

A CENTURY IN EDUCATION — THAT'S CHAPEL STREET SCHOOL'S RECORD

One hundred years after its construction Georgetown's first public school is still playing its part in the local education system. Chapel Street public school, which turned out its last Grade 8 class in June, is a junior school now with classes from kindergarten to grade six, but its enrolment of 342 is down only slightly from last year's 356 because of redistribution.

Chapel Street Public School, was actually Georgetown Public School, until 17 years ago, when the second public school was built. When the name of Howard Wrigglesworth Public School was selected for the new school several names were considered for the original school as well. It was its location between two streets named Chapel Street, East and Chapel Street West which gave Georgetown Public School its new name.

Originally the school fronted on Morris Street, but that section of the street directly in front of the school was closed and became part of the schoolyard. Most of the front schoolyard was purchased from the Methodist Church (St. John's United) in 1894.

Over the years, three additions have been made to the original four room brick school. Two were added in 1879, four more in 1913, and the last in 1930.



This was how Chapel St. Public School looked around 1910 after its first addition of two rooms. It was Georgetown Public School then. The original building was modelled after the Elizabeth Street School in Toronto. Note the bell tower which has long since disappeared.

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PLEASE INDICATE CATEGORY:

Season Ticket	PATRON	<input type="checkbox"/>	SINGLE	<input type="checkbox"/>
	MEMBER	<input type="checkbox"/>	DOUBLE	<input type="checkbox"/>
			FAMILY	<input type="checkbox"/>

SOME FIRSTS

- Since Chapel Street Public School was the only public school in Georgetown between 1869 and 1882 when Howard Wrigglesworth Public School was opened, it follows that a number of educational 'firsts' in Georgetown were recorded during that period.
- Among Them . . .
- 1863: First slate blackboard installed.
 - 1865: First suspension of a pupil for misconduct (No records for 1863.)
 - 1866: First application for the position of a kindergarten teacher. (Nothing done in the matter until 1947.)
 - 1868: First request by council for an estimate of the year's financial needs.
 - 1868: First public school concert.
 - 1863: First formal report to parents (drafted by two board members and the principal.)
 - 1905: First request that the public school inspector make a request in writing to the school board.
 - 1906: First recorded budget estimate \$2,500.

A HUNDRED YEARS OF PRINCIPALS

- 1869-71: Unknown
- 1872: Alexander Campbell
- 1873: John C. Campbell
- 1874-75: John E. Dobie
- 1876: John E. Tom
- 1877-78: Unknown
- 1879: Alvin J. Moore
- 1880-83: John McNabb Malcolm
- 1884-94: Robert E. Harrison
- 1894-05: T. R. Earngey
- 1906: W. W. Noble
- 1907-12: A. R. Mills
- 1912-25: J. R. Waldie
- 1925-26: A. C. Green
- 1926-38: Miss Annie Ryan
- 1938-50: Howard C. Wrigglesworth
- 1950-56: Harold J. Henry
- 1956: Valintine Stein

- 1910: First shift classes.
- 1911: First indoor toilets.
- 1912: First salary schedule requested by the teaching staff. (Refused.)
- 1926: First female principal (Miss Annie Ryan)
- 1945: First home instruction units under care of the public school board.
- 1947: First telephone installed.
- 1947: First actual salary schedule presented by the public school board.
- 1948: First kindergarten class opened. (Taught by Mrs. J. Dwyer.)
- 1948: First fire escape installed.
- 1948: First parents' night.
- 1949: First Board of Education (Lasted one year)

LONG SERVICE

Eight teachers established records of 25 years or more service with the Chapel St. public School teaching staff, and a ninth will join the select circle next term.

Of the eight, only MRS. JUNE EVANS is still teaching. She started in 1937, and taught until 1942, and returned to the staff in 1949.

A fellow staff member, MISS WILMA STULL, has taught there for the past 24 years having started in 1945.

MISS HAZEL HARRISON, who retired in 1950, had most years' service with 43.

MISS MAY LANGAN retired the same year after 40 terms at the school.

MISS MARIE LINDSAY taught for 36 years, from 1925 to 1961.

MISS GEORGINA YOUNG, 31 years, from 1905 to 1910, and then from 1919 to 1945.

MISS ISABELLA PRINGLE, 27 years, from 1874 to 1876, and then from 1880 to 1905.

MISS BEATRICE HUME, 28 years, from 1925 to 1953.

MISS LAURA SCOTT, 25 years, from 1929 to 1954.

THANK YOU

The Herald thanks Howard Wrigglesworth Public School Principal William Kinrade; Miss Janet McDougall, 16 Chapel St. E., Ben Case, R. 1, Georgetown; and the Georgetown Public Library for their assistance in the preparation of this page.

EDUCATION BEFORE GEORGETOWN P. S.

Up to the year 1843, there are no records to affirm or deny that there was a school in Georgetown. In that year, a group of interested citizens formed the Georgetown - Esqueping Union Sunday School Society. This was an interdenominational group whose object, according to its first minutes dated April 13th, 1843, was "to extend religious and useful instruction to the youth and the children of the vicinity."

Their school was held in the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel.

Again there are no records to affirm or deny, but general consensus agrees that the first Common School was opened about 1848. Where the first school was held is a debatable point. One group is firmly convinced that it was in one place, while another group is equally convinced that the school was elsewhere.

What is known is that the first school was held in two rented rooms of a frame house on Main Street South. From there the school was moved to the town hall in 1858, "a shabby frame building on Guelph Street."

There in 1869 the community had its own brick building — presently named Chapel St. Public School.

As the years rolled on the original four room structure grew to six rooms, then to ten rooms and finally to eleven rooms.

There were two Academies in Georgetown. One built in 1850 by the Anglican Church on property which is now a golf course, and one in 1855, a private venture headed by Dr. McVicar and having its building on what is now Academy Road.

The first is just a sketchy memory for which no records exist. It is possible that it was not an academy at all but a private school opened by a Mr. Dade, and because he was a member of the Church of England, his school was referred to as "The Anglican Academy."

The second academy was open to those who could pay the price. It had six teaching rooms

and was a boarding school, and had students in attendance from Toronto, Oakville and the surrounding area.

Both academies are but memories, dim and fading fast.

In the late 1840s and early 1850s another type of school was in operation. A Miss McMaster gave instructions in a kind of kindergarten known as the "Old Maids' School."

Such elementary instruction

as she was able to give must have proved useful for her kindergarten held forth for approximately a decade. Later records show that she taught privately a group of young ladies.

Few people know that Georgetown High School began its history in two rooms borrowed from public school in 1887. Two years later it moved from the public school building to its own quarters.



James Breckenridge, taught school in Georgetown from 1860 to 1868, and then, just before Georgetown Public School opened between Chapel St. East and Chapel St. West, he left the teaching profession and entered Knox College to prepare for the ministry. Educated at the University of Edinburgh, he taught first in Canada at Chatham, and then a Stewarttown before operating the Georgetown school in the town hall "a shabby frame building on Guelph Street."

RULES OF BEHAVIOUR

The following were rules of behaviour for pupils in the public school (30 to 60 years ago.)

1. To acquire knowledge persistently in order to become an educated and cultured citizen, and to be of the greatest possible service to his country.
2. To study diligently, to be punctual in attendance, and not arrive late at classes.
3. To obey instructions of the school director and the teachers without question.
4. To arrive at school with all the necessary text books and writing materials.
5. Come to school clean, well groomed and neatly dressed.
6. To keep his place in the classroom neat and tidy.
7. To enter the classroom and take his place immediately after the bell rings and enter and leave the classroom during the lesson only with the teacher's permission.
8. To sit upright during the lesson, not leaning on his elbows and not slouching; to listen to the teacher's explanations and the other pupils' answers, and not to talk or let his attention stray to other things.
9. To rise when the teacher or director enters or leaves the room.
10. To stand at attention when answering the teacher; to sit down only with the teacher's permission; to raise his hand if he wishes

to answer or ask a question.

11. To take accurate notes in his assignment book or homework scheduled for the next lesson, and to show these notes to his parents; to do all the work unaided.
12. To be respectful to the school director and teachers; when meeting them to greet them with a polite bow; boys should also raise their hats.
13. To be polite to his sisters, to behave modestly and respectfully in school, on the street, and in public places.
14. Not to use coarse expressions, not to smoke, not to gamble for money or any other objects.
15. To protect school property; to be careful in his personal things and the belongings of his comrades.
16. To be attentive and considerate of old people, small children, the weak and the sick; to make way for them on the street, being helpful to them in every way.
17. To obey his parents, to help them to take care of his small brothers and sisters.
18. To maintain cleanliness and order in rooms, to keep his clothes, shoes and bed neat and tidy.
19. To carry his student's record book with him always, to guard it carefully, nev-



Present principal of Chapel St. Public School, Val Stein, was named to that position in 1956 and has served longer as a principal there than any of his predecessors. He was a member of the teaching staff there before his appointment and has in fact served on the staff for over 20 years, longer than any other male teacher.

er handing it over to anyone else, and to present it upon request of the teachers or the school director.

20. To cherish the honour of his school and class and defend it as his own.

THINGS COULD BE WORSE

The Dutton Advance points out some of the reasons, perhaps, why teachers left the profession in the 1880's, in this list of rules for teachers entitled "Things could be worse."

1. Teachers each day will fill lamps, clean chimneys and trim wicks.
2. Each teacher will bring a bucket of water and a scuttle of coal for the day's sessions.
3. Make your pens carefully. You may whittle nibs to the individual tastes of the pupils.
4. Men teachers may take one evening each week for courting purposes, or two evenings per week if they attend church regularly.
5. After ten hours in school, the teacher shall spend the remaining time reading the Bible or other good books.
6. Women teachers who marry or engage in unseemly conduct will be dismissed.
7. Each teacher should lay aside from each pay a goodly sum of his earnings for his benefit during his declining years so that he will not become a burden on society.
8. Any teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool or public halls, or gets shaved in a barber shop, will give good reason to suspect his worth, intentions, integrity and honesty.
9. The teacher who performs his labours faithfully and without fault for five years will be given an increase of 25c per week in his pay, providing the Board of Education approves.

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