

## SCHOOL HISTORY OF OUR COMMUNITY

Education has always been considered an important item in every day life and the people in the Chelmsford community have schools that they can well be proud of.

The history of our schools is very interesting due to some rather unusual happenings. The first school was built in 1889 and Mrs. Montpetit was its first teacher. This was just a small place; so it was sold and plans were made for a larger building.

In 1906, the parish priest, Father Stephen Cote encouraged the people to build a new school which was completed the same year. Three nuns belonging to the order of The Gray Sisters of The Cross arrived from Ottawa, Ont. to take charge of the teaching. This school was later sold to Eugene Villeneuve, who moved it to another location. This same building is now on the corner of Errington & Main Streets, where it is used as a Clothing Store.

In 1927 a brick school was constructed but unfortunately was destroyed by fire during the following year. At that time there was not sufficient fire equipment & with only a bucket brigade to put out a fire, it was impossible to save a building once it began to burn.

Another brick school was built on the old site in September, 1928. This same school is still being used.

In 1947, two new classes were started in the convent for grades ~~10~~ & ~~11~~. These were later transferred to the big school when temporary quarters were found in the Parish Hall, for grades



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2 and 3. Another classroom, grade four, was taught in a private dwelling on Errington St. South.

As the population increased, this school soon became too small to accomodate the children ; so plans were drawn for an up-to-date school. This was completed in December. 1950. The low, one storey building has a large assembly hall in the centre of the building. This runs down the full length of the building, is 35 feet wide and has a fifteen foot stage at one end. (At present part of the auditorium is used for a classroom. *for grade 3 pupils.*)

There are two large classrooms on each side of the assembly hall. The four classrooms are approximately 23' by 32' with accomodation for about forty pupils. Roomy windows equal one-fifth of the entire floor space.

The entire building is 75 ft. wide and 125 ft. long. There is an office for the principal also a nurse's office. The building has three entrances, one in the front and two side entrances. It is modern in every way <sup>*- up to date washrooms, & large cloak-rooms with specially constructed sliding doors.*</sup> and makes the children's studies easier and pleasant. <sup>*This*</sup>

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