

S.S. NO. 2

S.S. No. 2 faces Lake Ontario on the south side of Amherst Island. In 1872 the present (1940) frame school (30 feet by 60 feet) with a large playground, took the place of the old log one. John Allison, the Island carpenter at that time, built it, having hewn the frame by hand. Mr. Walsh from Picton did the masonry work and made the chimney which was built from the ground up.

Inside the school were two rows of double seats for the children. The teacher's huge desk and arm-chair were placed on a raised platform which reached across the whole south end of the school. The chimney also divided the south wall into two parts. The boards on this wall were painted black and were used as the only two blackboards. In 1910 these boards were replaced by composition boards; new individual desks replaced the others; and the huge old platform was removed.

The three men on the first trustee-board were Messrs. McMath, Gervin, and Patterson. The school inspector at that time was Mr. Skein.

Miss Moffatt taught in the log school and was the first teacher in the new building. Her salary was \$150 per year and board cost \$1 per week. The average attendance then was 30, now in 1940 it is only 13.

In these early days, reading, writing, arithmetic and spelling were the main subjects taught with a little geography, history and grammar.

From 1905 to 1908 a fifth class was in attendance.

Time brings changes. The huge box stove on its brick foundation has been replaced by a round coal stove. The first window blinds were bought in 1873 from the proceeds of a school concert. A concert and bazaar the following year provided enough funds to begin a library.

Mr. and Mrs. Proctor, who painted the school for the first time, used to teach the children to sing after 4 o'clock.

Miss Moffatt was strict and freely used ruler, pointer or a branch off a nearby tree to emphasize her intentions. Girls were taught to crochet.

About thirty teachers have followed in her wake and the Golden Rule is still taught in S.S. No. 2.