

HISTORY OF FERNDALE SCHOOL SS#8 EASTNOR

The first school in the district was built on the hill on the farm now owned by Alex Rydall. All children within walking distance attended school. After Swan Lake school was built the pupils from Ferndale attended school there until the Ferndale school was built in 1891.

In January of that year a ratepayer's meeting was called for the purpose of electing trustees and choosing a school site. George Cobett and Eli Warder were appointed the first trustees and William Baker was appointed Secretary Treasurer. The school site, which consisted of one acre and situated on the North-East corner of the farm owned by Henry Wilson was purchased for the sum of \$35. Thomas Boyle was given the contract of building and completing the school house for the sum of \$200 all materials to be supplied.

The school was completed July 1, 1891.

Miss A. Watt was the first teacher receiving a salary of \$215 for a year.

Mr. A. C. Bridge was the first care-taker.

H. Waters supplied the school with hardwood the first year for which he received 80¢ a cord.

Mr. George Houson agreed to remove the stone wall from in front of the school and place it on the boundary line as a fence and to complete fence with wire and boards.

The first year there were 28 pupils enrolled.

The hand made desk used in the school was replaced in 1927. It was converted into a sand table which is still in use.

THE FERNDALE PARK

On October 21st 1949 a meeting was held in the schoolhouse to see about buying a piece of land for a park and ball diamond. It was decided to appoint a committee to interview Henderson Loughhead about buying land from him. Canvasers were also appointed to ask for donations. There was a good response, the sum of \$555 being collected. A lot 350 x 600', approximately 4½ acres was bought for the sum of \$800, three hundred dollars being paid down.

A Bee was held that fall to clear up the fallen trees and stumps. Another was held in January 1950. There was a goodly number there with tractors, chains, axes, saws etc. and a lot of work was done. In the spring several Bees were held and the front of the lot nicely cleaned up. We bought toilets and had a large table made. The lot was fenced on the north and east.