he raced his Lotus Cortina. Arlene(Griffith) Parham is a R.N. and nurses in the U.S.A. Terry Griffith is now manager of a branch of the Royal Bank.

Robin Russell has his degree in Political Science from Carleton University and has acted on the Advisory Staff for Mr. Nixon- Ontario Liberal Leader. He is presently planning the itinerary for the Queen's visit to Canada in June of this year. John Newton is now pastor of a church at Kaladar. Robin Russell, Derek Arbuckle, Garnett Birney, Terry Griffith were 5 of the 7 Grade 8 students in 1955. Patsy Sopher attended Bible College in Western Canada, and is now a minister's wife on a mission

field. Alan Weller attended Franshawe College, London Ontario and is now a professional photographer in an exclusive London studio.

Alan Newton is Set-up man at the General Electric in Cobourg. George Briggs is now with the Ontario Provincial Police in Belleville. George was also a Queen Scout. Carmen Hie, Roger Hie and Douglas Hie train and race horses at Golden Horse-shoe and Kawartha Downs race tracks. They have been successful with many winning horses, usually in the top three of the race.

Clifford Hie was also a student here and later became one of the trustees of the school. Murray Samons works at General Motors, Oshawa and also in the racing field racing his horse at Kingston Raceway and Kawartha Downs.

William Glenn is a car mechanic in Cobourg and is presently studying for his mechanics licence. John Allin is preparing for his B.A. degree with Queen's University. He teaches in Trenton at the Air-base. Elizabeth(Allin) McDonald is a R.N. and nurses in the Cardiac Division of Kingston General Hospital.

Susan(Rae) Sykes graduated from Waterloo University with a B.A. degree. Katherine(Butters) McLean is a R.N. Neil Butters has completed a course at Sir Sanford Fleming in Business, Administration, Computer and Office Management. Richard Harnden is a graduate of Central Technical School in Toronto in a special Art Course. Anne(Carter) Newsome is a R.N. Ted Carter is a professional Photographer.

### **Home And School:**

In 1956 Cook's Home and School Association was formed with Mrs. Aylmer Harnden as resident. They raised money by catering at Butter's Sales Barn and brought furniture for the Staff Room, dishes for Community Meetings and several hundred dollars worth of Library Books for the children. Among the residents were, Mrs. Alvine Franke and Mr. William Thompson.

I apologize to any graduates of Cook's School whom I have not mentioned in this brief report. Please let me know who you are and what you are doing now for future reference.

Mrs. Mary Birney