

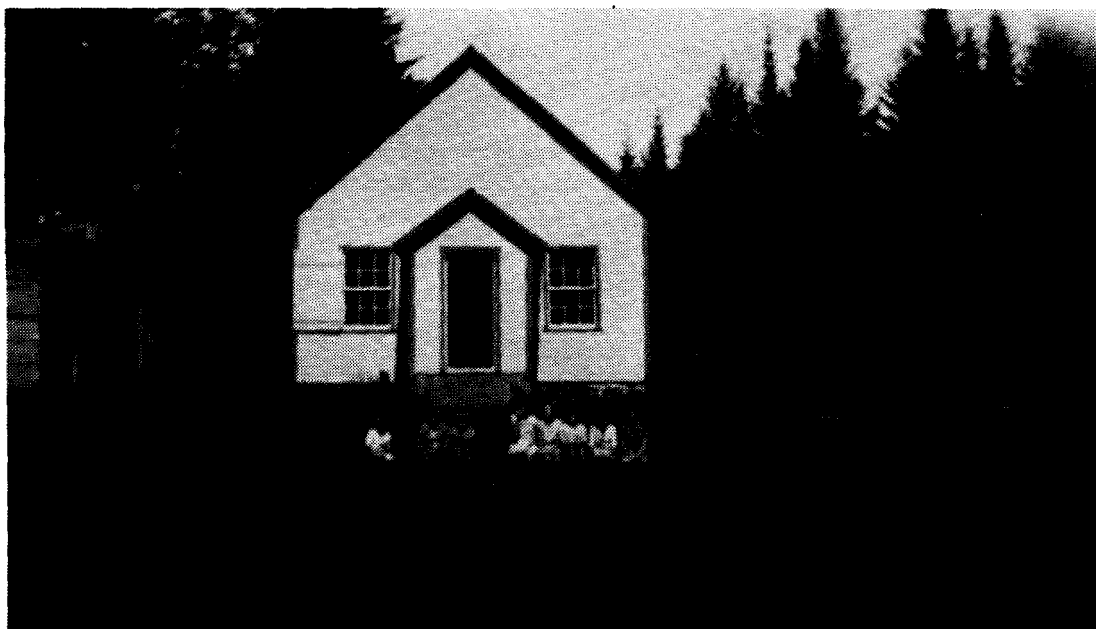
The Dunany School

THE DUNANY SCHOOL

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

When Dunany School No. 1 closed in 1948, all the records were taken into the Laurentian School Board in Lachute. Dorothy and Tolbert Gauley had begun gathering historical facts about Dunany. Dorothy copied all records which were available in the School Board Offices. A sampling of these records is presented here with much gratitude to her for her foresight.

The Visitors' Record, begun in 1922, was rescued by Don and Dorothy Sutherland, when the little schoolhouse was moved across the road to become the Dunany Golf Club Locker Room.



Dwmy Schoolhouse Nwnber One in 1930. The two horse sheds on the left housed horses which brought the Morrissions of Dummy Road, and the Boyds of Grace Park Road to school.

SCHOOLING, THE ECONOMY, AND RURAL SOCIETY

In 1800, only a small number of young people, children of families with the means to arrange for private instruction, received any formal education. By 1900, the majority of children received at least several years of schooling.

Until 1850, rural families were busy clearing the bush, roads were bad, schools few and far between, there were few good teachers, and little money to pay them. The cost of schooling to the settlers included clothes, shoes, and school supplies. hiorities lay elsewhere. Many children never went to school and those who did, attended irregularly.

The family members formed a cohesive economic unit and the young children, teen-agers, and parents worked together to maintain an agricultural base. Children learned spinning, gardening and cooking in the home instead of reading and writing. After the land was cleared, potash and lumber were sold locally and surplus produce supplied nearby lumber camps. Older sons and fathers worked in the camps and sawmills to give the family some income.

DUNANY'S FIRST SCHOOL

After 1850, Dunany lost some of its frontier character and schooling increased. Girls, in particular, were able to receive more education. Land across from the Golf Course for the first schoolhouse had been donated by William Smith in 1841. We have no record of the first years of schooling, other than that there was School Number Four in Dunany. The Dunany School was one of four under the aegis of the Gore School System, organized and run by Anghcan clergymen, who were sponsored by the Colonial Church and School Society. The report of this Society in 1859 (Chronicles of a Country Church- Lakefield: Louise Johnston) listed the four schools as having one hundred and fifty students under sixteen and four over sixteen.

The CCCS usually paid the teacher's salary and local people provided a house for the teacher, if he were a family man, and fuel for heating the house and the school. When young ladies became the teachers, they were boarded in local homes.

Subjects studied, according to an early report, were: "The Alphabet, Spelling, Grammar, History, Arithmetic, Geography, Natural Philosophy, Astronomy, Drawing, Singing, etc.". This sounds like a very lofty curriculum, and in all likelihood did not apply to Dunany. The truth of the matter was that supplies were few and teachers were poorly paid and often not well-educated themselves.

In the 1860's, many settlers left the Gore area for greener pastures and the school population dwindled. Gradually the Church withdrew from sponsoring the schools and they were turned over to the Government. The value of an education became more and more apparent to concerned citizens as the farms became less able to support the enlarging families. Young people had to be prepared to seek their fortunes in the larger society. Leading citizens banded together to form School Commissions, and this was the case in Dunany.

DUNANY SCHOOL NUMBER ONE

The first record we have of a Dunany School Commission meeting is dated July 1, 1894, when a letter was dispatched to the Superintendent of Quebec Education with the names of the Commissioners. They were: Duncan MacDougall, chairman; George M. Smith, Sec. Treas; Wm. J. Gain John Murphy; Richard Stephenson and Archibald MacDougall. Over the years, most Dunany fathers were represented on the School Commission. Other interested citizens, such as James Parkes, also acted as Commissioners.

Raising money for schooling was very difficult in this agriculturally poor community. Nickels and dimes seem paltry to us now, but in those days, very little cash passed through the farmers' hands. Parents of students were asked to pay a ten cent per month fee. With an average of ten pupils in the School, only one dollar was raised this way. When one considers the costs of heating and the payment to the teacher (fourteen dollars per month), it was important that local taxes be collected for school maintenance. Some of the local farmers had great difficulty meeting the demand for taxes.

Teaching was one way that local girls could earn a respectable living and the Lachute area produced many an excellent young teacher. Girls from good families, with a background of secondary education, were hired on a "Letter of Permit". Later, many continued their teacher training at Macdonald College, where they received their Diploma. Quite a few Dunany girls taught in the Dunany School, including Elizabeth MacVicar, Kate MacDougall, Mary MacDougall, Ruby Smith, Marian MacVicar, and Janet Morrison. Florence Mannard taught in Louisa.

Local homes which "boarded" the teacher were the Morrisons on the Dunany Road. Since they were so far from the school, the children were driven there, along with the teacher. James Morrison erected a shed to house his horse through the long day. When Hector and Theodore Boyd, of the Grace Park Road, came to school by horse, another shed was built alongside. The Nelson Morrisons had Miss Jessie Goodfellow for several years with them, and Mrs. Sarah Haggart, sister of Janet MacDougall, also made a home for teachers on Clear Lake, in the house now owned by Walter & Jane Tilden. Janet Morrison Hay boarded with her cousins, the MacVicars, when she taught at Dunany in the nineteen- thirties.

THE SCHOOL AS PART OF THE SOCIAL FABRIC OF DUNANY

In 1922, a new Visitors' Register was begun. There are large gaps in it, but it does indicate the involvement, not only of the parents, but also the interest of members of the growing cottage community. It also seems to indicate that the school was quite a centre for Social events. (See Florence Mannard's account of her schooldays in Dunany School No. 1)

THE MEMORIAL TREE

In 1937, to celebrate the Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, Tolbert Gauley, a Grade IV student at that time, planted a maple tree on the edge of the school property. The teacher was Miss Catherine Black and the other students in the school were: Grade VII, Edith Copeland, Clifton Morrison, Marion Morrison Grade VI, Bernice Gordon, Angus Woods. Grade V, Bobby Gordon and Grade II, Alvin Brown. This maple is now a giant tree, and it is a pity that it has not been suitably marked, as a memorial, not only to a good little school, but also to one of Dunany's best-known and finest citizens.

THE CLOSING OF DUNANY SCHOOL NUMBER ONE

The School Records end in 1947 during the time when Minnie Gain was the teacher. Transportation had been arranged to take the children into Lachute. Today there are two big yellow school buses serving the needs of students in this area. As their memoirs attest, students of Dunany's little school felt they had been well-served in their quest for an education.



STUDENTS IN 1923

Back Row: Clarence Matthews and Albert Gain
Third Row: Janet Morrison, Marion MacVicar, Bessie Morrison
Second Row: Ethel Morrison Hilda Woods, Violet Woods, Evelyn Gain, Violet Gain. Alice Gain is in front of Violet.
Front Row: Angus MacDougall, Chester Gain, Dorothy Woods.

DUNANY SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS, 1898-1902

First Recorded Meeting

At a meeting of the School Commissioners of the Municipality of Dunany in the County of Argenteuil, held at the Number One School House, the usual place of meeting in this municipality, on Monday, the thirty-first day of October, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight, at the hour of ten o'clock in the fore-noon at which meeting were present:

Duncan MacDougall, Wm. J. Gain, John Murphy, Archibald MacDougall and George Smith

All School Commissioners forming a quorum, and presided over by the Chairman, Duncan MacDougall. The Secretary-Treasurer being also present, minutes of the former meeting being read and approved. Said Meeting being called for the purpose of examining the Collection Roll of the above mentioned municipality. Commissioner Archibald MacDougall moved, seconded by Commissioner W. J. Gain that 'The Collection Roll that is now made for the Municipality of Dunany from the 30th of June, 1898 to the 30th of June 1899, be now homologated without any amendment.' Carried unaminious (sic).

Commissioner John Murphy moved, seconded by Commissioner WJ. Gain that 'Miss Mary J. MlacDougall be engaged to teach Number One School at a salary of \$14.00 per month for a term of four months. Said School to be opened the 7th day of November, 1898, and be conducted according to law.' Carried unamious (sic).

Commisioner John Murphy moved, seonded by Commissioner W. J. Gain that "Mr be notified that his property be handed to the Secretary-Treasurer of the County Council to be sold for tax due on said property, if not paid to the Secretary Treasurer of the School Board before the first day of December, 1898. " unanimous (sic).

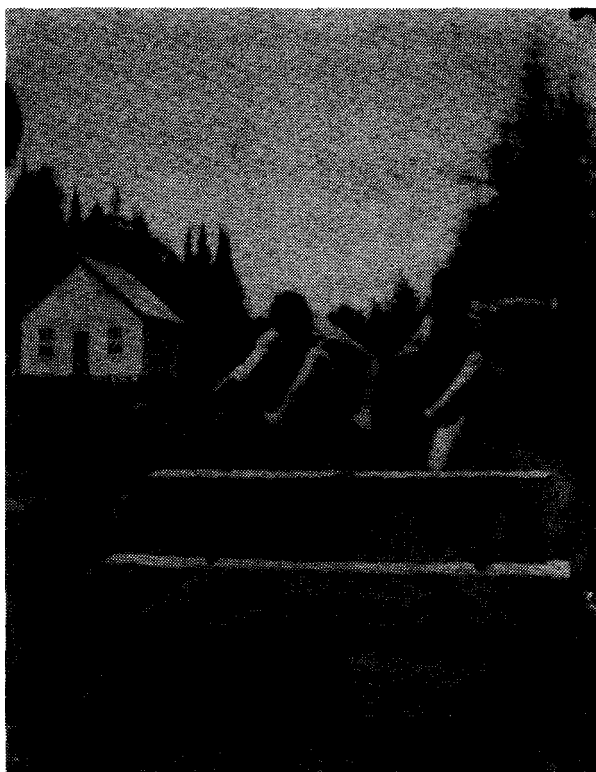
G. M. Smith (Secretary-Treasurer)
Duncan MacDougall (Chairman)

Dec. 18, 1899

A motion was presented: "That Richard Stephenson leave 800 ft. of sized spruce lumber for the sum of six dollars and forty cents at the School House Number 1."

July 14, 1902

A motion was made that: " A monthly fee be hereby leaved (sic) on all children attending this school in the Municipality of Dunany: that is, in the school-age, including children residing the Municipality and outside of the Municipality of Dunany." Carried unamious (sic). Ten cents per month between the age of seven and fourteen years.



Oscar MacDougall and a Cameron boy in gym class at the Dunany School.

A SAMPLING OF ENTRIES IN THE VISITORS' REGISTRY, MUNICIPALITY OF DUNANY

One of the most dreaded days for the teacher was when the well-known School Inspector, J.W. McOuat, came to Dunany School. In annual visits, beginning in 1898, he appeared to find all in order, with keen students, good teaching, and well-tended school premises. He did, however, deplore the short school term of just four months, and the spotty attendance. For several years there were just two pupils. By 1916, the School Population had increased from two to around ten and the School year to five months. The teachers seem to have been dedicated and the families supportive, as the Visitors' Book indicates parental involvement. This little one-room schoolhouse produced some outstanding graduates. Some of Inspector McOuat's entries in the Visitors' Registry are reproduced below:

Dec. 15, 1898 Teacher: Mary MacDougall: I find the usual fair prospects of successful work in this school. The pupils appear intelligent and attentive and desirous to learn. While the attendance is very small, it is pleasing to see the efforts being put forth by the people to make their school what it ought to be by providing maps of the two Hemispheres and Canada. Also in their intention to complete their school building.

Feb. 28, 1899 Teacher: Mary MacDougall: I regret that there has not been better attendance during the past few months. Very fair work has been done considering the brief term the school has been open, four months. Such subjects as have been taught are very well prepared, but I had liked to see the whole course taken up. On the whole, the results are about as good as could be under the circumstances. The attention and order are excellent in every respect.

Aug 14, 1899 Teacher: Kate MacDougall: I find the two pupils present do very well in their work and consider a faithful effort has been made. It is to be hoped that more interest will be taken by other pupils to take advantage of the school while it is open.

Aug. 23, 1900 Teacher: Kate MacDougall: I find good work being done by the two pupils present today and consider the progress quite good. If only the parents would send their children to school, a very good series of results could be shown. The premises are cleanly and well kept and all appears to be going well:

Aug. 26, 1901 Teacher: M. Alberta Chambers: The results are quite good and my only regret is that a longer term is not provided. The pupils are bright and intelligent, and if given a fair chance, would equal many other good schools. The premises are neat and cheerful.

At other dates, Inspector MacOuat commented on the additions to the school of a fence, a new shed and in 1907, new seats, blackboard and maps. The teacher that year was Alberta Chambers, well remembered by Clarence Neill. He and his sister were summer students at Dunany that year.

TEACHERS' COMMENTS:

Sept. 25, 1911 Ruby E. Smith I opened this school Sept 25, 1911, there being two pupils present. The subjects heard during the day, were as follows: Reading, Geography, Mental Arithmetic and Spelling.

May 19, 1913 M. C. James: School opened May 19th after being closed almost fourteen months. There were four pupils present, two in II Primer, and two just starting. I find the Spelling and Arithmetic very poor. Our greatest need is a blackboard.

In 1917 Miss Morrison reported that School opened on Sept. 10th with thirteen pupils present.

One teacher reported, "I found the pupils inclined to try to boss the teacher, but they made a mistake for once". Marion MacVicar Connelly remembers that she was universally disliked.

Mrs. Wm. Brown	Mr. Clifton Morrison
Mrs. Ida MacVicar	Master Willis Morrison
Mrs. Forfard	Rhoda Crooks
Mrs. Oscar MacDougall	Joan Walker
Mrs. Nelson Morrison	Brenda Crooks
Mrs. Dorothy Crooks	Eunice Boyd
Mrs. Melvin Boyd	Ronald Boyd
Mrs. Robert Gain	James K. Clifford
Mrs. Herbert Neill	John Neill
	Wayne Neill

Teacher: Mrs. Minnie Gain

DUNANY SCHOOL CHILDREN FROM 1913 TO 1947

BOYD:	Nathaniel, Melvin
BOYD:	Hector, Theodore
BROWN:	Alvin
CARRUTHERS	Leslie, Lena, Emma
CHAPMAN:	Beatrice, Eric, Lemuel
COPELAND:	Hazel, Roberta, Edith, Lena, Freda, Alvin
CROOKS:	Rhoda, Walter, George, Marjory
FISH:	Billy
GAULEY:	Tolbert, Evelyn, Lorna
GAIN:	Leonard, Florence, Violet
GAIN:	Albert, Evelyn, Alice, Chester, Ward
GORDON:	Hazel, Ruth, Archie, Douglas, Robert, Bernice, Jean
HOLYOKE:	James
LAROQUE:	Joseph, John
MACDOUGALL:	Angus
MACVICAR:	Marion, Kathleen
MATTHEWS:	Clarence
MORRISON:	Ethel, Janet Bessie, Stanley, Gertrude
MORRISON:	David, Clifton, Willis, Florence, Ernest
MILLER:	Elsie
NEILL:	Clarence, Herbert
NEILL:	Beverley, Amy, Ronald
NEILL:	John
NOTMAN:	Colin
PAQUETTE:	Carroll
TIPPETT:	Eva, Bessie
WOOD:	Gilbert, Chesley
WOODS:	Hilda, Dorothy, Violet, Ruth, Weslie, Angus
WOODS:	Garnet, William, Lillian, Rhoda

Census of Children January 26 1923

Parents or Guardians	Names	Age
Phin. Mac Vicar	Marion Mac Vicar	9
	Kathelin Mac Vicar	5
Richard Mathews	Clarence Mathews	11
Oscar Mac Dougall	Angus Mac Dougall	11
Robert Gain	Albert Gain	13
	Alice Gain	11
	Chester Gain	9
	Evelin Gain	7
	Ward Gain	5
Jas Morrison	Ethel Morrison	14
	Janet Morrison	10
	Bessie Morrison	9
	Stanely Morrison	6
	Gertrid Morrison	5
Stewart Boyd	Melvin Boyd	15
	Mathewial Boyd	17
H.J. Neil	Clarence Neil	17
	Herbert Neil	15
Alix Larogue	Joseph Larogue	17
	John Larogue	8

From Oscar MacDougall's records.

DUNANY TEACHERS OVER THE YEARS

1894	Eliza MacVicar	1898	Mary MacDougall
1899-1900	Kate MacDougall	1900	M. Alberta Chambers
1910	Miss MacVicar	1911-13	Ruby E. Smith
1914	Ruby Smith Copeland	1915	A.B. Morrison
1916	Jessie Earl	1918	Mrs. A. Furness
1919	Doris Campbell	1920	Mabel Armstrong
1920	M.C. James	1921-2	I.K. Wason
1923-4	Olive Farmer	1924-5	M.H. Brown
1925-6	Hazel M. Morrison	1926-7	M.C. James
1927-8	M.C. James/Anna Hicks	1928-9	Bessie Morrin (Boyd)
1929-30	Janet Morrison	1930-1	Marion MacVicar
1933-4	Janet Morrison	1934-6	Marion MacVicar
1936-8	E. Catherine Black	1939-42	Jessie Goodfellow
1943-7	Minnie Clifford Gain		

Department of Public Instruction Quebec, P. Q.

When replying give at the head of your letter this number.

Address your answer to "The Superintendent of Public Instruction, Quebec, P. Q."

September 20th, 1922.

To the Secretary-Treasurer of the School Board.


Municipality of Dunany, Que.

DEAR SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your application for permission to engage Miss Isabel Wason without diploma to teach in school No. 1 in your municipality.

No objection will be offered by this Department to the engaging of this teacher without diploma. It is to be distinctly understood, however, that no official recognition is given to the teacher thus engaged, and that the term of such engagement does not extend beyond the current scholastic year.

Mr. Oscar Mc Dougall,
Dunany, Que.


J. P. Parnell
Superintendent.

Correspondence between the Quebec Department of Public Instruction and the Chairman of the Dunany School Board, Oscar MacDougall.