

**Submitted to The Dunnville Chronicle**

**Via E-mail; January 15, 2002**

**For Publishing; February 13, 2002**

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**(Word count 1080)**

**Photo number jhc008 with caption included**

### **Remembering Stromness School!**

Last summer, I took a page from the Dunnville District Heritage Association (DDHA) and held a history display day at the Port Maitland Sailing Club and was joined by John Docker, Cheryl MacDonald, Des Rasch and fellow surveyor Tony Roberts, John Patterson and the Port Dover Harbour Museum. In my opinion, it was an unqualified success. My brother-in-law, Dave Calvert has been questioning me for some time as to why I have never mentioned his name in any of my articles! Dave and my sister Margo were my leg people, allowing me the time to spend with the many visitors. Now maybe Dave will be satisfied when he sees his name in print!

This Saturday, February 16<sup>th</sup> the DDHA is holding their annual Heritage day at the Dunnville Library which gives me the opportunity to plug this summer's history display. Fair is fair and Port Maitland is located both sides of the Grand River. If things go as I hope, a history display will be held in August at my former elementary school in Stromness otherwise known as S. S. # 3 Sherbrooke. This brings me to the point of this article, which is a "*call to unite*." This past year I have been gathering class photos of my old two room school and to my glee, have been successful. Violet Crumb nee Ross, who turned ninety years young last July is the daughter of Allen (Pum) Ross and Alice Bromley. Violet provided me with the first vintage photo. She believes it was taken about 1920 and has youngsters from the Mossip, Clark, Niece, Downey, Pyle and of course Ross families in it. Other vintage photos were received from Julia Hall (Mrs. Jim Hall) nee Clark. Julia gave me a number of photos. The oldest one was from October 1916, and in it we find Julia's brother Wellington (Wally). Julia and her other siblings, Arnold (Hickory), Arthur, Lewis, and Gordon (Chummy) are the children of Arthur David Clark and Madora Pyle.

Julia also lent me photos from every decade beginning in the teens through the 1960s. As big a find as this was, many school photos still remain out there for me to find.

If plans go as I hope, and I have the history display at Stromness, I am going to have photos available for viewing. It would be nice if this display could be the catalyst for a school reunion. It will take lots of work and a fair bit of time, but what a celebration we could have! To my knowledge, and you will set me straight if I am wrong, the most senior former student of S. S. # 3 Stromness who is still with us is Carroll (Soft Coal) Kenney. Carl, as he is known to many of you will be ninety-three on May 1, 2002. Carroll's father Thomas, was the telegraph operator at Attercliffe Station until when in 1916, he became the station agent for the TH&B at Port Maitland, a post he held until his death in 1939.

Finally we get to my period of incarceration at Stromness, which was the latter half of the 1950s and early 1960s. Here not only did Julia come through with photos, but in addition to the ones my family had, former teachers Joanne Garec nee Smith and Janet Sutor nee, also provided a few. What amazed me is that

both teachers knew the names of all their students in their respective photos. This was especially surprising to me as both ladies were at Stromness as teenagers in their first years of teaching.

Some of the teachers that taught at Stromness were Mabel McKnight, V. A. Markle, Mr. Blackmore, Nora McQueen, Miss Barret, Miss Fable, Miss Smith (not Joanne), John Kingerski, Teresa Clark, Margaret Darraugh (whom I suspect was an aunt to Jessie and Archie McDonald), Mrs. Emmons, Mary Middler nee Scott, Sam Stevenett, Mrs. Ingall (my first grade teacher) Mrs. Alexandra (Lexxie) McAlonan, Joyce Moore (whom I recently talked with, in Newfoundland), Joanne Smith now Garec, Janet Elliott now Sutor and Miss Jane Brown. The last two teachers at Stromness, when the school were closed were Miss Jane Brown, and Miss Willford, neither of whom I have been able to locate. Some of the known substitute teachers were, Noreen Mater nee Livingstone, Mrs. Mildred Sundy, Mrs. Gladys Pridmore and Mrs. Margaret Graves. I am sure there were many others. I also recall Miss Marie Graves, daughter of Margaret mentioned above and later Mr. Joe Whelan of Welland, our music teachers who visited every Friday morning. They would first visit the seniors then the juniors. Recently I talked with Marie Graves and reminded her she was responsible for the most horrifying moment in my life when she made me sing solo, a verse of some song! And of course who could forget Rev. Emery and Mrs. Annie Shank, who came every Friday afternoon for Protestant religious education. The Warnick's and Bastien's were Roman Catholic, while Aaron and Eunice Moore, were Jehovah Witness, which meant we got to play outside from last recess until school closing! I remember Rev. and Mrs. Shank always being so kind to all the children, no matter their religious persuasion. I can still hear Mrs. Shank singing at the top of her lungs, in that famous gravelly voice, -so loud in fact that I am sure the whole village heard her. "Jesus Loves me this I know for the Bible tell me so. . ."

Come out and see us at the DDHA Heritage Day on Saturday and bring your Stromness photos with you. I would love the opportunity to scan them. Other exhibitors who will be there are: JACK DOCKER - Data pertaining to the Fenian invasion and its Dunnville connection....research for his next book, NO. 6 RCAF DUNNVILLE ASSOCIATION 1999 INC. - Documents & artifacts from WW#2 flight training school, DUNNVILLE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY & DUNNVILLE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY - both organizations will have exhibits, CHERYL MACDONALD of *HERONWOOD ENTERPRISES* - Display of area historical publications, JOE COWAN - Historic items from the old Hydro building, MIKE WALKER - Marine exhibit, WAYNE ETTINGER - Railway display, JIM SCHUITT - Collection of old postcards, RICHARD BELDMAN - Local artifacts, DUNNVILLE SLOWPOKES CAR CLUB - Items related to vintage automobiles, L.A.C.A.C. - Heritage properties in County of Haldimand, COLONEL JOHN BUTLER BRANCH OF LOYALIST ASSOCIATION - UEL information, DUNNVILLE DISTRICT HERITAGE ASSOCIATION - Genealogy + display of historic photographs, ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION - Military artifacts, ONTARIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY - Haldimand Branch of OGS will display & sell cemetery publications, etc., MERLE FRANKLIN - Local historic artifacts.

If you have items, you wish written about or pictures you would be willing to lend, please drop me a note. Let me know how you feel about these articles. William (Bill) Arthur Warnick 180 Rosslyn Ave. South HAMILTON, ON L8M 3J5 e-mail [wwarnick@interlynx.net](mailto:wwarnick@interlynx.net) Phone 905 549-6086.