

# Little red brick schoolhouse hive of activity once again



As part of Heritage Week and its association with Ontario's Bicentennial, twenty pupils from Ballantree Public School returned to the little red brick schoolhouse on the grounds of the Whitechurch-Stouffville Museum. Five of the students are shown here (left to right) Brent McQuaker, 8; Brent Bunnell, 8; Brent Dalton, 9; and Tracey Leonard, 8.



Three staff teachers from Ballantree were in charge of instruction in the one-room school setting. They are (left to right) Lois Quarrier, Neil Beatty and Margaret Crichton. They seemed to enjoy the change as much as the children.



It's called concentration! Eight-year-old Michael Gilroy completes his classroom assignments, unimpaired of what's going on around him. Pupils doing the best work were allowed to write with a quill.

## Celebrate Heritage Week

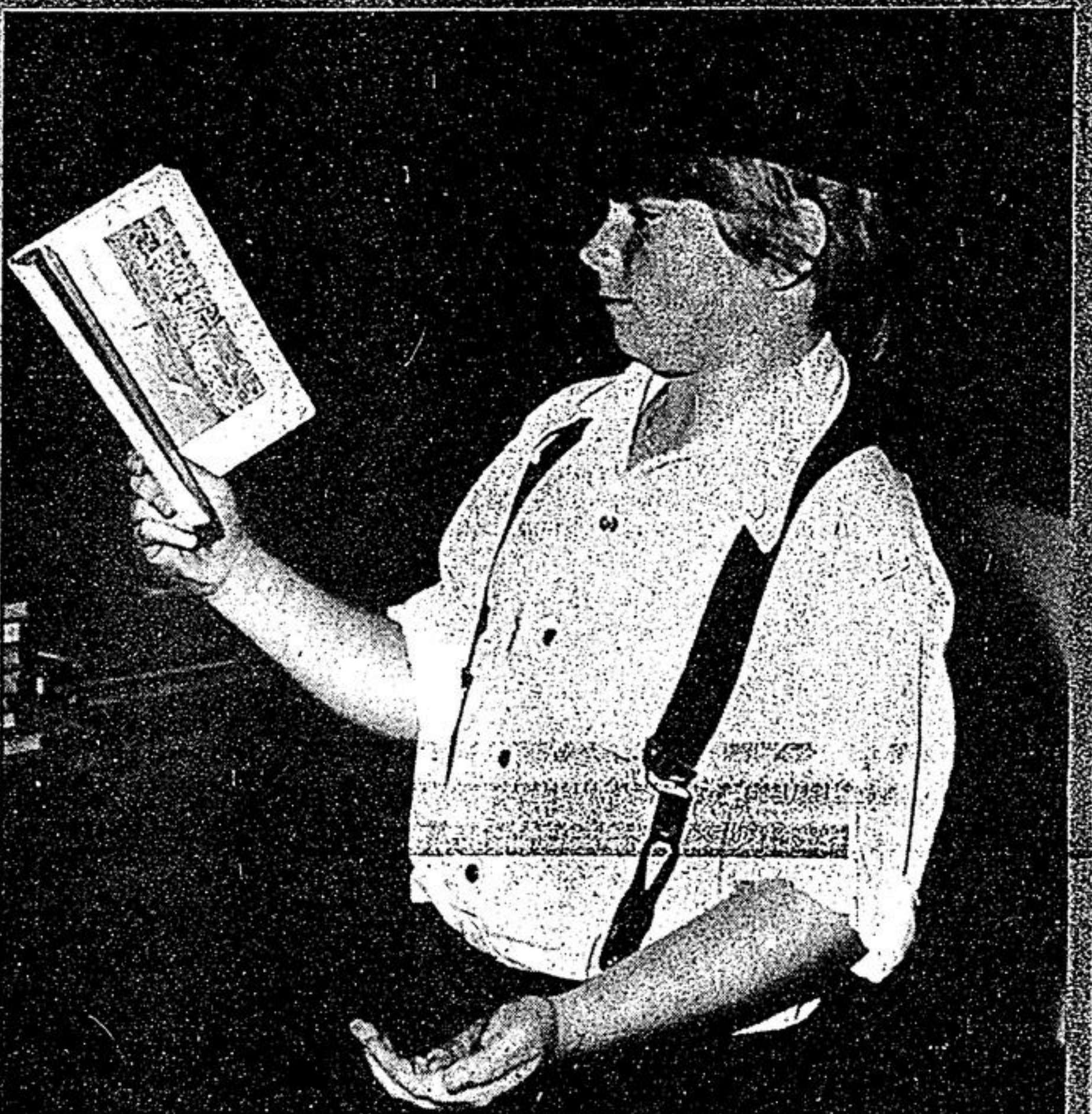
By Jim Thomas  
BALLANTREE — Time flies. Time also stands still, or so it seems. Last week, for twenty students of Ballantree Public School, time was reversed—100 years.

The scene was the little red brick schoolhouse on the grounds of the Whitechurch-Stouffville Museum. The girls wore long dresses, bonnets and shawls. The boys wore pants with wide braces, peaked caps and straw hats. A Union Jack stood in one corner of the room, a large globe in the other. The children worked on slates and, by special permission, quills. The date on the blackboard read Oct. 11, 1884.

The teachers, Neil Beatty, Lois Quarrier and Margaret Crichton, were also dressed in keeping with the occasion. Discipline was strict but patient.

Symbols of the past were everywhere—school pictures and student photos taken at Bogartown, Vandorf, Pine Orchard, Hartman, Ringwood, almost every location where a rural school once served a community. There were promotion certificates containing the names of Elmer Starr and John Billinger, a photo of the Fourth Class at Bogartown, dated 1893—and more. Despite the reversal of time, part of Heritage Month at Ballantree School, the children responded well, even enjoyed it. "I like the way they did things in the olden days," said one eight-year-old. "It was more fun."

"I never want to change back," said another. "This has been the best week of my whole life."



Holding his reader in one hand and gestulating with the other, twelve-year-old Lorne Brand held the attention of his student audience. Most children expressed regret when the week was over.



Eight-year-old Brent Yalcley sports the only bowler hat in the schoolhouse. He is proud of his grand mother's hat. While the pen presented some problems, Brent thought the slates "great meat."



Ten-year-old Nicole McCann attempts to find Vandorf on a classroom globe, with out success. In fact, she couldn't locate Ballantree either. Globes were commonplace in every one-room school.



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## Bell and cairn unveiled by mayor

BALLANTREE — The century-old Ballantree School bell and cairn were unveiled by Mayor Tom Wood today. The bell, which has been in the school since 1884, was cast by the Bell Foundry in Glasgow, Scotland. The cairn, which was built by the school children in 1884, was also unveiled today. The mayor said that the bell and cairn were important symbols of the school's history and heritage. He also mentioned that the school had been recently renovated and that the children had been very helpful in the process. The unveiling ceremony was held in front of the schoolhouse and was attended by many community members.