

History of S.S. No.11 Teeterville School

In 1871, with the passing of the Ontario School Act, all common schools across Ontario were changed into public schools. This meant that fees for public schools were abolished and attendance became compulsory for children 7 to 12 years of age. Children in this age range had to attend school for at least four months of the year. Egerton Ryerson (who became Upper Canada's first Superintendent of schools) had preached the idea of free, universal education through Upper Canada. His idea of having schools supported by taxes, and open to everyone was supported by other chief superintendents across the provinces. Normal Schools were established to train teachers for the various public schools and inspectors were responsible for monitoring their performance. With the new compulsory attendance laws, the number of students that attended school greatly increased. There became a need to build new one and two-room schools and the government provided grants to build and operate them. Building plans could even be purchased from the Eaton's catalogue. Each school district had its own superintendent and each school received money according to the average number of children within the district. The school trustees were responsible for collecting the taxes.

It was in 1871 that a two-room frame schoolhouse was built in the village of Teeterville, which was designated as S.S. No.11. The school was located partially on Lot #13, Concession 5 and village Lots #5 and #6 on the South side of Teeter Street and Lots #4 and #5 on the north side of William Street.

Old school records show that on June 16, 1871, the school board which consisted of A. Beam, S. Miller and William Dale paid William Teeter \$40 for a lot for the new school and twenty-five dollars was paid to William Hagerman for stumping the lot. On December 6, 1871, the board paid \$512.54 to William Teeter for the school house and in January 1872 the school was moved in to. Teacher Martha Phillips was given a salary of \$108.11 for the year in 1879. Levi Malcolm was the tax collector, and Nicholas Snow and Dr. Sparrow were the auditors. The old log school was sold to George Dale in 1882 for \$16.00.

After 1880, two teachers were hired for S.S. No.11. One to teach in the Junior Room and one to teach students that had graduated to the Senior class. The School Section received a provincial grant in 1919, which was used for the implementation of the Fifth Class (grades 9 and 10). Students in the Fifth Class could complete an entrance exam for Continuation School or Highschool. Successful applicants had to be transported by their parents. In 1943, Morley Pursley began to transport the students to Simcoe High School for a fee of \$1.25 each. The school trustees received a provincial grant to pay Mr. Pursely.

By 1876, S.S. No.11 had outdoor toilets, a new bell and belfry, as well as, a fence around the schoolyard.

An inspector had requested to the school board in 1898 that they install windows in the school that open both at the top and bottom for health purposes.

In 1924, new desks were purchased from Moyer's for the school. A.W. Marshall introduced the subject of music to the school also in 1924.

In the early 1930's the front and rear entrances of the school were replaced by an entrance to the senior room on the west side of the school and an entrance to the junior room on the east side. Hydro was installed in the school around December of 1930.

The school was closed on the afternoon of Thursday February 21, 1935 and remained closed until Monday March 4th by order of Dr. Chamberlain for fear of scarlet fever. Fumigation was completed during that time. A new basement was laid during the summer holidays of 1936 and was used as a playroom during the colder, nastier weather. That same year, the Medical Officer of Health with an assisting nurse made the regular visits to give vaccinations. The school closed in April and May due to an epidemic of the measles.

A furnace was installed in the basement of the school during the summer of 1937. During this same year, new tables were built in the basement and the school received a new piano.

In the summer of 1939, lath and plaster was added to the outside of the school to improve the appearance and warmth of the school.

Four indoor toilets were installed inside the school during the summer of 1940.

New posts were added to the schoolyard fence in 1943.

During the summer of 1944, the interior of the school was redecorated by Harry Hutchinson and Religious Instruction was taught in the school by Mr. White and Mrs. Robinson. The pupils War Effort at that time included salvage collection, thirty bags of milkweed floss and the sale of War Stamps under the C.S.F.C. Plan.

Between 1958-59, the first new school buses were purchased for the new Windham Township Schools and were bought from Wills Motors in Simcoe.

S.S. No.11 Teeterville remained open until January 3, 1962. It was at this time, that the Grade 1 and 2 students were transferred to the new North Windham Central School.

In 1962, the Teeterville Women's Institute purchased the school, who then donated the school to Windham Township. The building is used for their meetings, reunions and special events to this day.

When S.S. No.11 closed its doors, a five-room brick school was built to replace it in 1958, named North Windham Central School.