

Kildonan East School Held First Annual Meeting In 1881

Down in the archives of the East Kildonan School Board vault at Lord Wolseley School can be found minutes of the first annual meeting of Kildonan East School held Feb. 7, 1881.

Members present were Peter Henderson, Mr. McRae, H. Sutherland, James McKay, Peter Kauffman, John Henderson and Angus Matheson. George H. Greig was the secretary.

One of the main problems of that meeting was the raising of \$46 to meet current expenses.

The next set of minutes that could be found were dated Dec. 2nd, 1901, and the name, in the interval, had been changed to East Kildonan School.

Members on the Board, of course, were changed. Some of those present were Neil Campbell, Alex. Matheson, G. Munroe, W. McKay, W. Fraser, H. W. Matheson, George McLeod and Jean Fortier.

At that meeting it was agreed to buy a heater to warm the school.

At the annual meeting of Dec. 7, 1903, it was agreed to call a special meeting of the ratepayers "to debate the question of employing a second teacher."

It was the following year that Angus McKay, after whom the recently built elementary school was named, was appointed chairman of the Board.

Following receipt of a petition in 1905 from ratepayers requesting a school at the 2 Mile Road, it was decided to construct a building 22x30 on the north-east corner of Lot 66, Kildonan, on Mr. McCreary's property.

The trustees were authorized to raise a loan of \$1,000.

This was the start of East Kildonan's first growth, for following the building of another new school, and the selling of the old school in 1909, a meeting, held in the Hamilton School March 26, 1910, decided to erect still another school on the southwest corner of Watt street at Munroe.

The first figures showing the financial status of the Board appeared out of the meeting held Dec. 4, 1911. Total receipts were \$34,161, while expenditures amounted to \$34,138.

It appeared that a very lively discussion took place at the annual meeting held Dec. 2, 1913, when a number of ratepayers voiced their

opinions as to what was the proper age for a child to start school. Quite a number were of the opinion that five years was too young.

A number of new faces were now appearing on the Board. In attendance at the 1913 meeting were Alex. Munroe, Sr., Rev. Samuel Polson, William McKay, J. B. Henderson, Alfred Jackson, H. C. Whelliams, W. R. Hamilton, K. J. McDougall, S. R. Henderson, Mr. Webb, Mr. Taylor, Donald Munroe, Mr. De Vries, Mr. McWee and W. A. Corbett.

At this meeting the motion to make East Kildonan School a six-room building was defeated.

The proposition to introduce manual training, agriculture and physical culture into East Kildonan schools was discussed at considerable length.

Although it was felt that an instructor could be employed working on an agreement with West Kildonan and East and West St. Paul, it was agreed to call a special meeting and notice be given every ratepayer of the meeting.

At the special meeting held in Polson School Jan. 14, 1914, it was found that the teacher's salary for agriculture would be between \$1,500 and \$1,600; the manual training teacher would take \$1,100, and each bench, complete with tools, would cost \$20. Half of this expense would be borne by the Department of Education.

Just when it appeared that East Kildonan was going to have all three courses, an amendment made late in the meeting, and which carried, read: "That physical culture alone be placed on the curriculum for the present."

At a later meeting that year the Board became concerned about school sites. It was agreed to secure new sites near the intersection of Ferry Road and Main Road, in the southern part of the district near the Greenwood estate on Main Road; in Morse Place between Prince Rupert and Simpson and Harold streets, and in North Transcona.

So it was 43 years ago members of the East Kildonan School Board were dealing with the same problems as those members are today—a growing school population.

In 1882 the school population was 16 - today it is 3,450, and still going up.