

S.S. No. 12 Markham

Celebrate School Centennial

Former pupils, teachers and trustees of SS 12 (Clayton) located on Concession 5, Markham, gathered in Victoria Square Community Hall June 15 to celebrate the Centennial of the old school. The afternoon was spent in renewing school-day friendships and exchanging reminiscences. Miss Mabel Sanderson gave a brief resume of the history of the school. Since the school is now the residence of Rev. and Mrs. Jack Cooper, the celebration was held in the community hall, many accepting the Coopers' invitation to visit the former school, following the ceremonies.

In her remarks Miss Sanderson noted that county boards of education were established in 1850 and were to consist of the boards of trustees of the county grammar schools together with the local superintendent in each county. They met four times a year to examine teachers' qualifications and either issue or cancel county common school certificates. They were also supposed to select textbooks from a prescribed list prepared by the Council of Public Instruction for use in the schools under their jurisdiction.

35 TEACHERS
In 1857 there were 35 teachers in Markham, she reported, with salaries about 42 pounds, 10 shillings, 8½ pence per year. In 1858 in the old SS 12, Mr. Middleton was the teacher at a salary of \$380 per year, and Chris Doner was paid \$16 for building a privy. In 1865 James Hitchcock was paid \$1 for whitewashing the school.

NEW SCHOOL?
At a meeting of the ratepayers of the section January 14, 1874, it was moved that the trustees be requested to call a special meeting for the purpose of taking into consideration the selection of a school site — removing of the present schoolhouse and enlarging and repairing it, or building a new school. This motion carried. Chairman of the meeting was Thomas Brown and secretary was George Lawson.

At a meeting called for January 16, 1874, those in favor of a new school were: Thomas Brown, Benjamin Jenkins, John Wideman, William Mustard, George Brown, Aaron Tool, Reuben Steckley, John Mustard, James Klinck, Thomas Lawson, Angus McKinnon, George Lawson, Samuel Brown, Christian Wideman, Anthony Spang, Daniel Wideman, Allen McKinnon, Francis Walker. Voting against was Daniel Shirk. Angus McKinnon was chairman and George Lawson secretary. (At that time a chairman and secretary were picked at each meeting of the trustees from those present. In 1883 a chairman and secretary for the year were appointed for the first time.)

In 1874 the amount of \$1,687.88 was levied on the section for the new school building. The following year the sale of the old schoolhouse and stove brought \$38.50. (A map at Mr. Luman's in Markham shows this first schoolhouse on the corner of Lot 26, Concession 5). In 1879 William R. Nichols, third class certificate was teacher at \$325. At that time boards and teachers were required to give 12 months notice.

NO TOWNSHIP BOARD
In 1879 it was moved by Robert Bruce, seconded by George McKay that it is inexpedient to substitute a township board for the management of common schools in place of the present system for the following reasons:

- (1) Because our schools, as now constituted, work well and to the satisfaction of the ratepayers in general.
- (2) Because the duties of a township board would be so onerous that salaries would have to be paid for the work now performed by school board and ratepayers gratuitously.
- (3) Because, however desirable it may be that taxation for educational purposes should be equalized, it is no less desirable that educational privileges should be equally extended to all, a result which would not be obtained under the management of a township board.
- (4) Because the elections of a township board would in a great measure be controlled by the ratepayers in villages not incorporated, consequently such villages would secure the best teachers at high salaries, while the purely rural districts would have cheap teachers and the sweet satisfaction of paying for extra teachers to other schools.
- (5) Because many schoolhouses in Markham have security, been erected at great cost and it would be gross injustice to those who have already paid for school accommodation should they be compelled to pay a share in the cost of erection of schoolhouses still required.
- (6) Because it is not presumable that a township board would work so faithfully for the interest of the public at large as men chosen by a certain school section and personally interested now work for the interests of their neighborhood

and by whom they are elected.
(7) Because in SS No. 12 Markham matters are conducted harmoniously, efficiently and economically without favors to nephews, nieces, brothers, sisters, sons and daughters — but should anyone belonging to the section desire the appointment of teacher, there is no good reason why such should not be referred if duly qualified. This motion was carried unanimously.

Ed. note: This motion must have been effective, because it was almost 80 years before a township school board came to Markham.
6 CORDS WOOD \$4.10
By 1880 the salary had risen to \$360 and just three months notice was required. In 1886 the teacher was M. J. Thomson. William Lewis was chairman, Stewart Brodie treasurer and Richard Caseley secretary. In 1889 A. Smith (uncle of Walter and Alfred Smith) was the teacher. That year trustees Isaac Brumwell and Robert Bruce moved that the board purchase six cords of dry wood to be cut in 24 inch lengths, split and delivered for \$4.10.

In 1901 Mr. Klinck was the teacher at \$330. He was also the caretaker and his contract stated that if he left he had to hire a new teacher with the same standard of education who would also be the caretaker. In 1905 a new roof of galvanized iron was put on the schoolhouse and in 1906 William McKay was paid 25c a month for water for the school.

When George Gee was appointed to the office of secretary-treasurer in 1909, at a salary of \$4, he was the first holder of this office to be paid.

WOODSHED ADDED
In 1876 a woodshed was added to the school at a cost of \$73 and the next year 55c was spent for an axe handle and a tin pail. In 1885 \$5.85 went for a map of the Dominion of Canada. In 1894 4 lbs. of wire nails cost 20c and making a bridge in front of the gate came to 50c. Additional land for garden was purchased from Mr. Brumwell, in 1908 for \$60. Joseph Collard was paid \$4 for a cord of wood in 1907 and Isadore Wideman received \$4.95 for caretaking in 1912.

IN 1911
Miss Myrtle Klelnck was the teacher at No. 12 in 1911 at a salary of \$450. Jacob Smith was secretary of the board. Average attendance was 25. Assessment on the section was \$177,400 and value of the school property was \$1,400 and of equipment \$200. In the same year, as a comparison, Miss Francis Louise Lundy (Mrs. Rolph Boynton) was teacher in No. 6 (south of Victoria Square), at \$500 per year. Charlie Sanderson was board secretary. Assessment was \$145,225, value of school was \$1,700, equipment \$200 and attendance 23.

Miss Effie Summerfeldt was the teacher at No. 12 in April 1914 and Miss Theresa Taulty in June of the same year. In 1915 Miss Jean Scott was the teacher. The next year four window shades were purchased from Eaton's, a flagpole was erected for a total cost of \$7.32 and \$5 was paid to J. C. Steckley for the township school fair. Allen Myers came as teacher at \$600 and stayed a year and a half.


In 1916 total receipts were \$1,604.38 and expenses \$765.19, leaving a bank balance of \$834.16 and cash on hand of \$503.

NO OIL
In 1917 Mr. Agar was instructed to have the school floor oiled but reported it was not done owing to the scarcity of oil.

Miss Jean Scott filled out the school year after Mr. Myers left at \$700 per year. A new furnace was installed at a cost of \$180.

At the annual meeting in 1918 a discussion was held on changing school hours to

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12-Year-Old Girl Drowns

A 12-year-old Agincourt girl was drowned after being blown off an air mattress at Sunnybrook Park in Pefferlaw at Lake Simcoe, July 28.

York Regional Police said that Antonia Sontoli, 24 Wishing Well Drive, had been lying on an air mattress when it was overturned by the wind. She attempted to retrieve it when it was carried out into deeper water and got into difficulties.

Several attempts were made to help her, but were unsuccessful.

Her body was recovered about an hour after she had gone in swimming at 2 p.m.

An industrial accident at a construction site at York County Hospital in Newmarket, July 25, resulted in serious injuries to Carrado Aprile, 45, of Kennedy Road, Scarborough.

Police said Mr. Aprile was still in critical condition at the hospital, where he was taken after being buried under a pile of dirt when a wall caved in.

He suffered cardiac arrest and head injuries. Police said that charges

are to be laid by the Industrial Safety Bureau of the Ministry of Labor.

A woman and her son escaped serious injury when the plane they were flying in was forced to make a crash landing near Buttonville Airport.

Although the accident occurred July 22, police said it wasn't reported to them until two days later.

Police said that Mrs. Joan Baldwin, of 192 Balmoral Avenue, Toronto, had rented a Cessan 150 and was coming in for a landing when she noticed another plane nearby.

She put the plane in slow flight, and then was unable to regain speed later. A runaway had been cleared for her to make an emergency landing, but she couldn't make it and came down instead in a clearing on the farm of Melvin Wellman, 16th Avenue and Concession 3.

The plane turned over and Mrs. Baldwin suffered a cut on her mouth. Her son, Gavin, was uninjured.

The plane was completely destroyed.

BRADFORD: The Chamber of Commerce will ask the Simcoe-Georgian Task Force to consider planning a population for this town of between 60,000 and 75,000 in the next 30 years. The task force has allotted Bradford a population of from 4,500 to 32,000 people by the year 2011.

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