

ROSSEAU LAKE SCHOOL

Rosseau, Ontario.

NEWS LETTER

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THE FIRE AND AFTER

This is a short letter to bring you up-to-date on the unhappy event of January 30th when the Main Building was destroyed by fire and to re-assure you that the school is very much in session.

The destruction of the magnificent Main Building, once the Summer home of the late Lady Eaton, was both unexpected and tragic. And since it was serving as a home for 23 persons, with kitchen, dining room, offices, lounge and library for the entire school, its loss presented several problems.

I am preparing a full account of that day's events and will send it later. But for now you will wish to know how we are managing.

The boys returned Monday, (Feb. 5th) as planned, with the displaced boys accommodated in the Redwood Inn, with Mr. Watson in charge. Breakfast in the Village Community Hall was served at the regular time (8 a.m.) Assembly at 9 a.m. in the classroom building for briefing. Classes began immediately afterwards. Lost and found articles were distributed at 3:30. The daily routine was in operation with meals and accommodation in temporary quarters.

At the moment of writing seven 50 foot mobile units are moving from Montreal which will be set up on a site already prepared, (power, water, and sewage) on the grounds. Three of these units will be placed together for kitchen and dining room. Another three units form a housing complex for 20 with all facilities. All this should be operational by the first of the week. Mrs. Perry and I will have a trailer of our own next to the other units.

Gratitude hardly seems adequate to describe my feelings at this time to our Directors, parents, friends, the villagers, old boys, officials at the Ministry of Education and many private Schools. Everyone has been magnificent, sympathetic and encouraging. And I am pleased to say only one boy dropped out and this partly because of family illness. We can safely say "Business as Usual."

As to the future, the Directors and I have already had preliminary discussions regarding rebuilding and will be meeting very shortly to draft plans for a new building or buildings to replace the one lost. You will be kept informed of progress.