



Township of Melancthon
Heritage Advisory Committee
One Room Schoolhouse Project
S.S. #3
Conover School
By: Member Kristine Pedicone



Background

SS# 3 was a brick building constructed in 1903. It was on the corner of County Road 124 and 20th Sideroad in Melancthon. The building housed grade 1 - 8. The initial enrollment was 42 students. The school housed 8 windows and the teachers' desk was elevated at the front of the classroom. The first teacher was believed to be paid \$300 per year. The school was originally heated by a wood stove. The Union Sunday school was held in the school every Sunday. The principal subjects were Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, History, Geography and Grammar. The school was demolished in 1966. It now has a personal residence on the lot.



1963-1964

Back Row: Eva Bell, Faye Henry, Keith Lawson, Gwen Elgie, Sheila Bates, Paul Black, Myrna Laverty, Brian Noble, Bill Bates, Eddie Downey

Middle Row: Allen Leitch, Nancy Laverty, Betty Ann Wilson, Jean Lawson, Melanie Leitch, Gwen Newell, Patricia Speers, Nancy Elgie, Peter Downey

Front Row: Ann Lawson, Jane Henry, Alan Speers, Ronnie Speers, Keith Henry, Judy Elgie, Reg Henry, Larry Elgie, Randy Leitch



1966-1967

Back Row: Bob Service, Eric Broderick, Harry Service, Don Jamieson, Mrs. Patterson, Bruce Hunking, Valerie Coe, Carolyn Speers, Don Service

Middle Row: Lois Broderick, Larry Coe, Lloyd, Lorne Ferguson, Marc Atkinson, Darlene Campbell, Herb Service, Heather Wallace, Lori Hannon

Front Row: Delmar Lloyd, Arner Armstrong, Bill Service, Larry Lloyd, Wayne Proctor, Murray Dynes, Trudy Wallace, Paul Jamieson, Anne Atkinson

Unconfirmed



Trip to Sugar Bush

This is a school trip to the sugar bush at Dan Ferguson's. Front row is Nancy Elgie, Gwen Elgie, Faye Henry. The two boys on the right are Brian Noble and Ian Bates. guessing maybe 1958.

Some of the Favorite Memories from Students Who Attended S.S #18:

My grandmother, Ena (Prentice) Fleming went to Conover school. She was born in 1901, so she would have been a student starting in 1906 or 1907 until she went to high school. She often told of riding her pony to school from their farm on the Melancthon/Mulmur Townline. She would throw the reins around its neck when she got to school, and the pony would go home on its own. I do not remember the details of her teachers. - **L. Besley**

Attended Grade 1-8 Mrs. McLean, Mrs. Woods and Mrs. Bell teachers for those years. Anti over the shanty, a few windows broke with the ball being thrown over the roof of the school. Huge snowbanks at the back school yard, lots of tunnels made. Hot chocolate for everyone on Fridays in the wintertime. School Christmas concerts. - **Gail Anne**

General Information- 25 – 30 students consisting of grade 1 through grade 8. After they went to Honeywood for continuation school. My teacher was Mrs. Annie McLean. She taught for 8 years she lived and farmed south of Honeywood. School would open with God Save the King and The Lord's Prayer. Subjects consisted of math, history, spelling, memory work, reading and writing. If you got into trouble you had to stay in at recess and if you used a swear word you got soap on your tongue. The inspector would come around to make sure rules were followed. The schools amalgamated with Dufferin County Board of Education and the office was in Shelburne.

Travelling to and from school: Walked 1¼ miles each way. We would walk together with friends. As we got older we would ride our bikes. County road 124 used to be the 2nd line of Melancthon and was not paved until 1951. Games that we played were Annie-I-Over: throw the ball over the school and when you got enough points you would go around the school and tag the other team with the ball. Swinging on the sewing set, throw the ball and if you were hit with the ball, you would switch places. In the wintertime we dug tunnels in the snowbank, had snowball fights, and made an ice rink which had chunks of dirt and rocks in it. We were allowed to wear our skates in the school so it would not take too long to get ready at recess. We played cards, games and baseball.

Our wood stove was a barrel with a door cut out of it. There was a shield around it so no one would get burnt. Sometimes it was so cold that we were allowed to sit around the stove and have reading time. Someone would provide wood to the school and the boys had to stack it in the woodshed and keep the wood box full during winter. We had a pump for water and no running water. Just a basic hole for a toilet but we did have hydro.

Field Trips and Events: The boys were allowed to go chop down the Christmas tree. We would walk two miles into the bush with an axe. We always argued about which tree to chop down. On the way back and the tree was probably 12 feet high, Fred Westacott tripped the guy in front, and everyone fell over.

The School Christmas concert was the big event of the year with poems, plays and recitations.

Carl Bates was our caretaker. – **Ralph Armstrong Attend from 1947 to 1955**