

# ~HERITAGE CORNER~

## S. S. No. 7 Moore School alumni remain "true to their school"

The Beach Boys had a hit with the song *Be True To Your School* in the 1960s, but those words are as inspirational now as they have ever been. Just ask the alumni of S. S. No.7 Moore School.

On a wet and windy Nov. 22, 2013, 50 years after the old S.S. No. 7 school bell rang out for the last time, a crowd of 200 gathered on the one-acre site where the school once stood to honour its heritage and to dedicate a commemorative stone marking the place where they had their first encounters with formal education.

The school began as a one room cabin-type building built in 1858 on Rokeby Line on property now owned by Clean Harbors. The school, which served the former 8th Line community, was replaced with a conventional, white frame building in 1873 and remained in use until 1963. It was closed, as many other small country schools were, when school buses came into use to carry students to larger schools in urban areas.

Peter Gilliland, a member of the S.S. No. 7 Moore School Memorial Stone Committee, says, "Some residents and former students were compelled to make some indication of this school in a significant way. They decided a stone monument honouring the pioneers, teachers, and students of the old S.S. No. 7 should be erected. Clean Harbors, the current owner of the property, was agreeable and generously funded this effort." He applauded the work of the organizing committee, in particular Marilyn Shaw, who worked tirelessly behind-the-scenes.

Four decades worth of classmates gathered at the Brigden fire hall after the dedication to socialize and share memories of softball, spelling bees, music festivals, Christmas concerts, and many more cherished school activities. A letter from Miss Dorothy Johnson, who came to teach at the school in the 1950s in spite of the fact that she'd had no formal training, was read to the group. She was only 20 when she began, but she writes that she was so successful and so moved by her experience that she changed her career path from



*Some of the S.S. No. 7 Moore Memorial Stone Committee were on hand for the dedication of the stone. They included, from left: John Morrison, Elizabeth Brown, Joyce Wiles, Peter Gilliland, Eugene Graham, and Marilyn Shaw.*  
*Photo submitted*

business administration to teaching. Today, at the age of 82, she says she still has fond memories of S.S. No. 7 Moore. The event also featured a movie taken by former student Leslie Sheppard at the school's closing 50 years ago, plus old school photos. The old school bell and one of the school seats added a poignant touch to the event.

"It is our belief that whatever we are or have become in life, we are just a little better for having attended a one-room country school," said Mr. Gilliland.

***What greater or better gift can we offer the republic than to teach and instruct our youth?  
- Cicero***