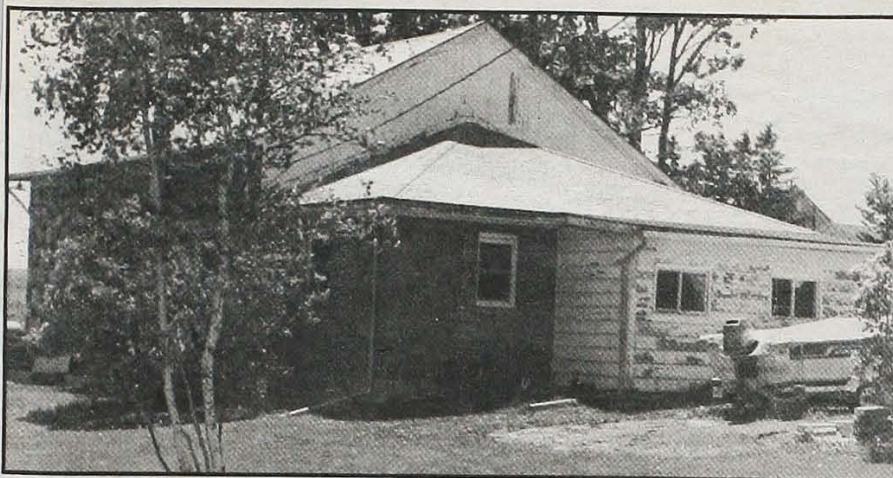


S.S. #4 Saugeen was one of the largest schools



S.S. #4 Saugeen is located on Highway #21 and Concession #3 in Saugeen Township.



photo courtesy of Gord Jamieson

In 1950, the class at S.S. #4 was (back left) teacher Iris McKinley, Frank Schwass, Don Sutherland, Doug Sutherland, Bob Paddon, Jamie Hunter, Bob Lawrie, Glen Reinhart, Robert Smith, Bill Jeffrey, (middle) Jim Paddon, Alec McCulloch, Gord Jamieson, Don Brill, Jack Wright, Ernie Cluley, Ken MCKechnie, Don Paddon, Bernard Schwass, Jim Reinhart, Lawson Jeffrey, Ross Reinhart. (front) Audrey Reinhart, Carole Cluley, Janice Hunter, Marjorie Smith, Sandra Sutherland, Ruth Smith, Anne Lawrie, Lois

by John Greig
Shoreline News

Ball games, fairs, tree-climbing and the strap have all been part of the history of Saugeen School Section #4, also known as Jamieson School.

Young Bill Jeffrey stood in front of the school waiting to get the strap sometime during the 1950s. But he was not alone. Altogether there were sixteen in line for the lash of leather. Their crime -- riding bicycles in the playground.

Jeffrey, now a Port Elgin real estate agent, said the four teachers he had while at S.S. #4 from 1948 to 1956 kept the peace in the school house.

"You certainly didn't have to go too far to be on the wrong side of the law and get in trouble," he said. "And you knew it would get home, so it would be a double-whammy."

Jeffrey, as well as former teacher, Edna McCulloch both have fond memories of the school. A highlight throughout the school's history was the Christmas concert.

McCulloch, who was Edna MacKenzie when she started teaching at the school in 1932, remembers the Christmas concert as being a lot of work.

Jeffrey said much of the prestige associated with preparation for the Christmas concert was given to the Grade 7 and 8 boys who constructed the stage. Jeffrey remembers waiting anxiously through the younger grades to the time when he would help construct the stage. He said the one-room school house would be packed to the doors for the concert.

S.S. #4 was larger than most of the other school sections.

with 30 to 34 students. This gave the school an advantage in inter school competitions.

McCulloch said at school fairs in Port Elgin, schools marched and sang against each other.

"We won quite a few times.

Our school was bigger and had more children."

Jeffrey remembers competitive softball games against rivals S.S. #6.

"We had some heavy duty ball games. For our age, we had some amazing teams."

During the days of wood stoves in the 1930s, McCulloch said the school never closed in the winter because enough families lived close by. But Jeffrey said the oil space heater would occasionally break down and the teacher would send the students home.

Jeffrey actually lived in Bruce Township and often walked two miles to school when he didn't get a ride from his parents or catch the high school bus on its way into Port Elgin.

Spring brought new outdoor adventures for students at the school. In the 1930s there was a big family picnic almost every year, depending on how the crops were going. In the 1950s spring meant the chance to once again compete to see who could climb highest in the maples around the school and the much anticipated Arbour Day during which the students trekked across the fields, learning about wild flowers and trees.

Wade and Karen Harris now own and live in the house on Highway 21 between Saugeen Township concessions 2 and 4. They have owned the property for four years.

Strange beginnings for #1

The Saugeen School Section #1 school is now a home on Barnes Avenue in Saugeen Township. But the school's beginnings were much more humble.

Pat Cummings, from Vancouver, recalled what happened to him when the Port Elgin fathers decided that they wanted a school in 1870 and where they wanted it. Cummings wrote this for the Old Boys' Reunion in 1924.

"Well, I lived in a little log house on the 6th (of Saugeen) and I kept batch, so the three trustees came to me and they wanted me to have school in my cabin. I refused point blank and told them I would not undertake it for any money.

"Then they got some of the grown up boys and girls to coax me into it, but it was no use. They though we would have lots of fun -- but I knew that would not do and told them so.

"Well, the proposition was dropped -- as I thought. But coming home Saturday night

late (I found) my room was filled with desks and benches and on the table was a note addressed to me saying 'School will open Monday morning at 9 o'clock. Signed John Goble, John Smith and Solomon Eby, Trustees.'"

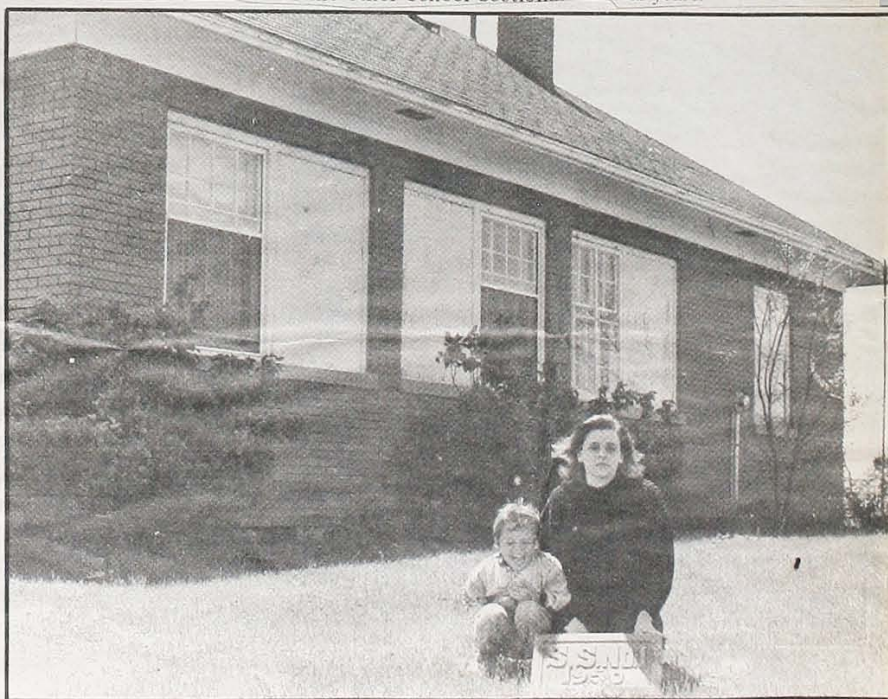
Cummings was very angry, but when the boys and girls got him out of bed Monday morning, he taught them their lessons.

By 1872, a new school was built on Lot 9, Concession 7. The total cost of the school was \$500.

A new red brick school house was built on the site in 1950 after a fire the year before completely destroyed the school and its contents. That school was sold in 1968 to J.H. Stafford and then to Bob Wilson who moved it a half mile to his property.

The house is now rented out to Cora and Robert Rice.

(The information for this story was taken from the Saugeen History Hunters' Roots and Branches of Saugeen.)



S.S.#1 Saugeen is presently located on Barnes Avenue in Saugeen Township. The school house was built in 1950 but moved from its original site. Presently the house is being rented out to Cora and her husband Robert Rice. Here Cora sits with her son Robert.