

NOTE TO READER: *The information contained in these texts is as accurate as possible. It has been compiled from various sources that are difficult to cite. We hope that the reader will forgive us. Check back periodically, more history to follow...*

Education

In 1820, the Seigneur of Fossambault, Michel Louis Juchereau Duchesnay (1785-1838) established a new concession named "Saint Patrick's Settlement". A dozen or so Irish families settled there beginning in October 1820.

These new Irish immigrants were poor but they could read and write and understood the importance of some basic schooling. According to excerpts from the History of Sainte Catherine written by Father René Casgrain, as early as 1824 an educated man, named Boyle assembled the children in Michael Carroll's house where he taught them over the span of approximately a year. The next year because of the increased number of children, he built a house that was more centrally located on the right side of the river and a little higher than where the church is located across from a little island. Assisted by Seigneur Duchesnay, he obtained a grant from the Government of Quebec however the rest of his salary depended on the generosity of the parents of the schoolchildren.

After a few years, he was eventually obliged to give up his school. Shortly thereafter, a gentleman named Maguire who was reputed for being a "splendid scholar" began teaching the children by going from house to house. However, he seemed to favour administering the school strap more than teaching the alphabet. This situation didn't perdure and a Mr. White, grandfather of the eventual proprietors of the Hotel Lake St. Joseph, taught for about two years and due to his teaching all the children of the village became literate.

The first school was built around 1845 and was situated on the 7th range near the residence of Mr. John Bowles on lot 626. One of the last teachers to teach there was Mrs. Nellie Neville Griffin. Some of the schools had an extra room and small kitchen. All schools were heated with a wood stove and sometimes a student was given the responsibility of starting the fire in the morning. Teachers were responsible for the upkeep of their respective schoolhouses.

In August 1877, the Quebec Department of Public Education authorized the construction of two new schools: one on the south side of the Jacques-Cartier River (4th range school, on Boul. Jacques-Cartier) and the other on the north side.

These rectangular one-and-a-half story buildings with two-sided roofs had small bell towers and were examples of vernacular architecture. Specific to a region, vernacular architecture is made from locally available resources and perpetuates traditional construction methods. At that point in time wood was quite abundant. These schoolhouses shared the characteristics of their type of architecture by their modest size, outside covering of vertical boards, two-sided roof covered in wood shingles with little ornamentation. These small buildings reflected the technical means and materials used within the territory of colonization in the last quarter of the 19th century.

During the late 1880's, another schoolhouse was erected a half-mile from Mr. Jack Griffin's homestead (what is now the corner of Gosford and Wexford Roads). It served the needs of the children from one or two ranges.

Around 1902, a school was built on the 5th range (now Dublin Road) on lot 393 near Mr. William Lewin's property (276 Dublin Road). The first teacher at that school was Mrs. Mary Galarneau who lived there throughout the year and succeeded by Mrs. O'Brien.

In 1916, another schoolhouse was built on the 5th range on lot 397 (property of Patrick and Edith King). Mrs. Nellie Neville Griffin and Mrs. Margaret Lewin Campbell were the teachers.



Mrs. Neville Griffin et Mrs. Lewin Campbell
Photo from the Shannon Historical Society archives



Class from one of the 5th range schools – circa 1923
Photo from the Shannon Historical Society archives

After the First World War, the personal headquarters and residence of the Canada's Minister of Militia and Defence, Sam Hughes, was converted into a schoolhouse for the children of the employees of the local powerhouse. Later it was also used as a chapel for a while. It was situated on lot 271 near to where St. Joseph's Chapel is now located (St. Patrick Street).

Little is known about another schoolhouse, called *Turn of the Lake School* located at the westernmost end of the 6th range (Wexford Road). It probably got its name because it was located near a sharp corner that turned the road towards Lake St. Joseph.

Also, little is known about the school in the Pine River area, except for a list of teachers that taught there. The list dates back to 1892-93, where the first teacher noted to have taught there was Miss Cecelia Flynn.

In 1920, a schoolhouse was built on lot 624, about one thousand feet away from where the first school built on the 7th range had been. This school was referred to as the 7th range school. It ceased to be used as a schoolhouse in 1949. Miss Rosemary Corrigan and Miss Patricia Conway were among the teachers who taught at this schoolhouse.



Photograph taken in 1930 of Mary Tope's class – 7th Range school
The names of only seven of the eight children in this photo are known: Rita Aikens, Jenny Aikens, Mae Bowles, Rita Neville, Patricia White, Ellie White, Peggy Neville.

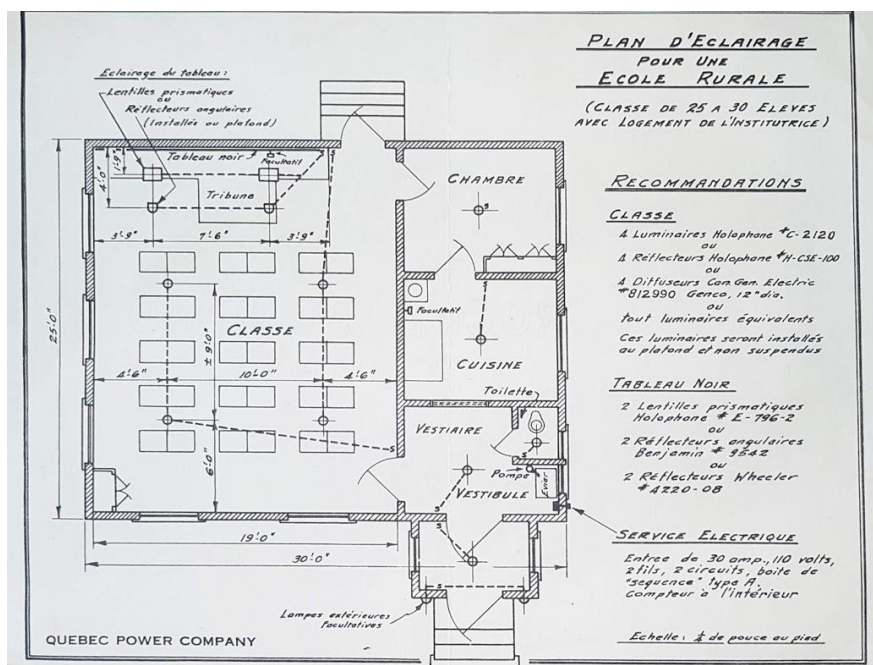
Can anyone give us the eighth name?

Photo from the Shannon Historical Society archives

In 1948, a bilingual school, Shannon No. 3, was built on lot 271, next to St. Joseph's Chapel. Locally it was referred to as the Powerhouse School.



Floyd family children in front of the Powerhouse School –
Photo from the Shannon Historical Society archives



Floorplan of the Powerhouse School - Photo from the Shannon Historical Society archives

Two new schools were built in 1949 for a total cost of \$10,500. Shannon No. 1 was situated on the 8th range on lot 665 across the road from Mr. Thomas White's farm. Two of its teachers were Mrs. Annie Conway and Mrs. Margaret Lewin Campbell.



Mrs. Annie McGrory Conway with her class –
Photo from the Shannon Historical Society archives

Shannon No. 2 situated on the 6th range on lot 435 where Mr. Frank Hutchison eventually used it as his residence at what is now 321 Wexford Road. The last person to teach there was Mrs. Catherine Douglas.



Mrs. Catherine (Katie) Douglas with her class in front of the 6th Range schoolhouse.

Upper row : Iris Griffin, Willie King, Ron Kiley

Lower row: Catherine Kiley, June Kiley et Dorothy Kiley

Photo from the Shannon Historical Society archives

Below is a list of teachers who taught in either Sainte Catherine or Shannon (including Pine River) schools:

- Thérèse Beaupré
- Margaret Lewin Campbell
- Elsie Cleary
- Ethel Cleary
- Annie Conway
- Katie Conway
- Mae Conway
- Annie McGrory Conway
- Ethel Timms Costello
- Rosemary Corrigan
- Miss Courtney
- Dorothy Twyman Cosgrove
- E. Coughlin
- F. Dawson
- Mary Demers
- Margaret Donahue
- Mary Rose Donovan
- Catherine Douglas
- Catherine McGrory Douglas
- Sadie Fitzpatrick Drolet
- Lucille Drouin
- Cecelia Flynn
- Corinne Foran
- Simone Gagné
- Mary Galarneau
- Lena Campbell Gingras
- Nellie Neville Griffin
- Claire Gravel
- Anne Griffin Gurrie
- Elizabeth Hayes
- Kate Fraser Irving
- Evelyn Jones
- Mary Joyce
- Clara Fraser Kack
- Rita Murphy Kack
- Miss Lackson
- Clara Lepire
- Dorothy McCullough
- Agnes Conway McDonough
- Bertha Fleming McKinley
- Maggie Sheehan McLaughlin
- Annie Neal Monaghan
- Mrs. Patrick Monaghan
- Mary Ellen O'Connor Monaghan
- Patricia Conway Murphy
- Margaret Corrigan Murphy
- Miss O'Brien
- May Adams O'Neill
- Margaret Jones Powell
- Eva St-Onge
- Miss Thomassin
- Sarah Lepire Verret
- Miss E. White
- Rena Kiley White



A 5th Range school class. Students, from left to right: Jimmy O'Shea, Effie King, James King, Gertrude O'Shea, Sonny Kiley. In front: Vera King
Photo from the Shannon Historical Society archives

Until 1947, all the schools were under the jurisdiction of the Parish of Sainte Catherine. After the founding of the Municipality of Shannon in 1947, a new school commission, the Shannon Municipal School Board was formed in July 1948. The first school commissioners were as follows: Messrs. Joseph Griffin, Frank King, Martin Conway, John Campbell and Edward Maher. The Secretary-Treasurer was Mr. George Henderson. His office was on Station Road at the residence of Mr. Arnold Henderson. His office hours were from 2 to 6 p.m. the second Saturday and the last Saturday of each month. The first meetings were held at Mr. Frank King's residence on Gosford Road and at Mr. Joseph Griffin's residence on the 6th range (Wexford Road.)

In 1959, the last remaining schoolhouses were closed in favour of more centralized institutions and students were transported to the newly built schools located in the Permanent Married Quarters associated with what is now Canadian Forces Base Valcartier. These schools were administered by appointed military personnel. As such they were fully funded by the Federal Government. Originally these schools consisted of Ste. Jeanne d'Arc (bilingual Catholic girls school), Dollard des Ormeaux (bilingual Catholic boys school) and Alexander Wolff (English Protestant, boys and girls school).



Ste. Jeanne d'Arc school

In 1972 the Shannon Municipal School Board was dissolved.

In the 1980s, the Federal Government transferred their schools to the local English and French School Boards of Quebec City.

Today, two schools, Dollard des Ormeaux (English - primary and secondary) and Alexander Wolff (French - primary) schools still serve the residents of Shannon and the surrounding area.



Dollard des Ormeaux School



Alexander Wolff School

In 2000-2001 when the Ministry of Transport was planning the widening of Blvd. Jacques-Cartier (Route #369), the Shannon Historical Society asked the Municipality to acquire and conserve a small timber-frame building situated near 306 Blvd. Jacques-Cartier that had once been a range schoolhouse. In 2003, it was moved next to the St. Joseph's Chapel, 94 St. Patrick Street. The 4th range schoolhouse was designated a historical monument in 2005.



St. Joseph's Chapel and the 4th range schoolhouse – Photo from the City of Shannon's archives