

SS #2 [FAIRPLAY PUBLIC SCHOOL]

School Section #2 or the Fairplay Public School was originally the SS #13 of Sandwich East township. A special meeting was held on Jan. 6, 1881, by the area encompassing School Section #13 in Sandwich East, to discuss a suitable site for a new school. The site chosen was one located on the farm of James MacKenzie. On Feb. 7, 1881 the tender for the new school was awarded at the cost of \$600 dollars. The school was of frame construction and its interior consisted of a raised platform in the centre, at the front of the school, on which the teacher's desk and two armchairs were placed.

According to records of the original furnishings, the desk cost \$7 and the chairs \$2.50 each. A large box stove was purchased for \$6, and cordwood at that time was \$1.25 a cord.

Rosie Burke was the first teacher of SS #13 and received for her efforts about \$300 a year. However, indicative of the unavailability of monetary funds in these early years, the school board of Sandwich East was forced to borrow \$25 in order to pay the poor teacher at all!

In 1895, shortly after the incorporation of Sandwich South township as an entity in itself, School Section #13 of Sandwich East became SS #2 in Sandwich South. From that point onwards, improvements took a gradual yet steady upward move towards modernization and comfort. In 1915 an upright furnace, with jackets and cold air pipes, was purchased for \$50 to replace the old wood

stove. And in 1922, the old folding desks were replaced as well. In 1931 a marked improvement was provided in the installation of indoor toilets. Children were no longer able to dawdle long enough in the spring to snatch the unwary grasshopper or toad on their way to the 'privy'. But no doubt the compromise was well worth it, considering the absence of rosy behinds in the winter.

In 1936 a well extending down some 100 feet 8 inches to the rock, and four feet into the rock, was dug for the school, and by 1940 Hydro electric power had been made available to the school as well. In 1946 the heating for the school was replaced with an oil furnace, and the building was refurbished with new doors, siding, and new window frames.

However, by 1955, there were 55 pupils attending the school and the need for expansion became absolute. On April 7, 1955 the last class was held in the old SS #2 and the school was phased out of existence, the students being bussed to bigger schools outside of the township.