

Visit yesterday's schoolhouses in the former Cramahe Township

Cobourg DAILY STAR NOV. 29/06

THERE ARE A FEW LINES MISSING, THE CORNER DID NOT GET



This Dundonald school actually replaced an earlier school deemed to be of poor quality.

Much local history has been written about the many schoolhouses our children attended in pre-consolidation days, but getting exact addresses is often a tricky business.

Last week I was able to get a fair number in the former Brighton Township, thanks to *School Days in Northumberland, 1825-2000*, published by District 30, Retired Teachers of Ontario. This week, a string of addresses in the former Cramahe Township comes to us courtesy of Eileen Argyris, author of the Cramahe Township History *How Firm A Foundation*.

Between these two texts, we can put together a fairly good picture of school days in Old Cramahe.

Travel a couple miles east of here, past Waite's Cemetery, and take a left at Waite's Road. At the stop sign, jog left a tad and take the right at Dale Road. Where this road ends, turn left on to Penryn Road to catch a look at something special at #541.

SS #21 Shiloh School was built in 1855 on a half-acre lot purchased from Mr. and Mrs. William Mutton. The early frame school was replaced by the stone one that has walls three feet thick.

By 1915, students were holding their own school fair. A garden project was begun in 1930, and a porch was added in 1935. In 1946, the school was closed and the building used for a time as a community hall. Ms. Argyris quotes Carl Wilce, who was in the building when Hurricane Hazel swept the area in 1954.

This is where Pine Woods School Road crosses your path and there, on the southeast corner, is SS #26 Pine Woods School — probably so named, Mrs. Argyris says, because it was built of and located among the pines. It's now an attractive rambling white-frame home.

Pine Woods School Road is a lovely little byway, so it's a nice way to head west again. Then, where the road ends, turn right and go to the stop sign. This puts you back on County Road 25, where you can turn left and head into Castleton — making your way past the present Castleton Public School, which sits on seven acres of the former Castleton fairgrounds. It opened in September 1930, constructed and equipped for \$29,000.

The first school in Castleton was a frame school, built in 1840.



This Castleton school was noteworthy for its white-painted tin ceiling and basement furnace (as opposed to the usual box stove in the middle of the classroom area).



This red-brick Edville school was also used at times for worship services.