



THE THICK STONE WALLS of the old school house can be seen in this alcove. The sunroom and porch addition serves as a reading room and easy access to the garden.

1860 school house now lovely home

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JOYCE BEATON

The sign at the door of the Allsop home reads "Welcome To Timnath-serah—Joshua 19:50". The quote refers to a division of land God made to the children of Israel. Joshua's request for a home of his own was answered in a place called Timnath-serah.

Jim and Margaret Allsop feel this parallels their search for a home in Nassagaweya. They had previously lived in Islington for 22 years. There they raised two sons, Jim who is a social worker with the United Church in Cape Breton, and John who is completing his studies to become an ordained minister.

The Allsops are dedicated to the work of their church. Once the boys were grown and away from home they felt a definite personal calling. They found themselves being directed into the work being done by the Bezek Christian Retreat Centre in Nassagaweya.

School house

Down the road from Bezek is a delightful old stone house. No one including Jim and Margaret, would suspect it was once a school house. Over a year ago they knocked on the door of the house and offered to purchase it. They were convinced this was the place they should make their new home, close to the work at Bezek.

Louis Sampson was the owner at the time. He and his wife Margaret had bought the school house, S.S. No. 2, in October, 1960, just two weeks after the students vacated it to attend the new Brookville composite school.

The building was full of flies and rat holes and cracked walls but the Sampsons had been determined to renovate. As Margaret Allsop describes it, "Mr. and Mrs. Sampson, with a great deal of love and at obvious cost, preserved, maintained and restored the old stone building to a thing of beauty."

Renovations done

They made the most of the deep windows and the thick 18 inch sills (the width of the stone walls) by enhancing them with 24 pane sashes.

The 14 foot high ceilings were lowered to 10 feet, still a couple of feet higher than ceilings in most modern homes.

The whole interior had to be replastered and new flooring laid.

A front door has replaced a window and a sunroom and porch have been added to the back of the house.

A stone fireplace was built, flanked with deep-silled windows, across the wall where

the old school blackboard used to stand.

The original one room building now is designed to accommodate a living room, dining room, bedroom, bathroom and kitchen. All are light and spacious and tastefully decorated by the Allsops.

1902 coin

The acre of land has been fenced in split rail cedar, and trees and shrubs planted. Eight beautiful maple trees outline the side garden.

The Allsops have added a

vegetable garden. Margaret reports finding a 1902 quarter while digging in the garden this spring. They surmise it probably belonged to the schoolmaster, as children didn't have that kind of spending money.

The property for the school-house in the 1860's was given to the school trustees by a local farmer. He would probably be pleased to know his gift is still appreciated. Jim and Margaret have made it into a home which reflects their love for God and each other.

What are the facts about Christmas?

How much do you know about Christmas and Santa Claus? Here are some questions, developed with the help of the editors of the Encyclopedia International, to test your knowledge. The answers are at the bottom.

1. The first known Christmas card was designed in 1843 by an Englishman named:

- (A) Charles Dickens
- (B) Sir Henry Cole
- (C) John Calcott Horsley

2. The first Christian Nativity feast, celebrating the birth of Christ, occurred in the fourth century on:

- (A) January 6
- (B) July 4
- (C) December 25

3. Christmas did not become a legal holiday in the U.S. until:

- (A) The Puritans arrived in New England
- (B) 1856
- (C) Santa's Helpers Union went on strike.

4. The original name of the

gentleman we know today as Santa Claus was:

- (A) Kris Kringle
- (B) Clement C. Moore
- (C) St. Nicholas

1. (C) is correct. Artist Horsley designed the first known Christmas greeting card for his friend, Sir Henry Cole, a wealthy London gentleman. Charles Dickens had his share in Christmas 1843, too. His book "A Christmas Carol," was published that year.

2. (A) is correct. At first, January 6, the Epiphany, was observed as the feast of Jesus' baptism, with a secondary emphasis on His birth. It was not until the 5th century A.D. that Christmas was generally celebrated on December 25.

3. (B) is correct. New England states outlawed the celebration of Christmas until the middle of the 19th century.

4. (C) is correct. Kris Kringle is the German name for Santa, while Clement C. Moore contributed to the image of Santa Claus with his poem, "A Visit from St. Nicholas," in 1823. St. Nicholas was a real person, a fourth century bishop, and the first Santa Claus.

Greetings

Hearty greetings are sent your way for the merriest Christmas!

WATSON'S RESTAURANT

GREETINGS

Here's wishing you the fulfillment of all your dreams for Christmas.

MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

THE BANK OF MONTREAL

Christmas Wishes

Jolly old St. Nick is coming to help us thank all our patrons, friends, ... you!

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4 Main St. S. - 853-2750

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MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

WE ARE OPEN EVERY DAY INCLUDING

CHRISTMAS BOXING DAY NEW YEAR'S

To old friends and new go our wishes for a wonderful Christmas season.

Management and Staff

Toronto Dominion Bank

Greetings at Christmas

To our friends, a hearty holiday wish that you may enjoy all the best the season offers.

JACK HOLMES REAL ESTATE