

The History of Education - Sackville Schools

The stories surrounding Sackville's education system are widespread, from travelling in the nippy days of February to recalling the memory of hearing fingernails scrape across blackboards. It is in hearing these types of stories and the histories of the schools themselves that one realizes how Sackville schools have been rather special and different from the rest in the province.

Sackville reportedly had a school in the area in the early 1800's. At that time the operation of schools in the province fell into the hands of the different religious denominations.



In the far left, of this earliest pictorial record of Fultz Corner, is the home of Anthony Fultz Jr. (1793-1876) a well-known local wheelwright and grandfather of the first Fultz born in Sackville. To the right is the large two-and-a-half story inn of William Fultz. In the far right of the painting is the tiny, 20 x 20, wood frame home of Bennett Daniel Fultz (1826-1910) and his wife Mary Susan Robinson (1841-1928).

There are many references to the community's first school associated with the history of the St. John's the Evangelist Anglican Church, whereby missionary priests who came to the area provided a teacher, and looked after the pastoral duties of the community.

The Reverend G. Gray, and wardens George Fultz and Thomas Mitchell of the St. John Evangelist Anglican Church in 1809 requested that the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, Sir George Provost, provide for a grant of land to be set aside in Sackville for the construction of a school. Stephen Blair was brought to Sackville by the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts to be the first schoolmaster. This organization was connected with the Anglican Church. He reported in 1828 that the school was eighteen feet by fifteen feet. The school had seventeen children in all. The school remained

open until 1899. The Lower Sackville School was then built across the schoolyard from the old school that served many Sackville children for generations.



The above photo is dated 1905, and is of the St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church. It was originally printed as a postcard.

The community of Beaver Bank followed Sackville's need for a school and received it in 1865. Beaver Bank grew to need a second school by 1886. Lucasville required a school as well, and one was opened to meet the community's needs in 1876. By the middle of the 1830's Sackville needed two schools, one for the lower half of Sackville, and another in what was to become Upper Sackville.



The Grove Finishing School located in Beaver Bank, operated by the Grove sisters.

Over the years Sackville has had its share of well-known schools. Among them has been the Grove School. The Grove School operated sometime into the 1890's as a finishing school. A finishing school was a school for young ladies of prominent and well-off families. The cost for children under the age of twelve was sixty dollars and included studying in reading, grammar, arithmetic, history, geography, natural philosophy, English

composition and French. This school was just one of several schools in the Sackville area by the 1890's.

Sackville area schools have served its community well. Sackville schools have always been filled with exceptional teachers and capable students. It is through hearing the stories of some of Sackville's oldest schools that a greater appreciation can be found for the education system that exists in contemporary Sackville.