

S.S. NO. 1

Just east of the present farm-house of Mrs. John McMullen (1935) then belonging to Mr. James Patterson (1870), on the side of the hill, stood an old cottage-roofed schoolhouse. The walls were of board and the pupils who assembled each day sat on long benches. But a new school was essential because of the tumble-down condition of the one in use.

Where should they build? A new location was suggested, and finally it was agreed to build on the high bank just west of the "gulf". To the north would be the sheltering grove of evergreens on Preston's Point. This lovely location just west of the sheltered harbour was not chosen for its natural beauty. In fact, some of the more timid folk thought the high bank at the water's edge a rather dangerous factor. It was selected as the site because of its most central situation.

In 1871 the present brick building was erected. The contractor was a Mr. Winters from Belleville. He boarded with Mr. David Preston from whom the property had been purchased. Mr. Preston was a trustee at that time and it was at his home that the teacher secured board. The bricks were brought by "scow" and unloaded at the harbour's shore. Two workmen accompanied the load. They were assisted by local labourers. The building was soon completed. A bell was later added.

The first teacher who taught here was Miss Harriet Tandy. Miss Jessie Muir followed Miss Tandy. Miss Baker, Miss Laird and Mr. Harry Gibson (Island born) followed in order. Dr. Gibson re-visited the school in June 1935 and remarked that some of the old desks he has known were still "on duty".

Among the earlier trustees were Mr. D. Preston, Mr. Mcutray, Mr. John Murray and Mr. Wright. The first inspector to visit the brick school was Mr. Skein. He lived, at that time, on the farm occupied by David Kearney, R.R. 3, Concession 1. He always brought a great basket of talman sweet apples from his orchard for the children. Mr. Burrows followed him in turn and was succeeded by Mr. Nesbitt. Mr. S.A. Truscott is at present working in that capacity.