

The Life of the Middle Sackville Schoolhouse

The Middle Sackville School was built sometime around the mid-1800's, snugly put at the foot of Shay Hill, beside the Old Sackville Road. The school operated until 1949, when a new school, of the same name, was built for Middle Sackville.



The original Middle Sackville School

It was in thanks to the trustee, who acted as secretary, that the school was kept operational. It was this person who had to collect the school tax to maintain the building, and was responsible for ensuring the teacher was paid the amount according that their teaching license required.

Typically, on the first day best friends would choose to sit together, and the arrangement usually lasted as long as they behaved themselves.

The front and sidewalls of the school were covered in blackboards. The boards were often hard to read, as lighting at times during the school year made it difficult to read and copy notes. Electricity was added in the 1930's.

At the back of the Middle Sackville School was a large cast-iron stove where hardwood logs would be used to heat the building. The area around the stove would be a place to dry wet clothes on rainy days. On Hallowe'en and Valentine's Day, it would be used to make fudge or molasses taffy, and each child would be responsible for bringing in a contribution for the small snack.

Each school day would start with a devotional period followed by a pledge of allegiance. Sums were then copied from the board, which was then normally followed by a hearing lesson.

On days when the weather was poor the males in the school would proceed to the coatroom and play games. The girls, who were never invited to ever play with the boys, read old books or asked the teacher to write on the board. On sunny days the girls would indulge

in a game of hopscotch, and in the winter the boys would bring their bobsleds to coast on the hill.

A group of concerned parents formed a Home and School Association for the Middle Sackville School, and accomplished a great deal. Their work resulted in the introduction of a hot lunch program for the children. A music program was implemented for students to gain a greater appreciation for the arts. Meetings of the Junior Red Cross were held on Friday. Female students would learn embroidery, while the males would make useful things out of wood.

Middle Sackville School was located near the site of the present Lind Forest subdivision and the burial crypt of the Olands family.

The Middle Sackville School provided students and staff with a wonderful learning environment in which to grow and be taught. The school served its community for almost a century.

With Sackville becoming home to so many new families, each year fewer residents are aware of the site of where the Middle Sackville School once stood. Unfortunately, the history of this school, like so many others in the area, is becoming an unknown quantity to area residents.



The Middle Sackville School in 1956