

PHIPPS ST. SCHOOL- ROSE SEATON

Rose Seaton had its beginning in 1875, when the Bertie Council held its first meeting in School Section #1, passed by law on Apr. 24th. Beginning in 1876 and continuing for almost three years, the Victoria Public School as it was then known, was held in the old Warden place lot #20 on Courtwright St. William Anderson was appointed secretary and the trustees were Thomas Leveridge: John Wood: Francis Elwood: Robert Moore: Issac White: and R.G. Warden as auditor. In Feb. the board hired their first teacher, John M. Campbell for six months.

On May 13, 1876 a meeting was held for the purpose of borrowing money to build and furnish a schoolhouse, and for the buying of a lot. In Aug. 1877 it was moved that the tender of Henry Thompson, offering to build the school for \$599.00 cash be accepted; and that the said trustees enter into an agreement to complete them in a satisfactory manner: the one at Grand Trunk Station (Amigari) and the one at Victoria, by Dec. 21, 1877.

On Oct. 13, 1877 the land for the new school at Victoria was bought from William Brock Forsyth, lot 8 con. 1. N.R. on the north side of Phipps St. The land for the Amigari School to be built on the north side of Gilmore Rd. was purchased from Sofia Thornhill at a cost of \$100.00. It stood just west of Dunlop St. and was run by the same school board. Both schools were completed by Dec. 21st. 1877.

School attendance increased greatly, and on Aug. 16, 1877 a meeting was called at the Victoria schoolhouse for the purpose of asking permission from the rate payers of the section, to authorize debentures for the purpose of building a new school, on the new school site. By May 13, 1891, the trustees expressed their opinion that a new schoolhouse was a necessity.

In 1891 plans were obtained from the Educational Dept., and the corner stone laid; and the following year a handsome four room brick school was completed at a cost of \$9,000.00. The school was then called Phipps St. after the roadway that passed in front. It had been named in honor of Wm.R. Phipps, clerk of the Forestry Dept. of Ontario.

In 1898 Continuation Classes were established in the Bridgeburg School System, and the upper floors were used for this purpose. At this date the school was valued at \$9,500. and the furniture and equipment to the value of \$700.00.

In 1907 plans were discussed for an addition of four room to the front; however this apparently was scrapped. In 1908 an addition of two rooms was made to the back at a cost of \$6,700. The builder was Richard Smith of Niagara Falls. There were two more additions to the rear; section: one added to the west of two rooms and one added to the east of two rooms.

By 1910 the teachers in Section #1 were Mr. Henderson: Miss Grace Anthens: M.S. Stephens: Miss Stafford: Miss Jane Gerrard: Miss Helen Gerard, and a recent addition to the staff, Miss Rose Seaton.

On Apr. 14, 1916 the Council approved a new public school site, on the property of Helen Lewis on the south east cr. of Central Ave. and the road allowance that was to become Wintemute St. This was a four room brick building, with the upper floors used for Continuation Classes that moved to this location from Phipps St. The school was given the name of Wintemute School.

On Sept. 1st. 1918 Rose Seaton was made principal of Phipps St, at the salary of \$900.00 per annum. In 1945 the school was renamed in her honor.

Enrolement continued to increase and in 1927 a four room addition was made to the school this time to the front, making a total of fourteen rooms.

1984 the teachers and pupils will continue to use the old building till the end of the term, then in the fall when school reopens they will move into the new school which had been built directly behind, running along the south side of Emerick Ave. During the summer months the workmen will be busy demolishing the old Phipps St. School, and all that will remain will be land for a playground.