

Tavistock öffentliche schule

VINTAGE VIEWS

By Tim Mosher

Tavistock and District Historical Society

One of the foundations of any community is its first school, but as Freiburg/Inkerman/Tavistock grew, the small schools scattered around the surrounding farms served the populace. They were mostly log structures, board and batten, and later brick.

Many young people in Tavistock attended school in Sebastopol since 1842, then located just west of Trinity Lutheran Church. The brick school there, S.S. (School Section) #8, was built in 1878. Finally, Tavistock had its own brick school built on William Street in 1879 with an adjoining large garden for agricultural instruction on Woodstock Street. Mister/Herr Abraham Bretz was the first schoolmaster/Schulmeister.

Old Tavistock Public School (TPS) served its purpose well for innumerable pupils and staff members for 87 years. I attended there for my first three years: Grade 1 when Ms. Patterson was my teacher (there was no kindergarten); Grade 2 with Ms. Belle Currah; finally Grade 3 with Ms. Helen Rudy. I have clear memories of the wrought iron and hard-

wood rows of desks, the octagonal clocks with their swinging pendulums, the hand-pulled bell atop the roof in its little tower and the schoolyard with the hill which, to this six-year-old, seemed daunting while seated on a toboggan at its crest looking down. We walked home for lunch. I still have a few of my school notebooks from these earliest years, with my teachers' comments written in them in beautiful cursive and a disappointing number of shiny star stickers.

The growth of the village and the province by the mid-1960s brought major changes to education under then Premier Bill Davis. In 1967, the tall, aging, two-storey structure was sold to LeRoy and Ruth Schlegel and renovated as the peopleCare retirement home and later as office and recreational spaces.

In 1966, I moved on to Tavistock's new school on Maria Street with its one-storey, horizontal design. Here, I attended grades four to eight. It continues to serve its purpose today and has expanded numerous programs and facilities.

In April of this year, the old school was demolished. The land will likely be used for modern housing.

Die alte Schulglocke ist noch in unserer Erinnerung zu hören. (The old school bell can still be heard in our memories.)

The answer to the last edition's History Mystery: This was answered by Barry Flood of New Hamburg. The card was suspended by thread.



(LEMP STUDIO COLLECTION; SCAN #5051)

The older folk around Tavistock would have said "öffentliche schule" (uh-fent-leekuh shoo-luh) when speaking about the town's public school, as German was clearly predominant for many of the early decades in the district and frequently spoken in the schoolyard. One-hundred forty-nine people posed for this post-1898 photo.

This week's History Mystery: The question is open to all ages. Why are there two colours of brick, as you can see between the first and second floors of the

main school building, but a single colour in the two-storey, front-entrance part? The first reader to send the correct answer to me at

tim_mosher@hotmail.com will have their name, community name or rural route number published in the next edition.

Tavistock Historical Society a destination for Stratford car tour

PAUL BARTLETT

Tavistock and District Historical Society

Over 90 participants toured the Tavistock and District Historical Society on Sunday as part of the eighth annual Dave Blackburn Memorial Rural Roads Car Tour.

The tour is an annual event put on by the Stratford Rotary Club in association with the Stratford-Perth Museum in memory of longtime Rotarian Dave Blackburn.

The event is billed as a "tour of historical destinations along the back roads of Perth County and beyond." This year, the stops on the tour included the Detweiler Meetinghouse in Roseville, the Greenfield Historic Village near Ayr and the Plattsville Museum in Chesterfield, as well as the Tavistock and District Historical Society.

The 36 cars participating in the car tour left the Stratford-Perth Museum in three waves beginning at 9 a.m. and finished in the afternoon at the Army and Navy Lounge. At each stop, guides would give a short explanatory talk about their museum, following which the participants could look around and examine the exhibits.

This year's car rally proved to be the biggest one yet. Those involved in the tour were given a quiz at the end of the tour about facts that had been presented at each site, and this proved to be a fun way to learn the history of the region. It just goes to show that you do not have to go far to find hidden gems to visit.



(MARILYN PEARSON PHOTO)

Participants in eighth annual Dave Blackburn Car Tour learn of the history and projects of the Tavistock and District Historical Society.