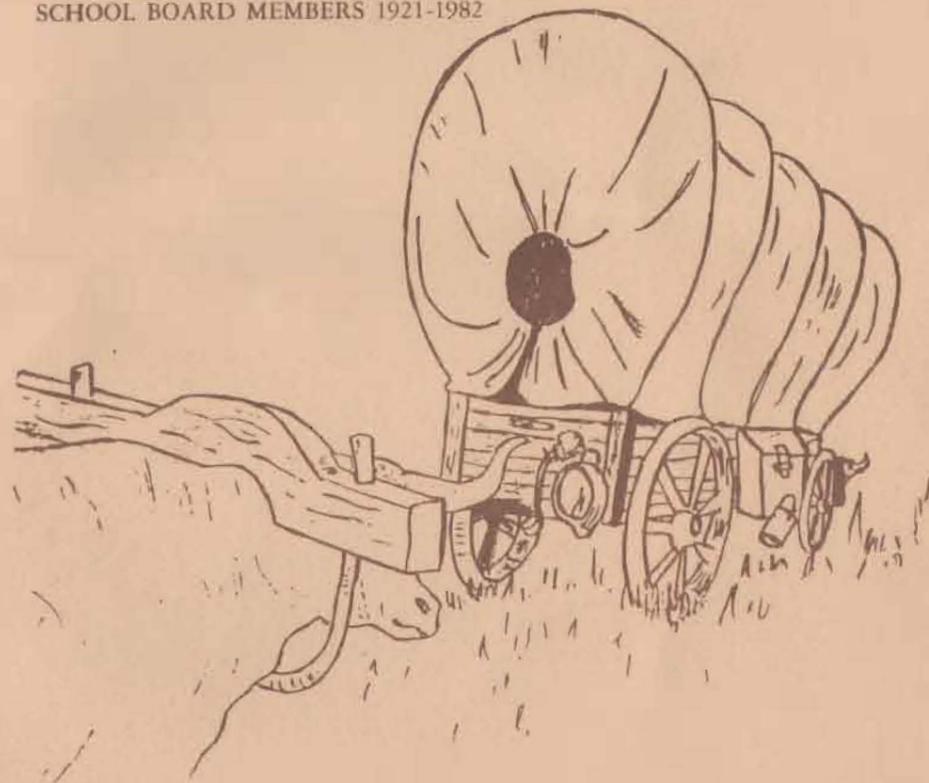


St. Charles

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE DISTRICT

AND

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS 1921-1982



Prepared by

St. Charles School

60TH ANNIVERSARY



St. Charles - A Family for 60 years - Looking at the Past, the Present and to the Future



St. Charles District

The majority of the early settlers in Assiniboia were "at home" for only parts of each year. After the two big fur Companies merged in Monopoly, hundreds of their discharged servants spread out along the wooded banks of the Assiniboine below White Horse Plain. Metis families joined them. When there were fifty families along both banks, Father Louis F. R. LaFleche, serving in St. Francois Xavier parish organized building a log chapel. The number of families steadily increased, and in 1854 the mission became the Parish of St. Charles.

In 1865 a new church is built in St. Charles. It stood east of the convent, facing up the River. Fr. Lestance was the moving spirit in building this church and first school in St. Charles in 1866.

In 1869 the names of Isbister, Ness, Riel, Taylor are added to the St. Charles Parish register.

In Manitobas first provincial election in 1870, Henry J. Clarke was elected for St. Charles. Prominent names of St. Charles families taken in the census of 1870 were: Malette Braconnier, Laverdure, Bird, Moricette, Falcon, Power, Dumas, Isbister, Good, Grant, Bannock, Murray, Adshead, Dubache. New names in the parish records included: Keplen, Thibault, Serres, Miller, Dumas, St. Benic, Goulet, Stevenson, Mogian, Oulette, Durand, Lajimodiere, Sabye, Bremner, Atkinson, Villebrun, Brunault, Brown, Daignault, Nevielle, Delorme. In St. James, St. Charles, and Headingley parishes there was a count of 124 families, embracing 659 individuals, showing 529 native born, 475 hybrids, 158 white and the remainder Indians.

The legislature ended its first session on May 3 after passing a bill forming the first School Division of the eleven parishes — including Headingley, St. Charles and St. James.

* * * *

In the year 1875 people living along the Portage Trail in St. Charles were able to use the regular stage operated by Michael Blake, between Portage and Winnipeg. One hundred and forty students attended school in St. Charles. The Board of Education formed Sturgeon Creek S.D. #30 on January 7, 1876 embracing St. James and St. Charles, north of Assiniboine. On July 28, 1876 Fr. D. Dandurand came to St. Charles to begin his 24 fruitful years as parish priest. In 1880 the province was divided into 31 Municipalities. St. Charles became part of the Municipality of Assiniboia. A right-of-way is leased from Mrs. D. Cappelette from St. Charles Ferry to the Highway, for \$15.00 yearly.

In 1882 the St. Charles ferry floated away in the spring flood, but was recovered. Thomas Hogue was hired to run it.

* * *

In 1883 the Assiniboia Council was asked for cash from the St. Charles School District. Council promised to pay as soon as funds were available. R. J. Lonsdale urged a petition to stop pollution of the River. Stages ran from St. Charles to Winnipeg at 7:00 a.m. Tuesdays and Fridays.

Everyone recognized the vital place of education in the New Nation, but from the beginning, financing the schools was a struggle. In 1886 the Municipal Council had to find \$425.00 for the St. Charles District. Taxes were hard to collect and cash money difficult to find. Cash had to be found to pay A. Hogue \$15.00 for a ferry boat.

* * *

In 1887 George Caron, of St. Charles built a big new dairy and took prizes for his butter. On June 28, young and old assembled at St. Charles to celebrate the wedding of Honore Caron, 28, and Claire McKenzie, 17.

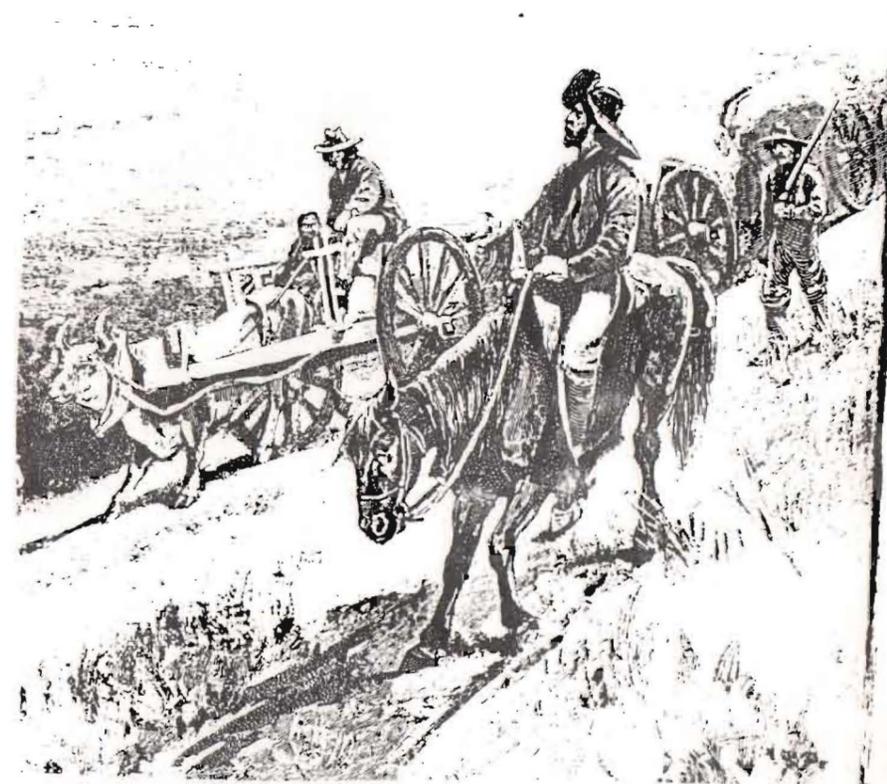
* * *

In 1888 the Carons built their own ferry to carry customers to their plant and also to church, free. Promoters attended the Council Meeting to sell the idea of a telephone service from Winnipeg to St. Charles.

* * *

In 1891 Council paid the Isbister estate \$25.00 an acre for a roadway from the Portage Road to St. Charles Ferry. School District of St. Charles had an acreage of 10,738 acres, with an assessment of \$8.80 per acre, for a total assessment of \$96,412.00. In October the Health Officer warned of Scarlet Fever in St. Charles and called for a general vaccination, and asked for more pay. Dr. Crawford took over as Health Officer at \$100.00 yearly, including medicines required — except for epidemics.

St. Charles has been a community since the battling fur companies escaped ruin by uniting in 1821; and by discharging two thirds of all the men they had hired to fight each other. Thrown on their own, these ex-employees, with their Indian wives and families, paddled down the waterways, many to locate along the Assiniboine. In the sheltering timber, they built log cabins, planted patches of garden and grain in the spring, hunted buffalo or joined cart-trains in summer; and, for the winter, returned to their cabin "homes". Some of the voyageurs and hunters who first squatted along the river, finally got titles to their River Lots. Many of the occupants in 1899 were descendants of those first settlers — like D. Isbister on Lot 98 and C. Rickard on 99. St. Charles Post Office was located on Lot 112.



In 1900 a new ferry is ordered for St. Charles and tenders range from \$75.00 to \$100.00 Council paid Thos. Buchanan \$79.00 for building two new ferries, and J. E. McLean \$48.50 for bolts, hinges and ironwork.

The congregation in St. Charles Parish bids farewell to Father Dandurand, parish priest since 1876; and now succeeded by Fr. Beaudin.

* * * *

In 1904 wages for municipal work were 40 cents an hour for man and team; and 15 cents an hour for the man. The new mammoth steam tractors, weighing up to 12 tons, cause trouble at Municipal bridges. Sam Beckett is hired as a second Municipal constable; and is ordered to stop the epidemic of obscene talk; furious driving on the public roads; and shooting on Sundays. He was paid \$2.00 a day, while on duty. City council met in the home of Frank Ness for \$12.00 yearly.

The St. Charles Roman Catholic congregation opened their new, enlarged church. In addition a convent boarding-school was erected by the Oblate Sisters, led by Rev. Mother St. Viateur.

* * * *

In 1907 promoters started buying River Lot farms and sub-dividing them into building lots, Part of River Lot #95, of which Fr. Thibeaudeau was trustee, and the Chris O'Kelly, Lot #89 were the first to be divided. Thus, a new era and new concept of living replaced the pioneer days.

* * * *

In 1912 fifty lights were hung to illuminate the Portage Road from St. James Street to Headingley.

* * * *

The "St. James Leader" of March 12, 1915 advertises back bacon at 15 cents per pound; peas and beans, 3 cans for 25 cents. Auto licenses are \$10.00 plus \$1.00 for plates and Keeton Autos may be purchased for \$1,375.00 to \$1,425.00. A bumper harvest crop rocketed morale and generated tremendous activity. Contracts were let to pave and lay water mains on 10 miles of the Portage Road. In 1915, there were few worries, but in years that brought rust and drought and crop failure, many families lost land they pioneered.

* * * *

In 1920 public schools in Kirkfield, Headingley, St. James and the Convent school in St. Charles were all crowded. Glasses were provided free for all children needing them. Great progress was noted in music. V. C. Maddock got a license to run buses between Deer Lodge and Headingley. He ran 15 minute service between Deer Lodge and Sturgeon Creek and 3 buses to Headingley. Tickets were 25 for \$1.00.

Beginning of St. Charles School

Petitions are circulated both for, and against, a new school in St. Charles. A new School District, No. 2071 is created in St. Charles in 1921. A fine 2-room brick school-house is built by contractor P. H. Hedges. The corner stone was laid by Dr. Robert Fletcher, Deputy-Minister of Education on July 22. The school opened in September with Misses Annie Cameron and Regina Champagne teaching 46 pupils in 10 grades. The first Secretary of St. Charles School District was Ralph Goodridge. Trustees were V. C. Maddock, P. Brown and Joseph Cachat, Chairman. Four years later average attendance is 51; and the Provincial grant is \$177.14. By 1929, some 74 boys and girls attend.

* * * *

In December 1925 St. Charles church was destroyed by fire and immediately a new building was begun, for the third time.

John Isbister and his wife Mary moved back to 371 Isbister Street, a street which had been named after them. Mrs. Isbister's mother was a daughter of Wm. McMillan who came to Assiniboia from Oregon about 1850. John's father James had come from the Orkneys to work for "the Company" and had settled along the Assiniboine. John and Mary were married in St. Charles church, by Father Dandurand. Wm. McMillan lived to 104 and was buried in St. Charles cemetery. Reggie Isbister a grandson of John Isbister still resides at 775 Isbister Street. Reggie's father John was the former owner of Johnnys Meat Market.

With the increase of the native population reinforced by the tide of new-comers, land prices in Assiniboia climbed from \$9.25 an acre in 1945 to \$1,000.00 per acre in 1962. Our school population multiplies. At St. Charles School, the 70 pupils of 1940 increase to 135 in 5 classrooms in 1950; and to 612 girls and boys with 12 teachers (plus 9 teachers at the new Buchanan School) before 1967.

The tide of families moving to flood-free Assiniboia is dammed at the perimeter Highway, by the dictum of authorities who favor other communities.

Assiniboia — earliest experiment in civil administration on the European model; and designated a Municipality generations before any other in our great — Nor'West in 1811 embraced 116,000 square miles. By 1967 this area was home to 3 million people. Through 156 years the original Assiniboia has been divided among 3 of the United States and 3 of Canada's provinces. Only our present Municipality of 32 square miles carries the original name of "Assiniboia".

Pioneers passed on. Madame Sara Peltier died at 95 in 1942. Madame Charles Caron died at 88 on April, 1950 and Charles Caron died at 92 in May of the same year. On January 13, 1954, Madame Honore Lafleche, nee Claire McKenzie went to rest at 84 years of age.

School Board Members 1921 - 1982

1921—1922
Mr. R. Goodridge — Secretary
G. A. Barker
Secretary-Treasurer

Sept. to November
Mr. Gagnon
Mr. G. A. Barker
Mr. Irwin

November to February
Mr. Heather
Mr. G. Gent
Mr. J. Cachat

February to July
Mr. F. Brown
Mr. V. C. Maddock
Mr. J. Cachat — Chairman

1922—1923
Mr. P. Brown
Mr. V. C. Maddock
Mr. J. Cachat — Chairman

1924—1925
J. Cachat — Chairman
V. C. Maddock
P. Brown
R. Goodridge
Secretary-Treasurer

1926—1927
J. Cachat — Chairman
V. C. Maddock
P. Brown
Mr. S. Grimble
Secretary-Treasurer

1927—1928
P. Brown
J. Cachat
Mr. Beauchemin
Mr. S. Grimble
Secretary-Treasurer

1928—1929
P. Brown
Mr. Beauchemin
Mr. Reynolds
Mr. S. Grimble
Secretary-Treasurer

1929—1930
P. Brown
E. Reynolds
A. Beauchemin
W. Mason
Secretary-Treasurer

1930—1931
A. Beauchemin
E. Reynolds
P. Brown
W. Mason
Secretary-Treasurer

1931—1932
W. H. Lord
J. Hollicks
E. Risby
W. Mason
Secretary-Treasurer

1932—1933
E. Risby
J. Hollicks
J. Peltier
W. Mason
Secretary-Treasurer

1933—1934
E. Risby
J. Peltier
W. Foster
W. Foster
Secretary-Treasurer

1934—1935
J. Peltier
E. Risby
W. Foster
W. Foster
Secretary-Treasurer

1935—1936
E. Risby
A. Beauchemin
W. Foster
W. Foster
Secretary-Treasurer

1936—1937
E. Risby
E. Reynolds
A. Beauchemin
A. Beauchemin
Secretary-Treasurer

1937—1938
A. Beauchemin
E. Risby
E. Reynolds
H. Sewell
Secretary-Treasurer

1938—1939
E. Risby
E. Reynolds
H. Webster
John Isbister
Secretary-Treasurer

1939—1940
E. Risby
Mr. Hogden
H. Webster
John Isbister
Secretary-Treasurer

1940—1941
E. Risby
R. Alguire
J. Balfour
John Isbister
Secretary-Treasurer

1941—1942
E. Risby
J. Balfour
R. Alguire
J. Balfour
Secretary-Treasurer

1942—1943
E. Risby
J. Isbister
R. Alguire
J. Keep
Secretary-Treasurer

1943—1944
E. Risby
R. Alguire
J. Keep
Secretary-Treasurer

1944—1945
E. Risby
R. Alguire
D. Maddess
W. Foster
Secretary-Treasurer

1945—1946
E. Risby
R. Alguire
D. Maddess
B. Foster
Secretary-Treasurer

1946—1947
A. Brodie
W. Patzia
E. Risby
W. Foster
Secretary-Treasurer

1947—1948
E. Risby
W. Patzia
A. Brodie
W. Foster
Secretary-Treasurer

1948—1949
A. Brodie
W. Patzia
F. Zilkie
W. Foster
Secretary-Treasurer

1949—1950
F. Zilkie
W. Patzia
Mr. Bornn
W. Foster
Secretary-Treasurer

1950—1951
Mr. Bornn
W. Patzia
F. Zilkie
W. Foster
Secretary-Treasurer

1951—1952
Mr. Hollins
Mr. Bornn
Mr. Boychuk
W. Foster
Secretary-Treasurer

1952—1953
G. Bornn
S. Boychuk
G. Hollins
W. Foster
Secretary-Treasurer

1953—1954
G. Hollins
S. Boychuk
B. Hedges

1954—1955
G. Hollins
B. Hedges
S. Boychuk
W. Foster
Secretary-Treasurer

1955—1956
G. Hollins
B. Hedges
S. Boychuk
W. Foster
Secretary-Treasurer

1956—1957
G. Hollins
B. Hedges
S. Boychuk
W. Foster
Secretary-Treasurer

1957—1958
G. Hollins
B. Hedges
S. Boychuk
W. Foster
Secretary-Treasurer

1958—1959
B. Hedges
S. Boychuk
S. Harper
Mrs. Carruthers
Secretary-Treasurer

1959—1960
B. Hedges
S. Boychuk
S. Harper
Mrs. Carruthers
Secretary-Treasurer

1960—1961
B. Hedges
S. Boychuk
S. Harper
M. Parsons
V. Hedges
Secretary-Treasurer

1961—1962
B. Hedges
K. Bjornson
M. Parsons
Vera Hedges
Secretary-Treasurer

1962—1963
B. Hedges
K. Bjornson
M. Parsons
Vera Hedges
Secretary-Treasurer

1963—1964
B. Hedges
K. Bjornson
M. Parsons
Vera Hedges
Secretary-Treasurer

1964—1965
M. Parsons
B. Hedges
Mrs. N. Hunt
K. Bjornson
S. Shackell
Vera Hedges
Secretary-Treasurer

1965—1966
M. Parsons
S. Hedges
K. Bjornson
Mrs. N. Hunt
S. Shackell
Vera Hedges
Secretary-Treasurer

1966—1967

M. Parsons
B. Hedges
S. Shackell
Mrs. J. Bjornson
G. Jewison
Vera Hedges
Secretary-Treasurer

1967—1968

M. Parsons
E. Docking
C. Starkell
G. Jewison
Mr. Green
D. Paulson
M. Tomlinson
D. Loadman
M. Baryluk
Mrs. Moore
Secretary-Treasurer

1968—1969

M. Parsons
E. Docking
C. Starkell
D. Green
M. Tomlinson
D. Paulson
D. Loadman
G. Jewison
R. Gray
G. Gyman
Secretary-Treasurer

1969—1970

D. McNabb
E. Docking
Rev. Armstrong
H. Budgell
D. Colegrave
A. Conklin
R. Gray
G. Jewison
N. Lawson
K. Morrison
Mrs. I. Rowlin
M. Tomlinson
G. Waters
T. C. Macgregor
Secretary-Treasurer

1970—1971

E. Docking
G. Jewison
Rev. Armstrong
D. Paulson
H. Budgell
D. McNabb
G. Waters
A. Conklin
K. Morrison
T. C. Macgregor
Secretary-Treasurer

1971—1972

E. Docking
E. Lawson
Rev. Armstrong
G. Jewison
D. Paulson
H. Budgell
D. McNabb
G. Waters
A. Conklin
K. Morrison
T. C. Macgregor
Secretary-Treasurer

1972—1973

E. Docking
G. Waters
Rev. Armstrong
W. Bannister
A. Conklin
P. Johnson
D. McNabb
K. Morrison
W. O'Brien
D. Paulson
T. C. Macgregor
Secretary-Treasurer

1973—1974

E. Docking
G. Waters
Rev. Armstrong
W. Bannister
A. Conklin
R. Johnson
D. McNabb
K. Morrison
W. O'Brien
D. Paulson
T. C. Macgregor
Secretary-Treasurer

1974

G. Waters
A. Conklin
Rev. Armstrong
E. Docking
G. Eakin
M. Gillies
R. Johnson
G. McKinnon
D. McNabb
J. Richardson
T. C. Macgregor
Secretary-Treasurer

1975—1976

G. Waters
R. Johnson
Rev. F. Armstrong
G. Eakin
A. Conklin
M. Gillies
D. McNabb
J. Richardson
B. Docking
G. McKinnon

1976—1977

G. Waters
A. Conklin
Rev. F. Armstrong
E. Docking
G. Eakin
M. Gillies
R. Johnson
G. McKinnon
D. McNabb
J. Richardson

1977—1978

R. Johnson
G. Hammond
A. Conklin
E. Docking
G. Eakin
M. Gillies
G. McKinnon
J. Richardson
A. Mutchmor
G. Waters

1978—1979

R. Johnson
G. Eakin
G. Waters
G. Hammond
A. Conklin
G. McKinnon
E. Docking
A. Mutchmor
J. Richardson
G. Fraser

1979—1980

R. Johnson
A. Conklin
G. Eakin
G. Fraser
G. Hammond
G. McKinnon
A. Mutchmor
J. Richardson
G. Waters

1980—1981

G. Eakin
O. Backhouse
G. Fraser
L. McIntosh
C. McLean
M. Park
P. Phillips
G. Waters

1981—1982

G. Eakin
I. Yeo
O. Backhouse
G. Fraser
L. McIntosh
C. McLean
M. Park
P. Phillips
G. Waters

St. Charles School

Celebrating their 60th Anniversary



1921 - 1982

St. Charles School

77 DAMOURIANG AVE. ST. JAMES-ASSINIBOIA, WINNIPEG, MANITOBA TELEPHONE 852-1478