

Feb 18, 1960

# Firetrap Tag Stays On School

## Official Says Building Unfit For Students

An official of the Ontario fire marshal's office Wednesday stated that St. Peter's Separate School in Sandwich South Twp. is not satisfactory for student occupancy.

John R. Bateman, of the engineering department of the fire marshal's office, made a two-hour inspection of the school Tuesday afternoon.

Although he did not elaborate on his findings, Mr. Bateman said he would file a complete report to his Toronto headquarters. A duplicate copy will be forwarded to the school board.

Mr. Bateman said there are two courses of action that could be taken by the board.

"They could either replace the structure with a new school or undertake certain structural changes and renovations to the present school," he said.

He did not state what changes and renovations would be necessary, but admitted it would probably be an expensive undertaking.

The school is located on Highway 2 east of Lesperance Rd. It houses 85 students and has been labelled a firetrap by municipal officials. The students attending the school are from Maidstone, Sandwich East and Sandwich South Twp.

The structure is in two sections, the main being 56 years old.

"As far as combustibility is concerned, the school is about as bad as you can get," Mr. Bateman said.

The condition of St. Peter's School has been the subject of argument and criticism on the part of parents and municipal officials for several years. However, it was not until recently that the argument came to a head when Sandwich East Council started a public controversy by calling the school a firetrap.

Since the Feb. 1 objection of Sandwich East, municipal officials met and outlined a course of action.

They decided to:

Immediately seek safer schools to accommodate the pupils temporarily.

Investigate costs and problems of building a school on a site offered in Sandwich East Twp.

Call for a ratepayers' vote to provide the necessary approval for the purchase of a site offered in Sandwich East Twp.

That meeting was held Feb. 6. Meanwhile, the students are continuing to attend classes in the controversial structure.

Mar 7, 1961

# Old School Lives On

## Residents Ask It Be Torn Down

OLDCASTLE — An old separate school section never dies; it simply fades away. And that likely is what will happen to R.C.S.S. No. 2, Sandwich South Twp., which was served by the old St. Peter's School.

That was the opinion of Richard Walker, township solicitor, who said the old school section board would live on, according to school statutes. Presumably the board ceases to function when all of the last-elected three members have died.

Paul Pelchat, chairman of the old trustee board, and Robert Leblanc, secretary-treasurer, appeared before Township Council to say that the old school was no longer a fire hazard. They had a letter from the Fire Marshal's Office indicating that this was the case because the building was boarded up and hydro disconnected.

Acting on a petition signed by 26 residents of the area, Council has asked that the school be dismantled.

Mr. Pelchat wanted to retain the old school until the Department of Education had ruled on the union school proposal of old S.S. No. 2 with the new St. Peter's School in Sandwich East Twp. Mr. Walker said the proposal had been turned down.

"If the department turns down the union school proposal we will then get authority from it to tear the old school down. It will be down in three months one way or the other," said Mr. Pelchat.

Mr. Walker suggested that Township Council write the department, asking that Mr. Leblanc be notified that the union school proposal would not be entertained.

When supporters of the old St. Peter's School decided a new building was necessary—following a series of articles on school safety in The Windsor Star—they disagreed on site. Two schools were built, St. Peter's in Sandwich East nad St. Mark in Maidstone Twp.

"The two groups got what they wanted," observed councillor Bert Baillargeon, of Sandwich East Twp. "Let them now agree. The old school is an eyesore and it was I who helped condemn it."

Mr. Baillargeon said he was thankful to The Windsor Star for the action it took to help vacate the old building.

May 31, 1973

The Essex County Roman Catholic Separate School Board has accepted a bid of \$271,800 from A. Lombardo and Son Limited of Windsor for an addition to St. Peter School in Sandwich South Township.

The addition will be a combination resource centre and four classroom open concept area, a gymnasium and a separate kindergarten room.

The accepted tender does not include a public address system which will cost an additional \$4,524.

In other business, the board approved 11 contracts with individual bus operators totalling \$346,424 for the 1973-74 school year. In addition to the contracts, the board owns and operates 16 of its own school buses.

May 26, 1984

## TENDERS

**New Partitions at St. Peter School**  
2451 St. Alphonse St., Sandwich South  
for

**ESSEX COUNTY ROMAN CATHOLIC  
SEPARATE SCHOOL BOARD**

Sealed tenders will be received at the offices of J.P. THOMSON ASSOCIATES, ARCHITECTS & ENGINEER, 1330 Ouellette Avenue, Windsor, Ontario up to 12:00 NOON (E.D.T.), THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 1984 for the General Contract, including Mechanical and Electrical Trades, for the Addition of New Partitions at St. Peter School, 2451 St. Alphonse Street, Sandwich South, Ontario for the Essex County Roman Catholic Separate School Board.

Plans, Specifications and Tender Forms can be obtained from J.P. THOMSON ASSOCIATES, ARCHITECTS & ENGINEER, 1330 Ouellette Avenue, upon deposit of a certified cheque for \$25.00, payable to the Architect, refundable only on receipt of a valid tender. Tenders will be accompanied by either a certified cheque or a bid bond in the amount of \$2,000.00, payable to the Essex County Roman Catholic Separate School Board.

A 50% Performance Bond and a 50% Labour and Materials Payment Bond will be required from the successful bidder. Plans Specifications for all trades may be seen at the Windsor Construction Association and Leamington Builders' Exchange.

Tenders are subject to all governmental approvals. The School Board reserves the right to accept any or reject all tenders or to accept the most satisfactory tender for their purpose.

J. MULLINS, Chairman

R.J. REDDAM, Director