

Glenholme School Reunion- A Visit Down Memory Lane

Story & Photos by Linda Harrington

School house No. 18 is long gone but the memories live on! Close to 60 people, some former classmates and their spouses, and two former teachers dropped by Erskine United Church on July 20th to socialize and relive some childhood memories. The school used to be located right next to the Church. Students attended classes there until 1969.

Marilyn (Pash) Benjamin came up with the idea for the reunion throughout the winter months. Her mother, Frances Pash, was a former teacher at the school and she, along with her brothers, Bob and Darrell, and sister, Noreen, attended the two room school house a "few" years ago.

Linda (Smith) Giddens assisted Marilyn with the planning and others pitched in trying to contact as many former students and teachers as possible. Calls went out far and wide, relayed among siblings and neighbours, much like the old party telephone lines but much easier with the age of email, internet, the media and a Facebook page.

The morning started off with a bit of "who's who" as people began to arrive. Most had not seen each other since their school years and despite the aging process, many still recognized each other and the sharing of stories began.

Most students only attended Glenholme School for part of their education. Students in the late 50's into the 60's had to change schools several times without ever changing their rural address. They may have started out at the little school in Glenholme but then went on to schools in Great Village, Bass River, Masstown, Onslow and Truro.

Many remembered walking to school, some travelling a few miles each way. John Harrington says he was one of the lucky ones and was able to go home for lunch. He recalls not being happy to return for afternoon classes, "My mother used to have to sing me cowboy songs to get me to go back," he laughs.

Joyce (Bowers) Giddens and her sister Audrey used to have to walk two miles to school. "We would get as far as Donnie Cameron's house and stop in for some of his mother's delicious bran muffins she says. My sister loved to work on algebra with Donnie's mother," says Joyce. "And we used to get Donnie or sometimes Bobby Boyd to carry our books to and from school."

Ron Bowers recalls going out to the horse barns at recess. "All the boys went out there, some of the older boys for a smoke," he laughs adding, "I have many fond memories of playing ball, coasting on the Minister's Hill and the double lift."

Laverne Morrison remembers the double lift, also. "We all used to go coasting across the road on what was called the double lift

at recess. Our teacher, Mrs. Boyd, would have to come over and get us because we didn't hear the bell."

Randy McCarthy recalls jumping out the school graveside window on a hot day with classmate Keith Jeffers. "We went and had an hour swim in Little Dyke and then came back and climbed in the window. Not sure if the teacher ever noticed we were gone or not." He laughs at the memory of a young Garnet Kaulback flying through the air. "We shortened up the teeter totter so we could launch people into the snow drift. This time Garnet went flying right up and over the snow bank and landed right in the highway."

Marjorie Allen was a teacher for the Primary to 3 class from 1962-63. She recalls the outhouse was still in use and a chemical closet inside the front door, saying she was always afraid students might get into it and get hurt. Her favorite memory is of the wonderful Christmas Concerts at the Church Hall, across from the school.

Another teacher who attended the reunion was Audrey Wolfe Brown (Miss Wolfe). She taught at the school from 1953-55 and brought along several posters with collections of photos from those years. One poster was of the "Glenholme Sparklers", a community square dance group who practiced at the school, another of a class trip and Red Cross activities. There was also a poster with a poem Audrey had written in June, 1955 as school let out for the summer, expressing how she was going to miss all her students. "I was packing my books and papers and this poetry came to mind. I am happy that some of you will read it today," she wrote on the poster above the poem and class photo.

Reunion guests spent some time looking over all the historical items and photos on display in the Church basement before sharing their bag lunches, just like old times.

A second social gathering was held later in the evening at the Legion in Debert.



Classmates from 1930's and 1940's: Front (r to l)-Muriel Weatherby, Joyce (Bowers) Giddens, Ellen (Ross) Hamilton, Mary (Cruikshank) Carter, Joyce (Porter) Goodspeed, Doris (Dearmond) McCallum, Helen (Annand) Anderson; Back (l to r)-Aubrey Bowers, Arlene (Johnson) MacDonald, Donald Goudge, Ron Bowers.



Classmates from 1950 to 1955: Front (r to l)- Helen (Fisher) Radowits, Linda (Sutherland) Burton, Laverne Morrison, Marilyn (Pash) Benjamin; Back (r to l)- John Harrington, Vonnie (Bowers) Rushton, Fred Richard, Diane (Perrin) Lundie, Frances (Smith) McBurnie.



Classmates from 1955 to 1960: Front (l to r)-Wilhelmina (Boertjes) Folkertsma, Linda (Smith) Giddens, Cathy Eisses, Joan (Lynds) Richard, Barb (Lynds) Fletcher, Bev (Lynds) Loughead, Karl Kaulback; Middle (l to r)- Keith Jeffers, Debbie (Bowers) Smith, Claudia (McCarty) Putnam, Grayce Eisses Vanderploeg, Noreen (Pash) Trenholm, Janis (Emery) McNutt; Back (r to l)- Jim Elliott, Jim Eisses, John Eisses, Randy McCarthy, Henry Eisses, George Harrington and Garnet Kaulback.



Classmates from the 1960's: (r to l) Myra (Boyd) Savidant, Allison Boyd, Charles Harrington, Joyce Perrin, Majorie Allen.



Reunion guests enjoyed chatting with former classmates while eating a bagged lunch, just like they did years ago. Left to right- Jim and Ellen Eisses, Frances (Smith) McBurnie, Linda (Smith) Giddens.



John Harrington and Audrey (Wolfe) Brown look over a painting of Erskine United Church and the Glenholme School she painted many years ago.



Many historical items were on display, including class photos and class registers.



Ellen (Ross) Hamilton, Joyce (Bowers) Giddens and Don Cameron catch up on some school memories.

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