

## Memories of an old country school.

The way things were in my days I started to school at the age of 7 and my sister one year younger started with me. In the year 1905 the school S. S. No. 1 Ryde Barkway. The teacher was a neighbour girl, Miss Annie Lowe. At present the school is the Institute hall. (1980)

A frame school with six windows and a porch without windows

There was a black board across the front, at the back of the room was a large wood stove, on cold winter mornings we sat around the stove on benches until the room warmed up at the back of the room on each side of the door were hooks for our coats, the dinner pails sat below and were usually honey or syrup pails, sometimes we boiled an egg or made toast of our sandwiches. The teacher's desk was at the front on a low platform, it contained drawers and in one a strap, she had a high back chair.

We all sat in regular school seats with a desk in front and place for our books and slates underneath, we didn't have binders and note books galore, maybe two scribbles as they were called, one rough paper and one smooth with lines suitable for pen and ink, we had slates that had to be cleared with a wet rag, on each desk there was a bottle of water or a bottle of ink, on cold mornings these would be frozen and sometimes burst. The seats were double so two could sit together, big pupils at the back and the beginners in smaller ones at the front. Yes, from the tiny tots to the Senior Fourth or Grade Eight as it is now. all were in one room

There were no buses, we walked a mile and a half and some two and three miles, often waded snow up to our knees, the roads weren't plowed, just padded down by the horses and sleighs.

There were no inside toilets, but at the back of the school yard. At the back of the school was a bench with a big water pail and a big tin cup, some pupils brought their own, at noon or recess two of the bigger pupils carried the water from nearest home, usually across the road from the spring now owned by John Taverner after my time a well was dug in the yard at the north east corner.

The teacher called the pupils in at first with a little hand bell later a big bell was used the belfry still remains on the row hall, we all liked to take turns in ringing the bell, in the morning at 8.30 a.m. the caretaker rang the bell, this was a good guide for everyone