

SS #5 [CHARLES COLLINS SCHOOL]

On the 11th day of March 1891, a Colonel Sir Casimir Stanislaus Gzowski, K.C. M.G. of the City of Toronto, and his wife Lady Maria Gzowski, deeded land on Lot 293 at the corner of Malden Road and South Talbot for the building of a public school only. Accordingly, the school was built the same year, of frame construction, on the designated lot provided.

The first teacher is recorded to have been a Mr. John J. Sullivan in 1892. In 1914 a brick building was raised to replace the first school which had been blown down in a windstorm, and this new typical red-brick school house, continued to be the educational centre for area children until 1958. On Feb. 28, 1958 a modern two-room brick school was officially opened, having been built kitty-corner to the old one on the southwest corner of South Talbot and Malden Road. The old school was abandoned.

However, the usefulness of the old building was not ignored, and January of 1959 the building was turned over, to be used as the Sun Parlour School for Retarded Children by the township council. In 1961 this school for retarded children was transferred to the home of Dr. D.W. Clare in Essex, at the corner of

Cameron and Talbot Streets, and was taken over by the County Board of Education. Additions continued to the Sun Parlour School until a new \$350,000 school was opened for the children in 1973 near Essex High School. This new structure provided 12 classrooms, music, home economic, and an industrial workshop. Mrs. Sunny Ray, the lady who had started the school with just four pupils fourteen years earlier, remained the principal of the new school in Essex, now equipped to facilitate 125 students.

"This school provided the opportunity for children with speech or learning problems to reach their full potential and some were able to enter the regular school system" *75

Meanwhile the small red-brick school which had been home for these two schools, has been renovated into a private home; but still appears much as it always has, bringing fond memories of the 'good old days' to many old-timers who pass by.