

Outlying school: Smoky Creek

#4646 organized June 20, 1934, started May 1938-1948

The school was built to the north of Muskeg Lake on land acquired from John Reay and built by Joe and Jack Hugo from logs that had been felled by district members. For the first 2 years school was open from May through the summer months and into the winter. After that it was regular school months.

The first teacher was Miss Adams, followed by Miss Rogers, Miss Miller, Miss F Meyers, Miss G. Silver (later Mrs. Earl), Mrs. McEvony, and a supervisor Miss Underwood. Most of them boarded at neighbours. (Rosa Dupont, Mary Van Verdegem)

The first pupils came from families like the Holden's, McCumsey's, Dupont's, Wall's, McDowell's and Van Verdegem's.



Smoky Creek School children. 1946-47

Back row. Teacher Gene Earl, I believe Jim Earl, Edwin (Curly) Holden, Gilbert Holden, Glen Earl, Thelma McDowell, Evelyn Holden. Front row. Margie Earl, Don DuPont, Lenora DuPont, Rita McDowell, Ethel Wall, Keith McCumsey and Alma Colburn

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Geneva Holden recalls Grampa Holden made quite a few desks for the school as they were all homemade, including the teacher desk. She rode her horse to school and students kept the horses in a barn on the grounds.

The stove was an old converted oil barrel. Janitor work was done by the teacher and pupils. Usually water had to be hauled to the school as none was available there.

Pupils went to school by horse, dog sled, horse and buggy or cutter, or walking.

A unique recess and noon hour activity was the trapping and skinning of rabbits.

The school was purchased by the Bethany Mennonite Church in 1954 and is now a private residence.



Edwin Holden, Don Dupont, Valerian Yoder, Eddie Yoder
(p. 76 Clover & Wild Strawberries)