

St. Peter School celebrates official opening of new wing

By Cheryl Hardcastle

Seven new classrooms were officially opened at St. Peter School on December 11, 1997 with a ribbon cutting, blessing and open house celebration. It was a festive event befitting the time of year. No more portables is something to celebrate but to really appreciate the present, you have to know the past.

A one room wooden frame school house was built in Sandwich South in 1904. It was located on County Road 42 (then called Highway 2) on the site of what is now the second house east of the car wash - which is across from the corner of Lesperance Rd. The first teacher was Mr. Edward Monforton (pronounced en Français) who was employed by the Union Roman Catholic Separate School Board for U.R.C.S.S. #2; better known as St. Peter School or Ecole Ste. Pierre, as it was a bilingual school and most in the area were French. In the early 1920's later another classroom was added to the back. This was the grades 5, 6, 7, & 8 classroom, the old room at the front held grades 1 to 4. Teacher Jenny Dame, who lived next door, now became the principal as another teacher was added, Mary Louise Antaya.

In the warmer months, Miss Dame insisted that the boys who had to do farm chores before school remove their boots in the entrance as the smell could get atrocious. In the winter the grade eight boys helped to keep the fire stoked.

In 1960 the school was still two rooms, with 85 students. They still had no running water and used outhouses, one for the boys and one for the girls. The pot-bellied coal stove had been replaced by a boiler that was semi-enclosed. It was condemned by the Ontario Fire Marshall as a firetrap that year. The school board and concerned residents spurred into action. The Township of Sandwich East was willing to donate a parcel of municipal lands on St. Alphonse Street for the purpose of a school, the deciding factor on the location however, was that it was serviced with "city water". Sitting on the new school board to head up building the school were trustees Moise Baillargeon, Antoine Morand and John Shanahan. Robert Leblanc served as its secretary treasurer.

The issue of the school's location and even whether a new school was actually needed for the high cost of \$60,000 to \$80,000 created factions in the rural community, remembers Moise Baillargeon. It was at this time that another school board was established in Maidstone to build St. Mark School at the corner of Highway two (now County Rd. 42) and Manning Road (This building is now St. Anne's High School Alternate Education Campus).

In January of 1961, the students moved into the new 4 room school. In 1965, with Windsor's annexation of most of Sandwich East and municipal boundary adjustments, the school was in Sandwich South again. In 1969 the province organized school boards and lower tier municipalities no longer ran their own schools. The Essex County Roman Catholic Separate School Board was born. In 1973 a gymnasium was added to the school as well as four classrooms and a library (originally open concept).

The Board's Director of Education Brian Bourbeau, was on hand to celebrate this latest addition to the school that now has 430 students. Two weeks later the E.C.R.C.S.S.B. ceased to exist. And on January 1, 1998 the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board came into being. Bourbeau is its Interim Director.



From left, Fr. Larry Brunet, Kyle Labrecque, Christopher Geraci, Krisy Estabalaya, Brian Bourbeau Director of Education, and Michael Estabalaya at the blessing and ribbon cutting of St. Peter's new wing.



This picture of Miss Jenny Dame's class, circa 1928, was taken in front of the old St. Peter School on County Road 42 (then Highway 2). Back row (left to right) - Louis Adam, V. Morand, Clarence Angus, Adeline Sylvestre, Adeline Campeau, Margaret Goyeau. Middle (left to right) - Edmond Antaya, Emile Pawluk, Sam Goyeau, Margeurite Sylvestre, Riley Ch. Marguerite Adam. 2nd row from front (l. to r.) - Louis Sylvestre, Harry Bellaire, I. Campeau, Albertine Harvé, Yvonne Duchene, Irene Rivait. Front row (l. to r.) - Clarence I. Omer Adam, Pete Pawluk, Rose Alma Richard.

- Picture courtesy of Mrs. Yvonne (Duchene) Antaya, who's late husband Edmond is also pictured.

TECUMSEH ST. CLAIR BEACH MINOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION FINAL REGISTRATION
At Tecumseh Arena on the weekends of
Jan 31- Feb. 1, 1998.
Feb 7 - Feb. 8, 1998
Feb 14-15, 1998
from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
To volunteer or for information call 735-3149
Late fees will apply after these dates.

SALES MANAGEMENT TRAINEE WANTED

Career minded with long term commitment

Call Colleen at **735-9007**

INTERNET ACCESS

EMAIL ONLY
\$5.99 MONTHLY FOR 10 HOURS
\$0.25 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL HOUR OVER 10

FULL ACCESS
\$9.99 MONTHLY FOR 10 HOURS
\$1.50 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL HOUR OVER 10
1500 Speeds At The Same Low Monthly Fee

FULL ACCESS
\$25.00 A MONTH FOR 24 HOURS
\$0.25 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL HOUR OVER 24

WINCOM
Windsor Information Network Company Limited
4515 Rhodes Dr. Unit 222
Windsor, ON N9W 5K5
519-545-9462 519-545-9777-Fax

COME IN AND TRY OUR

MUSHROOM SWISS DOUBLE BURGER!

BUT ONLY FOR A LIMITED TIME!

BURGER KING

St. Clair Beach location
VALUE MEAL INCLUDES MEDIUM FRIES AND MEDIUM DRINK

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. "BURGER KING" AND THE CHEVY BATTLE DESIGN ARE REGISTERED TRADEMARKS OF THE BUNGER KING COMPANY.