

The Schools In Our Community

Education has always been considered as important in every day life. Especially is it so in our community, and we are all proud of the schools we now have in Chelmsford.

The history of our schools is rather interesting and one fact is apparent, that better educational facilities have been added with the passing of time. Even now there is serious discussion of having a High School built in Chelmsford. Then the local high school pupils + others from the nearby townships would not have to go to the Sudbury High School which is fifteen miles away.

The first school was built in 1889. Mrs. Montpetit was the first teacher. When this became over crowded, Father Stephane Lote, the parish priest, encouraged the people to build a new school. This was completed in the year 1906. Three nuns belonging to the order of the Gray Sisters of the Cross arrived from Ottawa

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history of the town owned from 1905

(2)

to take charge of the teaching. Soon the old problem arose, and plans were made for building a bigger school. The old school was later sold to Eugene Villeneuve, a local barber, who moved it to another location and again to its present place on the corner of Ervington & Main Streets, where it is now used as a clothing store.

In 1927, a brick school was built but unfortunately burned down within a year. With only a bucket brigade and very little other equipment, the firemen could not save the building.

In September, 1928, a two storey, six roomed school was constructed on the same spot. This is still in use.

Two classes, grades 10 and eleven were started in the convent in 1947. Later these classes were transferred to the big school. Grades 2 and 3 were taught in the Parish Hall. Grade 4 pupils had a class in a private dwelling on

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(3)

Main St. East, then on Ervington South. Having classes in different places proved inconvenient to the teachers and uncomfortable for the pupils.

Plans were soon under way for a modern addition to the old school. The low, one storey building was completed in December, 1950. It is 125 ft. long and 75 ft. wide. A large assembly hall runs down the full length of the building. It is 35 ft. wide. Part of the auditorium is used as a classroom for grade 3 + 4 pupils. A 15 ft. stage is at the rear of the auditorium, where concerts + plays are given by the pupils.

There are two classrooms on each side of the hall. Each room is 23 ft x 32 ft. and can seat approximately 40 pupils. Roomy windows equal one-fifth of the entire floor space. Large cloak rooms with special sliding doors make the classrooms neat + modern.

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 Plans were made under way
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 The new, one story building was com-
 pleted in November, 1930. It is 122 ft
 long and 72 ft wide. A large assembly
 hall runs down the full length of
 the building. It is 32 ft. wide. One
 of the auditoriums is used as a class
 room for girls 3-4 pupils. It is 12 ft.
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 there are two + plays are given by
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 black rooms with special lighting there
 make the class rooms real + modern.

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(4)

The washrooms are large and up-to-date. They are near the stage and the side entrances of the building.

There is an office for the principal, another to be used by the nurse.

The front entrance is very attractive. The exterior of the school is constructed with cement blocks which are covered with stucco.

With the increase of the population during the past few years, even these two schools are becoming over-crowded. We hope that the proposed High School will become a reality; so our children can have the advantage of a better education in their own home town.

Paper on Historic Research
convened - Mrs. Rose Brithovich
Branch - Shelmsford, N. I.

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