

One room school

The one-room red brick school with eight grades and one teacher has become a relic of the past to present generations, but the old buildings are still around for discerning residents who know what they are seeing.

Esquesing township had 18 such schools until the late 1950s when the large schools began to appear and the one room schools were closed in favour of bussing pupils to the central school.

The Esquesing Township School Area Board began in 1946 and the inspector of the day, L.L. Skuce, did his best to persuade the individual school sections to join it. The Esquesing board became part of the Halton Board of Education in 1969.

The one room school was looked after by a committee of three trustees. The Esquesing Board had five trustees. The Halton board has 2 trustees, one of whom represents both Acton and the former Esquesing township.

The opening of the new school in Stewarttown in 1958 spelled the end of the Ash-

rove, and Stewarttown schools as well as taking the seventh and eighth grade students out of Blue Mountain Stone School and Bannockburn and some Clay Hill students.

In 1960 Speyside school opened and Dublin, Dufferin, Waterloo, Lorne and Bannockburn schools closed. The Stone School and Blue Mountain also closed but their students went to Stewarttown.

The original two-room Limehouse school closed in 1961 when the new school opened there and Bannockburn and some Blue Mountain and Stone School students transferred to it.

The final schools to join the Esquesing Board were Ligny, Quatre Bras, Pine Grove and Hornby. They went into the area board the first of January 1962 and closed in June. The new Pineview School opened that September.

What happened to the old schools? Most of them have found new uses and newer residents not trained to look

for the traditional structure with a central porch and distinctive shape don't recognize them.

Ligny School (S.S. no. 1) on 5 Sideroad west of Highway 25 belongs to the Scotch Block Women's Institute and is used as a community hall.

Quatre Bras (S.S. No. 2) on the Fourth Line north of 5 Sideroad, is a private home.

Ashgrove (S.S. No. 3) on Trafalgar Road south of 10 Sideroad, was a private residence and is now a garage.

Pine Grove (S.S. No. 4) on 5 Sideroad west of the Ninth Line, is a community hall. It is the only frame school in the township.

Waterloo (S.S.No. 5) on the Fourth Line north of 15 Sideroad, is a private home.

Stewarttown, (S.S. No. 6) on 15 Sideroad west of Trafalgar Road, is a factory.

Norval, (S.S. No.7) just north of Highway 7 in the village, has been torn down, and the second Norval school which closed in the early 1970s is now a community hall and the home of the Montessori nursery school.

Dublin, (S.S. No. 8) west of Highway 25 on 22 Sideroad is now a private residence.

Limehouse (S.S.No. 9) on the Fourth Line south of the village, was a two storey stone building and has been converted into two apartments.

Dufferin, (S.S. No. 10) on



The Hornby School on Steeles Avenue and Trafalgar Road was a combination school serving a school section in Esquesing and one in Trafalgar Township. It was designated as an AE school and was sold to the North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded on the condition that it revert to the Esquesing township taxpayers if it ever ceases to be used as a workshop for the retarded.

Highway 25 south of the St. Helena Road, is a private residence.

Glen Williams (S.S. No. 11) on 22 Sideroad east of the village was a two room school when it closed in the late 1940s. It is a private home.

Lorne, (S.S. No. 12) on Highway 25 north of Acton, was originally used as the Jehovah's Witness Hall but became a private residence 10 years ago.

Blue Mountain, (S.S. No. 14), on Trafalgar Road below Ballinafad, was sold to S.G. Bennett and is closed up.

Clay Hill, (S.S. No. 15) on the Tenth Line north of 27 Sideroad was sold to a businessman who quarries stone in the school yard. The stone school burned down in the late 1960s.

Stone School (S.S. No. 16) at the corner of Highway 7

and 22 Sideroad, was dismantled in the mid 1960s and the stones used to build a house on the Fifth Line at the north edge of Limehouse.

Milton Heights school on the First Line north of Steeles Avenue, became the north Education Centre for the Halton board in 1969.



Bannockburn, (S.S. No. 13) on Highway 7 at the Fourth Line, is a private residence. The bricks have been covered with stucco.



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