

Upper and Lower Maple Lake Schools

Source: *Teacher's Log in the General Register of SS. No.5 Stanhope, Maple Lake, Ontario, 1934-1944*

The first public school at Maple Lake was erected about the year 1865. It was a log structure and remained the only building of its kind for forty-three years. This school, School Section #2, was situated next to where the former Maple Lake Post Office stood. Mr. T. Grimett was one of the first teachers.

In 1908 the log school was replaced by a white frame one. It stood in the same place and was turned into a private home by Mr. George Fader.

Some of the students at the Maple Lake School came from Beech Lake. Toward the end of 1920 it was decided that there would be sufficient pupils to divide the section into two parts. There was a great deal of controversy as to whether there would be enough pupils to open two new schools.

The people at the west end of Maple Lake built a school on Maple River in 1921. It was School Section #5 and was also known as the Lower Maple Lake School.

The foundation made of stone, is the work of Mr. William Welch. The building was erected by Mr. Charles Taylor and Mr. David Chambers. The lot on which the school stands was purchased from the late Richard Dawson.

The new school opened in September 1921 with Miss Marjorie Chambers installed as teacher. Miss Chambers resided with Mr. Richard Dawson. Her home was at Carnarvon. During her time teaching she got up concerts and with the proceeds purchased a clock and bell.

During the first term there were 18 pupils:
Evelyn MacBrien, Verna MacBrien, Holly Dawson, Wesley Dawson, Stewart Dawson, Gordon Barry, Reta Barry, Annie Barry, Isabelle Gibbs, Wilma & Elma Ferguson, Lillian and Randall Taylor, Wilbert, John and Eddy Sisson, Roy McPhail and Ethel Ferguson.

Frances Muriel Switzer, originally of St. George, Ontario was hired on December 29th of 1933 to teach at S.S. #5, Stanhope, at Maple Lake, Ontario. She started a new school 'register' with the class of September 4th, 1934.

Miss Switzer was responsible for 34 students in eight grade levels:

Senior 5 th (Gd. 10)	2 pupils
Junior 3 rd (Gd.5)	6 pupils
Junior 5 th (Gd.9)	3 pupils
Senior 2 nd (Gd.4)	3 pupils
Junior 4 th (Gd.7)	5 pupils
Senior 1 st (Gd.2)	8 pupils
Senior 3 rd (Gd.6)	2 pupils
Junior 1 st (Gd. 1)	5 pupils

In the ensuing 17 years, Miss Switzer was succeeded by:	
Albert E. Medley of Owen Sound	April 5, 1937,
William J. Hart of Haliburton	September 5, 1939,
Gertrude E. McGee of Fenelon Falls	January 17, 1940,
Martha J. Coutts of Hamilton	October 15, 1940,
Charlotte Ruth Gibson of Toronto	September 7, 1943,
Robert Francis Thomas of Toronto	September 1, 1944,
Phyllis Ruth Hodgson of Haliburton	September 1, 1945,
Anna Marion Sedgwick of Gelert	September 1948,
Edyth Geraldine Golden	September 1949,
Betty Alice Alberta Burk of Lochlin	September 1950.

In 1934 there were 34 pupils - a marked increase. After that, there were nine teachers. In 1934 the subject Agriculture was introduced to the curriculum of the school. The first Fifth Class (Grades 9/10) was in 1921 and had only two pupils.

The first Trustee Board consisted of Mr. Robert Ferguson, Mr. Howard Thompson, Mr. Thomas Redner, and Mr. Charles Taylor.

In October 1935 Caustic Lavatories were installed in the school. In the summer of 1932 a furnace replaced the old box stove. In December 1936 a well was drilled at the S.E. corner of the school. The drill struck rock at 14 feet. Water was found at 92 ½ feet.

During the autumn of 1938, several improvements were made around the school and yard. Under the direction of the school board, a wood-shed was erected; a porch with a cement foundation was built over the basement door; some large rocks were removed from the yard and a post was sunk to which a flag-pole is to be installed.

With the beginning of the year 1939 we have started a new era in school management. We as a school Board unit joined with the other schools of this township under one school board of five members. The members of the first Board are as follows: Chairman Norman Brown, Carnarvon; William Ferguson, Carnarvon; Jack Langman, Maple Lake; Wilfred Mason, Boskung and; John Hewitt, Halls Lake.

During the term 1941-42 the children laid a stone walk from school steps to gate.

January 1943 - a War Savings Certificate was bought for the school by the Maple Lake Helpers Junior Red Cross Branch from the proceeds of the Christmas concert. It is numbered XA1477117 and is made out in the name of the present president Phyllis Dawson who is custodian of the certificate until its maturity when it becomes the property of the Junior Red Cross Branch of this school, towards paying the yearly fee for 5 years or to be used as the members then may decide. Value \$5.00.

Both Upper and Lower Maple Lake Schools closed in 1966. The Upper Maple Lake School later became Audrey's Consignments, which is now closed. The red and white building still retains its distinctive "S.S. #2" sign above the door.

The Lower Maple Lake School became the Municipal Offices until 1991 when it sold and turned into a private home. The building is now hardly distinguishable as a former school.