

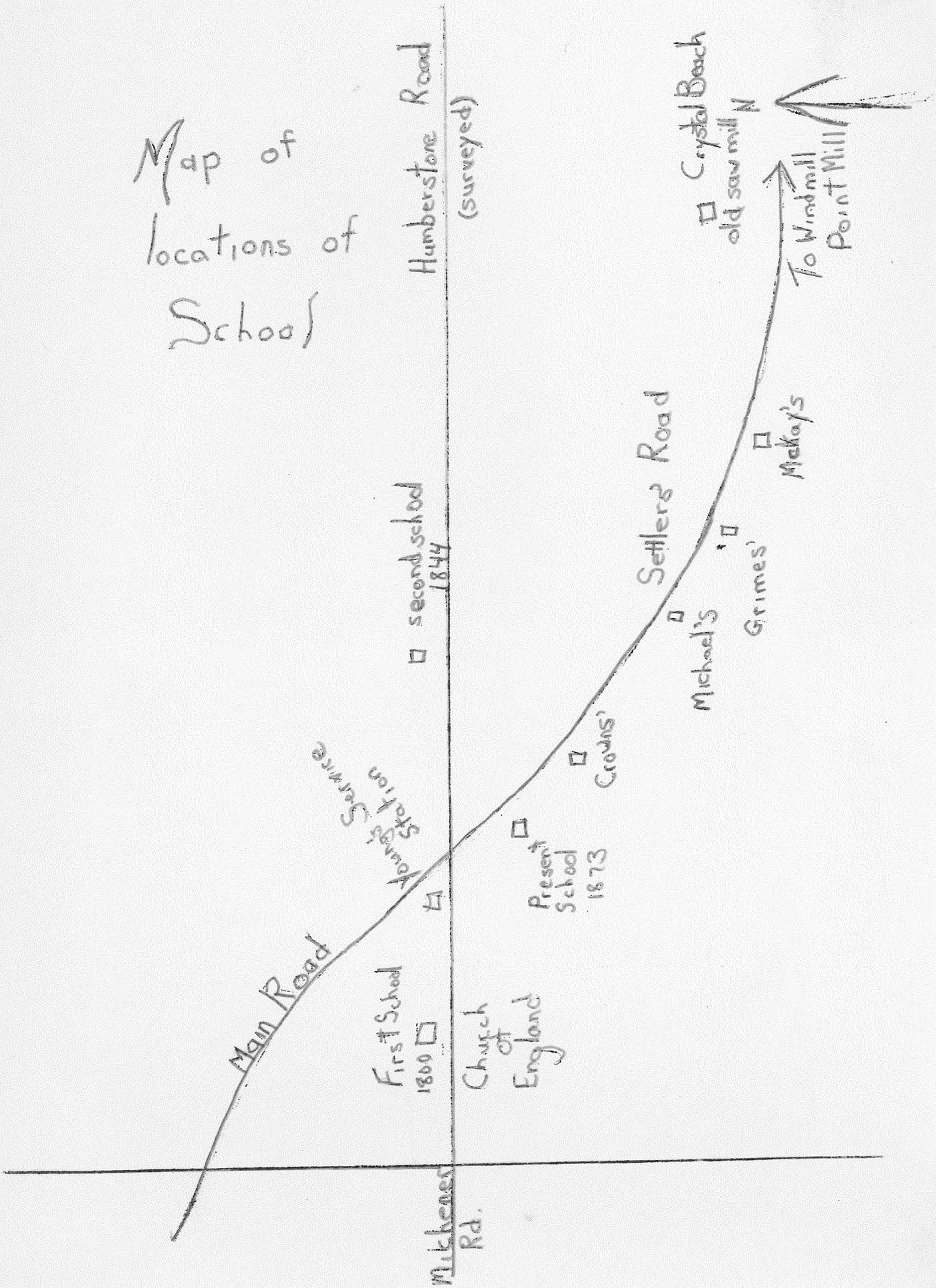
POINT ABINO

SCHOOL.



1927
C

Map of locations of Schools



(wing to the scarcity of records much of the background of the Point Abino School is not clear. It is generally believed that the first school came into existence sometime after 1800 and was erected on the property behind the Point Abino Service Station in the old tourist camp. Some say it was built of logs and shared with the Church of England. Teachers boarded with the parents who wished their children educated for about two weeks each. Each day the teacher would go to the school to teach the children. The parents shared the cost of wages and board of the teacher as there were no taxes. The earliest salary figure in records states that a teacher earned less than three hundred dollars a year in 1905.

In 1840 Egerton Ryerson re-organized the schools of Ontario and this method has come down to us today. Teachers were trained in a normal school and the salaries were low in comparison with nowadays. In the records the earliest teacher's salary was \$65.00 a quarter which amounted to \$260.00 per annum. In 1894 the salary was \$320.00 a year and in 1896 it was \$348.00. There were no teaching aids in use then, and the teachers had to toil to prepare for their many classes each day.

Years later, the second school was built about two hundred yards east of the present one, on the north side of the road and until 1874 was used until the present school was opened. A book was presented as a memento to the pupils at this time, dated April 14th, 1874.

Land for the school was acquired from William and Margaret Barney on July 29th, 1873. Trustees at the time were: Washington Sloan, Walter E. Ellsworth and William Schooley. A larger area was bought in 1911 from John and Ann Caroline McLeod, the trustees being Nathan Day, George Wintemute and John H. Sherck. The third part making up what we now know as the school property was acquired in October of 1962 from Mrs. E. Miller, making up the total area to approximately two acres. The trustees at this time were: G. W. McIntosh, Earl Winger, Fred Crown, and H. Day Secretary-Treasurer.

The original school was made of stone about 18 inches thick with a double door facing north. There were two cloakrooms at the back. There was a teacher's desk and platform at the south end. The wood stove gave un-even heat, so that those close by had ruddy complexions while those far from the source of heat shivered with cold. Sometimes on cold, windy days a kindly teacher would gather the pupils around the stove so that as many as possible could share in the warmth. The old-fashioned box stove with a pipe which ran upward and then horizontally to the back of the room heated the school from 1874 until 1892. Then natural gas made its appearance. This type of fuel was used until 1899 when the course of the gas line was changed, forcing a return to wood until 1908. Then gas was introduced again and additional space heaters were put in in 1951. Electricity was installed in the school in 1929. The present hot water boiler was installed in 1963 when the last addition to the school was made.

In 1964 this school board was done away with and the Bertie Board consisting of a group of six men residing in the Township of Bertie came into existence.

S. S. #14 was closed in 1965 and the pupils were bussed to the Point Abino School. The elder schoolroom was made into a classroom and the community clubs were no longer permitted to use the school. The attendance at the school was 114 pupils now.

In 1967 the Bertie Sr. School was opened and this school accommodated the grades seven and eights. This allowed the six remaining grades to be split up into Grades 1-2, 3-4, 5-6.

In 1968 the Peace Bridge Area Board of Education was created for one year. The members of this board was made up of residents in the Fort Erie, Bertie Township and Crystal Beach area. The next year the Welland County Board of Education came into effect. These members were elected representatives from the Municipalities of the County of Welland. In 1971 when the Regional Government was established the board became the Niagara South Board of Education. Only the name of the Board was changed at this time.

Since 1968 the records of the Point Abino Public School have been kept. These are now housed in the Board's Central Office in Welland.

Any history of the school would not be complete without mention being made of the Parent-Teacher's Association (Club) which has been in operation since 1959. This was formed as a group of concerned parents and neighbours working together for the welfare of the school children. Bake Sales, Fairs, Hot Dog Days are all part of the life of this organization and everyone realizes that in working together for the good of the school there is much personal satisfaction.

The quality of education is still very high at this school. The Teachers know the pupils, and their difficulties and are ready to give assistance. The children are given the discipline they need, that of a just and responsible parent. Itinerant teachers teach music, language, French and give assistance in reading and speech. There is still reading, writing, arithmetic and spelling which form the real back-bone of a good education being taught.

It is interesting to note that a high percentage of the children graduating from Point Abino Public School have gone on to higher learning, and we hope with the education foundation that they received in this school it has made them worthy citizens no matter where they might have chosen to settle.

LIST OF TEACHERS AT THIS SCHOOL

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1892 - Miss Gertrude Bown | 1933 - Miss Certrude Briggs (Mrs. Jack Lichtenberger) |
| 1894 - Miss North | 1938 - Miss Dorothy Sherk |
| 1895 - Miss Bray | 1939 - Mr. Aldon Hasty |
| 1896 - C. I. Haynes | 1942 - Mrs. Lillian Athce |
| 1897 - Miss Bingham | 1943 - Miss Mitchel (Mrs. Hill) |
| 1898 - Miss Helen Ross | 1946 - Mrs. Lillian Athce |
| 1902 - Mr. E. L. Sherk | 1952 - Mrs. Stella Engles |
| 1903 - Miss Mae McClelland | 1953 - Mr. Thomas Toesh |
| 1908 - Miss Zavitz | 1954 - Miss Jean Johnson |
| 1909 - Miss McGovern | 1956 - Miss Charlotte Dix |
| 1910 - Mr. A. W. Heavley Miss Meek | 1958 - Mrs. Vera Wilson |
| 1912 - Miss McQueen Miss Schneuker | 1961 - Mrs. Marjerie Lewis Mrs. Lenore Ellsworth (temporary) |
| 1913 - Miss Fletcher | 1962 - Mrs. L. Lewis Miss Evelyn Leslie Miss H. Lamcrie |
| 1914 - Mr. Alvin Benner | 1963 - Mrs. M. Lewis Miss Evelyn Leslie |
| 1916 - Miss Elsley | 1964 - Mrs. M. Lewis Mr. Douglas Taylor |
| 1918 - Miss Creed Miss Marjerie Inman | 1965 - Mr. D. Taylor Mr. Trevor Climenhage Miss A. Kronkamp |
| 1922 - Miss Sloan | 1966 - Mr. D. Taylor, Miss Carol House, Mr. T. Climenhage, Miss Kronkamp |
| 1926 - Miss McKelvey (Mrs. E. Michael) | 1967 - Mr. D. Taylor, Mrs. Osborne, Mrs. Allen Mrs. Webster. |
| 1927 - Miss Viola Cotten | 1968 - Mr. D. Taylor, Mrs. Lorna Huber, Mrs. Webster. |
| 1929 - Miss Brown (Mrs. Davis) | |

INSPECTORS

- 1934 - 1939 - Mr. James McNiece
 1939 - 1962 - N. R. Wightman
 1962 - 1963 - 1963 - E. Sanderson
 1964 - J. R. K. Crossley
 1964 - 1967 - J. R. Graham
 1968 - 1971 - Mr. W. Smith (Supt. of Education.)

TRUSTEES OF S.S. NO. 12 BERTIE

| | |
|---|--|
| 1892 to 1894 | James Edsel |
| 1893 to 1895 | James Kaun |
| 1899 to 1901 | J. M. Schooley |
| 1897 to 1902 | John McLeod |
| 1898 to 1903 | Melvin Foreman |
| 1902 to 1904 (re-elected in 1917) | Martin Sherk |
| 1903 to 1911 | Nathan Day |
| 1905 to 1913 | Geo. Wintemute |
| 1907 to 1909 | Elman Michael |
| 1910 to 1915 | John H. Sherk |
| 1912 to 1914 | Thomas Metlar |
| 1914 to 1916 (re-elected in 1920) | Fred Near |
| 1915 to 1923 | Fred Wintemute |
| 1916 to 1924 | Walter Ellsworth |
| 1917 to 1919 | Martin Sherk |
| 1920 to 1925 | Fred Near |
| 1924 to 1929 | John Page |
| 1925 to 1936 | Jacob Reinhart |
| 1926 to 1937 | E. J. Reeb |
| 1930 to 1932 | Frank Bailey |
| 1933 to 1938 | Harlow Day |
| 1937 to 1945 | George Near |
| 1938 to 1942 (died in June, replaced by Earl Michael) | John E. Sherk |
| 1939 to 1942 | Stanley Walker |
| 1942 to 1947 | Earl Michael |
| 1943 to 1949 | Philip Cooper |
| 1946 to 1954 | H. Morley |
| 1948 to 1953 | Mrs. V. Janson |
| 1953 to 1964 | Earl Winger |
| 1954 to 1960 | Don Woods (resigned in April) |
| 1955 to 1960 | David Ellsworth |
| | Ray Haggerty (replaced D. Woods - resigned to enter municipal politics) |
| 1961 to 1963 | G. W. McIntosh |
| 1961 to 1964 | Fred Crown |
| 1964 | John Benner |

It is interesting to note that the Walter Ellsworth mentioned above is the son of the Walter Ellsworth on the first page of the history, David Ellsworth is the Grandson, and Robert Ellsworth who is now attending the school is the Great Great Grandson of Walter E. Ellsworth. Point Abino School has served four generations of Ellsworths.

SCHOOL SECTION No. 14

The former School Section No. 14 Bertie, consisted of land on the South West corner by the Bertie Humberstone Townline and the Canadian National Railroad East to the Point Abino Road, North to the line between lot 3 and 4 North of Highway No. 3, East to the Ott Road, North to the line between Lot 5 and 6, West to the House Road, North to Bowen Road, West to Point Abino Road, North to the line between Lot 9 and 10, West to the Bertie - Humberstone Townline and South to the railroad tracks.

There has been three schools. The first was on the South side of Gilmore Road on the Easterly part of Lot 4 just West of the grade in the road.

The second school was built on the north side of the Gilmore Road and West farther. It was in front of what is now the home of Gerry Van (sch.

The third school was built in 1909 and is now owned by Gerry Van (sch. The land for these two schools was about half an acre which was bought from a Mr. Joseph Sherk.

In about 1936 approximately another half acre was bought from Mr. Daniel Sherk the son of Joseph. In 1965 the school was closed and the pupils were transported by bus to Point Abino School.

Some of the teachers are:

Sis Bougner, Erie Sherk, Grace Sherk (all deceased)
 Helen Boyle (Mrs. Acheson Campbell) Cincinnati, (hic.
 Miss Heatherington, Evelyn Ellsworth (Mrs. D.D. Kinsman) Kelen
 Ellsworth (Mrs. Geo. Rebstock, Crystal Beach), Mrs. Charles Hill (deceased)
 Miss Bell, Grace Shepherd (Mrs. Claude Climenhage, Fort Erie)
 Miss Catharine McClean, Mr. W. F. Savage, (deceased) Mr. Frances Goldring
 Pelham, Miss Edith Hoogendyk, Miss Dorothy Sherk, Kitchener, High School.
 Marjorie Learn, (Mrs. Cecil Horton) Miss Shirley Bitner, Crystal Beach,
 Miss Helen Barusic, Miss Reba Wilson, St. Catharines, Mr. Arthur Eye,
 Fonthill, Mrs. Fred Staples, (deceased) Mrs. Helen Night, Miss Doris
 Anthes, Stella Pasowistie (Mrs. Gerry Engles) Mr. Charles Davis,
 Mrs. Abigail Winger (Sider, Stevensville), (mar Seburn, (deceased)
 Mrs. Ethel Woehl, Fort Erie, Mr. Bergman, Miss Valerie Priestman,
 Mr. Fred Disher, Dunnville and Alida Kromkamp (Mrs. William (sberne).

In the section were two churches. (ne on the Point Abino Road about the South corner of Lot 4. The other on Burger Road on the North Part of Lot 1 known as Kennedy's Hall. This was moved, cut the Mathews road and became part of Elias Beaches barn.

Some of the older settlers were - Ben Learn, Jonas Winger, Sam Kennedy, Joseph Sherk, David Sherk, Andrew Sherk, Christain Bitner, David Fretz, Simon Zavitz, John Burger, Menno Burger, Geo. House, Daniel T. Zavitz and Philip Zavitz.

Several Houses have been torn down or moved, but many more have been moved in, built or will be built in the near future. There are only a few farms that have direct descendants.