

Wentworth Schools 1914- 1917

By Hope Bridgewater

Checking back on one-room school history in Nova Scotia, grades one to eleven with one teacher in the one room, I found a research article which I did for the North Cumberland Historical Society and printed in their Newsletter on July 2002. During my research, I came across the names of past members of my family who helped maintain the Wentworth Center School (spelled Center in those days): two of my grandfathers (Rev. W.R. Tratt and Stephen Tuttle), a great uncle (Alan Tuttle), my mother (Lillian Tuttle), and my father (Heber Tratt). It is inspiring to note their contributions to the school section of that time as they worked together with other Wentworth residents for the sake of educating community youth.

Following is an a Form of agreement which my mother, Lillian Tuttle, signed when being hired as a teacher in 1914 by the trustees of the Appleton School Section No.13: "Membership of Agreement made and entered into the 2 day of February A.D., 1914, a duly licensed teacher of the third class, of the one part, and Isaac Patriquin, Wilbert Lynds, and Leonard McGill, trustees of School Section No. 13, in the district of Cumberland of the second part. The said Lillian Gladys Tuttle on her part, in consideration of the below mentioned agreement by the parties of the second part, hereby covenants and agrees with the said Isaac Patriquin, Wilbert Lynds, and Leonard McGill, trustees as aforesaid, and their successors in office, diligently and faithfully to teach a public school in the said section under the authority of the said trustees and successors in office, during the school year ending in June next.

And the said trustees and their successors in office on their part covenant and agree with the said Lillian Gladys Tuttle, teacher as aforesaid, to pay the said Lillian Gladys Tuttle out of the school funds under their control, at the rate of one hundred dollars for the school year in equal installments semi-annually. And it is further mutually agreed both parties of this agreement shall be in all respects subject to the provisions of the school law and the regulations made under its authority by the Council of Public Instruction: "In witness whereof, the parties to these present have hereto subscribed their names on the day and year first above written. Teacher: Lillian Gladys Tuttle, Trustees: Leonard McGill, Isaac Patriquin, Wilbert Lynds."

In addition, according to the Education Act in 1914 the teacher had "to inculcate by precept and example, a respect for religion and the principles of Christian morality, and for truth, justice, love of

country, loyalty, humanity, benevolence, sobriety, industry, frugality, chastity, temperance and all other virtues...appropriate instruction shall be given in all the public schools as to the nature of alcoholic drinks and narcotics, including tobacco, and special instruction as to their effect on the human system, shall be given with the subjects of physiology and hygiene. Such instruction shall be given orally to pupils unable to read and from a suitable textbook in the hands of the teacher, and to all other pupils from such textbooks, in the hands of the pupils as is time to time prescribed by the Council." The Education Act in 1914 in no uncertain terms stated the importance of teaching ethical values to students.

Wentworth Center School Section No.12, District No.9, operated under the jurisdiction of provincial and municipal authorities (Council of Public Instruction-Members of the Provincial Executive Council, Advisory Board of Education, Commissioners of Education), but the power invested in the trustees, secretaries, and ratepayers within each one-room school meant that most decisions were made locally although within the dictates of the Education Act. At an annual ratepayers (men owning property) meeting the last Monday in June, a secretary to the trustees would be elected, and the secretary was entrusted with many duties, including being a treasurer and collecting school taxes from the ratepayers. The school tax was based on the municipal assessments which came from the Municipal Council in Amherst and a poll taxes paid by unmarried men (\$1 each). The local school taxes were supplemented by a provincial grant (to be used towards a teacher's salary) and a municipal grant (to be used towards

general school purposes).

At an annual ratepayers meeting, certain items had to be done according to school law: #1. To elect a trustee or trustees; #2. To bring in a budget for the coming year; #3. To discuss items essential to the proper management of the school section.

Following is an example of annual minutes from Wentworth Center School Section No. 12, district No. 9 on June 25, 1917: Wentworth Center, June 25, 1917. Minutes: Annual school meeting of Section No. 12 were opened by a call to order from the chairman, Allan Tuttle. Moved by B.H. Swallow, seconded by G.H. Swallow that Heber Tratt be secretary for the meeting. Carried. Minutes from previous meeting were called for and read. Moved and seconded that they be accepted. Carried. Auditor's report was then read. Moved and seconded that report be accepted as read. Carried. Moved by G.H. Swallow, seconded by Charles Nelson that Neil Feeley be elected to fill vacancy in Trustee Board. Carried. Moved by B.H. Swallow, seconded by Stephen Tuttle that three hundred and eighty dollars be voted for school purposes. Motion carried. Moved and seconded that wood be supplied free by ratepayers for the year. Motion carried. Heber Tratt, Secretary; Allan Tuttle, Chairman."

This column gives a brief picture of how the education system worked a hundred years ago. It was very different from the digital age of technology and the social values of 2017. I do have photos of past family members which I show as representatives working for community education and one photo of a Tuttle grandson who is standing in front of the Wentworth Center one-room school and who benefited from their work.



Alexis Grant accepts the Second Place Award in the Branch 106 Essay and Poster Contest from Jim Adshade and Dave MacPhee of the Debert Legion. (Harrington Photo)



Ethan Dunlap accepts the First Place Award in the Branch 106 Essay and Poster Contest from Jim Adshade and Dave MacPhee of the Debert Legion. Ethan's poster will be sent off to the NS Command for the next level of competition. (Harrington Photo)

Debert Legion Notes

By Dan Martell

Bar Hours for the Branch are as follows: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday-Closed; Wednesday- 4:30 to 10:00PM, Crib- 7:30 - 9:30PM; Thursday- 4:30 - 10:00PM, Chase the Ace- 6:00PM with draw at 8:15PM; Friday- 3:00 to 12:00AM, Darts 7:30PM - game over.

Looking for groups to book space. Hall rental applications are available at the bar. To keep your Legion Membership in good standing your dues should be paid now. There will be no General Meeting in December.

The last Friday Night Supper for December will be on Friday, December 15th and it will be Roast Beef. The Friday Night Suppers for January will start up on Friday, the 5th of Jan-

uary 2018 and it will be haddock.

Don't forget New Year's Day Levee, it starts at 12:00 Noon on January 1st. There will be no Cribbage on the 27th of December.

There will be Chase the Ace on Thursday, the 28th of December and on Thursday, the 4th of January, 2018.

A quick look at the stats for the Crib League shows Jim Weatherby and Dave Kaye running along in first place with 672 points, in second place 14 points back is Marilyn Dykens and Lauchie Rector with 686 points. Rounding off the top three is the teams of Marcia Eastcott and Earl Harvey with 709 points.

Norm Eastcott has a 28 for High Hand and to date there has been 17,24 point hands. Leading the way

with two each are Debbie Cock, Earl Harvey, Marcia Eastcott, Dave Kaye and Jess Thompson. Most Hidden Scores, with four each are Owen Totten/Dwayne Turner, Kim McNutt/Jess Thompson, Norm Eastcott/Debbie Buchanan and Loyis Crocker/Loyal Crocker.

Happy Anniversary wishes are passed along to Leona and Earl Harvey. Happy Birthday wishes for December are passed along to Anthony Simpson, Ron Francis, Ronnie Eastcott, Don MacQueen (Padre), Owen Gormley, Neil Bennett and Vernon Shay.

Please don't forget to thank a Veteran, it is because of their sacrifices we are able to enjoy our Country and our freedom. Please say a prayer for our troops who are serving in foreign countries and their families.

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Wednesday 9:30-5
Thursday 9:30-6
Friday 9:30-6



Bass River United Baptist Church

5692, Hwy 2 - Bass River NS - B0M 1B0

Sunday Worship Service 11 a.m.

Bible Study - Mondays 10 a.m.



Gospel Coffee House

4th Saturday every month... 7 p.m.

Lic. Larry Tirrell - Pastor

Church: 902-647-2567 Home: 902-843-5941

PROTECT & PRESERVE YOUR FAMILY MEMORIES



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