

The History of the School I Attended S.S. No. 7

First, let us consider how my school got its name. This community was named Ballinafad after the lake across the road from, Mr. Norman Whetham's farm. When Judge Drew was elected to parliament for North Wellington, as the first member after Confederation our community was then named Drew in his honour and later changed to Lower Drew. Our present Member of Parliament George Drew is a distant relative of the late Mr. George Drew.

The first school to be erected was on Lot 23, Concession 16, on Mr. Wismer Whetham's farm. This was a log building and was afterwards used as a dwelling place for those who came to this community and had no home. Miss Annie Grice can well remember living in this school

building.

In 1871 another log school was built on Mr. G.W. Gibson's farm, our present site. This school served as an educational building for nine years and was later used as a dwelling place too. Mr. Wismer Whetham's sister, Lydia Scott, can well remember living in this old school house.

In 1880 our present school was built, which is a much larger white brick structure. This material was obtained from the brick yard in this community, owned by Mr. Captain Holtom.

Across the back of the room was built a partition forming two cloak rooms. The school was heated by a box stove in the middle of this partition. Later this stove was removed and the furnace was installed. The partition was removed to make more room.

Our school through

years has worn many colours and at this time is painted green with a white ceiling. This being a great change from the dark, dull, colours of a few years past.

The chemical toilets have been built in the porch and this is a great change from the old outdoor toilets.

We are very fortunate to have hot lunches served to us everyday. Our board supplies us with canned vegetables, hot drinks, soups, and some desserts. This, we pupils help to prepare.

We also did some manual training but now we can not get supplies.

The pupils and I are very fortunate in having paper towels, paper cups and soap supplied in bottles. This is much more sanitary.

Dr. Sutherland and a nurse call every month at our school.

Miss Jean Campbell is our music teacher and

she comes every Friday.
There was an organ in
our school for many
years and now a piano
has replaced it.

Our school was wired
for hydro by William
Bell, a former pupil of
this school. The lights were
turned on for the first, on
April 14th, 1942.

With the money we
received from the Fall
Fair and Christmas concert
we bought a small radio.
On this we listen to the
educational talks by
Mr. G. Roy Fenwick.
Our community has a
great singing record.
For proof of this Donald Gibson
won first prize for
the solo at Arthur
Festival. This was in the
year of 1938 and in 1939
he won another first
prize. His sister June
also won first prize.

Many people in Drew
can remember in the year
1893 there were 78 attending.
In the months of January
and February the attendance reached
the 100 mark, which is far
from the present

attendance of 16 pupils.
This is the lowest it
has ever been. In the
months of May and June
Mr. William Arthurs came and
took the lower grades
out under a tree so the
lower grades would be
alone with their learning.

Now, let us consider
the outside as well as the
inside. First, we have a
swing and a teeter on the
east side of the grounds.

In the front there are
two lovely flower beds, which are
marvellous when in bloom.

On the west side we
have a ball diamond,
which is well used in
the warmer weather.
There are ten maple trees
and one elm around the
grounds. The fence is a
wire fence on three sides
and we are going to have
built an ornamental
fence across the front. The
posts are painted green to
match the school.

We had a well drilled a
few years ago and we have a
lawn mower, which adds
greatly to the appearance
of the school grounds.

From this school have sprung teachers, nurses, stenographers, bakers, bankers, a lawyer, electrician, and last but not least several good farmers.

From this school there were five men that fought in the first World War and they were – Arthur Holtom, Floyd Small, Murray Mathews, Bryon Small, and James Slinger. The latter two were killed in action. Floyd Small and Murray Mathews died a year later.

The Silver Jubilee of the King George the V and Queen Mary was held in the school on May 3, 1935. The flag was raised and saluted. Mr. George Whetham planted the Jubilee maple tree, being the oldest trustee living. The program consisted of songs, recitations, numbers by the orchestra, and Mrs. Gilmartin read a patriotic address. The program was brought to a close by singing the

National Anthem.

The first trustees were – Mr. G.W. Gibson, Mr. William Cardwell, and Mr. H. Stovell. Mr. John Cox was the first auditor.

Down through the years our trustees have been – Messrs. Howes, Weber, J. Crowe, George Whetham, Robert Holtom, Robert Cardwell, D. Donaldson, Alex Munn, G. Crowe, Steve Donaldson, D. Bell, H. Arthurs, F. Holtom, W. Donaldson, James Gimartin, N. Whetham, Alex Gibson, and Mrs. R.J. Holtom.

Mr. Muir was the first teacher in the log school and he also taught in the present one. Our register shows the following teachers having taught in our present school – Miss Foster
Miss Jelly
Miss Philips
Miss Campbell
Mr. Stevenson
Miss Giloughy
Miss Dunham
Miss Rogers
Miss MacKinnon

Miss Wilson
Mr. W. Donaldson
Mr. Spinks
Mr. Penton
Miss Dunn
Mr. Toner
Miss Calloway
Mr. Rae
Miss McFarlane
Miss Morrison
Mr. Alston
Miss McNiven
Miss Langdon
Miss Whetham
Miss Alleysworth
Miss Doyle
Miss Miller
Miss Allison
Miss Darroch
Miss McNeil
Miss Pyke
Miss Morrell
Miss Livingstone
Miss Edgar
Miss Hill
Miss Davidson
Mr. Ackerman
Miss Sinclair
Miss Walker
Miss Dickson
Mr. G. Ferguson
Miss M. McPhaden

Our present teacher has
been with use for eight
years and her name is

Mrs. Wilma Holtom.

When my father attended this school his teachers were Mr. Lagdon, Miss Whetham, Miss Alleysworth, Miss Doyle, Miss Miller, Miss Allison, Miss Darroch, Miss McNeil, Miss Pyke, and Miss Morrell.

This school has many pupils, who fought in the last war – Captain Elmer Bell, William Bell, James Bell, Elmer Chilton, Leslie Donaldson, Bruce Donaldson, and Edward Holtom were among those who answered the call. There was one casualty that was James Bell.

This school has always been base ball conscious and has turned out many fine ball players. One team of former pupils being the group winners, and going on to play a coloured team from Guelph. To this has now been added a Midget Ball Team and a Hockey team.

In the year of 1946 this school was taken into a School Area consisting of all the

schools in Minto
Township.

The trustees for this
school are – Messrs.
Brimblecombe, Lee, Shannon,
Connell, and McEachern.

All in all we feel we
can be proud of the
pupils – former and
present – and of our
school know as –

D – is for Drew,
 Friend by and fair.
R – is for ready,
 We all do our share.
E – is for everyone,
 We can't be beat.
W – is for welcome,
 To all whom we meet.

Put them together and
what have you got?
The best spot in Minto
when it's cold or it's hot.

Chilton Marlene

S.S. No. 7 Minto
R.R. 3 Clifford, Ontario