

Early Bruce County school houses and teachers

It took a few years for the settlers of Bruce County to establish local school boards; but once they did they were serious about educating their children. Each school had its own trustees - having meetings inspecting the school, and hiring the teachers. The schools were often used, not only for the students but for the families, community events, meetings, Sunday School, political rallies and more.

First superintendent

There was a local superintendent who visited all of the schools to ensure that the teachers were fulfilling their obligations. The first superintendent was appointed December 30, 1850 by County Council, before any schools had been built. The first superintendent was Mr. John Nairn, and his wife Jane was the School Mistress at Kincardine, the first school in Bruce County. It was a squared log school 20' x 26' built in 1851. It had 66 pupils on roll. In 1852, there were three schools in all of Bruce County and one superintendent. By 1855 there were 15 schools in Bruce County and the District was split into three - West, North

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Historically Speaking

and East. By 1863 there were 108 schools!

A superintendent's salary was \$5 per school and he travelled by foot, following the surveyors' blazes. He visited each school twice per year.

Rural schooling often started in someone's home. More often than not the land for the school was donated by a local farmer and the crude log building was built by the families whose children would attend the school. They came from a radius of about three miles.

Finding a teacher could be difficult. Annual salaries started around \$150 with a bonus if they went in early to start the fire in the woodstove. If they were from away, they would board at various

families' homes within the school section. If a woman teacher was installed in a school, she was forced to resign upon marrying.

Many communities offered schooling at no charge to students - monies for the schools were raised through taxes. In 1871, the Common & Grammar School Act was passed in Ontario and made school free for all children 6-13 years old.

Eventually a new frame or brick school was built which took in a larger area. Often these new schools were built on different properties than the log schools. The log schools reverted back to the farm they came from - some were used as outbuildings on the farm, others deteriorated and were eventually removed.

Sources: *Bygone Days in Bruce by Annabel McLay Hadley, Bruce County Historical Society Yearbook 2001, Purple Grove Public School - SS 4 Huron Township A Souvenir of By-Gone Days - 1965, 1851 Census, History of the County of Bruce by Norman Roberston*

Bursary available for students heading into agriculture

CKNX Radio's FAB Bursary is available once again to midwestern Ontario students this fall. The \$1,000 bursary was created to help further the agricultural education of a young student from midwestern Ontario. It's administered by the CKNX Radio Farm Advisory Board, and will be awarded to a student successfully completing their first year of a post-secondary agriculture-related program who intends to continue with their agricultural education. That student must be a resident of, or native to, the counties of Huron, Bruce, Grey, Perth, north Wellington, north Waterloo, or west Dufferin.

The deadline for applications for the 2010 FAB Bursary is Oct. 15. Application forms are available on the AM 920 website - www.am920.ca. The form is in the Farm Advisory Board area under the News tab. It's also available on the Blackburn Agri-Media website at www.agri-media.ca.

You can also get an application form by contacting CKNX Radio in Wingham by phone at 519-357-1310, by mail at 215 Carling Terrace, Wingham, Ontario, N0G 2W0, by e-mail at farm@cknxradio.com.

The winner will be selected at the CKNX Radio Farm Advisory Board annual fall meeting in November.

The FAB Bursary is one of two awards programs established by CKNX Radio and administered by its Farm Advisory Board. The other is the FAB Award, presented annually to an individual or group from Midwestern Ontario making a significant contribution to the well-being of agriculture.

The CKNX Radio Farm Advisory Board is a group of representatives from the agribusiness sector from throughout midwestern Ontario. The board advises CKNX Radio on the issues facing their important industry on a regular basis, including a regular spring and fall meeting each year. CKNX Radio established the Farm Advisory Board to help maintain and improve the company's ongoing commitment to agribusiness in midwestern Ontario.

FROM THE PAST

PROMOTION + EXAMINATION

PART II. TO SECOND.
APRIL, 1888.

ARITHMETIC.

PART II. - April, 1888.

1. From 712016820 subtract 345004537.
2. $34 + 69 + 907 + 1089 + 8 + 9686 = 4906$.
3. A man bought a horse for \$2000, and sold it at a loss of \$240. How much did he get for the horse?
4. $92000300827 - 94802518254$.
5. A man had 69 sheep in one field and 99 sheep in another. He sold 109 sheep; how many had he left?
6. There were 62 persons on a train of cars, and at a certain station 8 got off and 15 got on; How many were there on the train?
7. $801 + 317 - 295 + 800 - 283 + 875 = 863$.
8. What number taken from 704 will leave 578?

6 marks for each.

This old test was found and submitted to us recently by Don Roppel. This is the final exam for what would now be known as Grade 3. Looks pretty daunting doesn't it? Does this have anything on the math you did (or your children are now doing) in Grade 3? For the record, the answers are: 1. 366,952,283; 2. 6,887; 3. 1,844; 4. 57,397,782,573; 5. 59; 6. 69; 7. 652; 8. 126. If you have an old photo that you would like to share with our readers, drop it by our office at 694 Goderich Street in Port Elgin.

Douglas Thomas of Warton sent in this photo of the Grade 1 class of Port Elgin Public School some 69-70 years ago. The photo was taken on the steps of the girls' entrance; yes, most schools in the early part of the 20th century had two separate entrances for girls and boys. Thanks to Douglas for doing his best to name everyone. From left to right (first row): Lulu Middleton, Donald Travis, Donald Shell, Joan Vogt, Allan Brown; (second row): Bricker, Phyllis Neilson, Catherine Leith, unknown, Kenneth Ellis, Charlie Hodge; (third row): Arthur Christian, John McKay, Yvonne Ashwell, Lawrence Pendergast, Douglas Thomas; (fourth): Classta Mann, Peter, Patricia Wilson (Mahon), Anne Brigden, Reg McArthur and Nancy Fenton. Douglas believes the teacher's name was Miss Sutherland.

FROM THE PAST

