

### THE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

There was no Catholic school at Gaspe previous to 1874 . Towards 1850, when Matthew O'Mara arrived at Gaspe, he started as a private tutor, and then taught in the Protestant school, then at Mr. F. Veit's home. But he was an unfortunate, addicted to liquor and separated from his wife who is claimed to have been the cause of his downfall and bad conduct. The Catholic children were, therefore, obliged to frequent the Protestant school until 1874.

The Gaspe Basin school board.

The schools were first administered by trustees, known as the Board of trustees of the School Commission of the Bay of Gaspe South. Those trustees were replaced shortly afterwards by a regular School Board.

The first school was opened over the vestry in 1874, the first Catholic teacher was Miss Ellen Adams. The school was then held in a hall in Baker's hotel, in 1880. Then the schools in the village were closed for two or three years.

In 1885 the first village school was built, it was taught mostly by young girls. In 1918 a convent was built on the old St. Albert's church ground the site of Lazare Blouin Residence, two sisters from the order of the Holy Rosary of Rimouski, came and took up their residence at the convent, in addition to taking charge of the new school and teaching fifty or more children they

looked after the vestry.

In 1936 the convent was destroyed by fire, a new one was built, which is the present one on the cathedral grounds. In 1947, this convent was enlarged and the same year the school Board introduced a Bus service for the transport of the children to and from school.

The schools at Gaspé Harbour always belong to the Gaspé Basin school Board. The first school was built there in 1877 it came under the old board of trustees. In 1913 the school board replaced it with a new one. The first school was always taught by young girls and the second one until the late 1930's by the Sisters of the Holy Rosary. In 1947 the school was closed and the children who attended the school from Sandy Beach West and Gaspé Harbour came to the Holy Rosary school at Gaspé Basin. They were the first to use the bus service.

Haldimand like the idea of the Bus service and in 1957 their small school Board amalgamated with the Gaspé school board. The same year they closed the school and their children from Sandy Beach east and Haldimand east came to Gaspé Basin.

The first school in Haldimand was built in the 1870's and the second one was built in 1903. Those schools were both taught by young girls.

In the past term of (1957-58) at the Holy Rosary school there were 298 children attending classes with ten sisters and two Girls teaching. In 1954 the Sacred Heart Boys' College at Gaspé Basin was built. Two Brothers order of the Sacred Heart of Rimouski took charge of the college with three young girl teachers . 120 boys attended classes annually.

POINT NAVARRE

Point Navarre has always been on the Gaspé Basin, school board. The first school was built in 1908 near the bridge. It was replaced by a new one in 1932 on the same grounds, there was also one built the same time at the eastern limits of Point Navarre which was only used for a few years, those school were taught by young girls. In 1947 a convent was built just east of the chapel of the Seven Sorrows to replace the school. Sisters of the order of the Holy Rosary were put in charge. This convent soon became overcrowded and in 1957 a larger and more modern one was erected west of the chapel. In the past term of (1957-58) there were 58 children attending classes with four teaching Sisters residing at the convent.

St. Julienne colony is also cared for by the Gaspé Basin school board, their first school was built in 1941 it was destroyed by fire in 1947 and rebuilt the same year.

## FONTENELLE

Fontenelle school board was established around 1870 and school has been taught in five different buildings since that time. School was first held at the home of Paul Fournier. In 1876 the first school was built on the front side of the road on the property that belongs to Dominique Lemieux. In 1899 that school was made way with and the second one built on Paul Fournier's property. Those school were taught mostly by young girls.

In 1936 the school board decided on having nuns teachers and replaced the school with a convent. It was built of brick on the same grounds near the old school. The sisters of St. Paul St-Anne-des-Monts were put in charge.

After twenty years that convent became over crowded and the question of building a new one arose. The work began in 1956 on the present convent and was opened in september 1957. This convent has six class rooms and a recreation room. In the term of 1957-58 there was four sisters and two girls teaching and 103 children attending classes.

The old convent was rented to Armand Fournier for a home, on December 16th 1957 the building was destroyed by fire. The body of Mrs. Zephirin Fournier was burned to ashes in the blaze.

## CORTEREAL

The school board at Cortereal was established on July 29th 1901 and the first school was built and opened in September of the same year.

Simelda Morin, the first teacher, taught the first half of the school term of 1901-1902, and Bernadette Bouchard the last half.

The following is a list of the first school Board. Commissioners George Fortin, Belonie Fournier, François Fournier, Louis Bouchard, Jr. and Albert Fournier, Secretary, Louis Bouchard SR. as the years went by the school became over-crowded and with some children having a long way to go to school, it was decided by the school board that, rather than enlarge the old school, it would be better for the community to build two schools. This they did in 1921, One was built on the property of Emile T. Fournier and the other one two miles further up River on the property of Frederick Fournier.

In 1936 a third school was built still further up the River on the property of Amedee Fournier.

In 1949, these schools were all made way with and a four class room building was built with a bus service for the children. In the school term of 1957-58, there were four teachers and 98 children attending classes.

## COLLEGES

The Ursuline monastery was the first religious fondation organized and brought into existence in Gaspe by His Excellency Bishop F. X. Ross. The bishop had asked the Rev. Mother Superior at Rimouski, to take charge of normal school on Gaspe. She at once agreed to do so and sent a vanguard of two sisters to select a site for the new monastery. A building was erected to provide for thirty nuns, one hundred boarders and fifty day pupils, but in the mean time the classes were conducted in Baker's Lodge, a tourist hotel.

Shortly after the convent was opened a school of Home Economies was added. In 1945 a wing was built on the convent and still another in 1947. At the present time the monastery houses 48 Sisters (order of the Sacred Heart) 185 boarding pupils and 40 daily pupils attend classes. The monastery has its own farm and Albert Desrosiers has been the farmer since May 1925.

7

GASPE SEMINARY .

The Gaspe seminary, a seat of learning, was one of the other great institutions his Excellency Bishop F. X. Ross had always advocated.

Wlzear Fillion and Victor Labresque, general contractors of Quebec, began the construction on July 4th 1924 and completed their work two years later.

On October 1st 1926, the institution opened its doors and 69 students enrolled. The Jesuite Fathers were put in charge of this institution. In the year of 1937-1938 the number of students reached the 100 mark for the first time.

In 1938, the Jesuite Fathers were replaced by the congregation of Clercs of St. Viateur, with Reverend Father Joseph Latour Superior. In 1953, the seminary was enlarged and at present the work is in progress for, a still further enlargement and when this work is completed the seminary will have a capacity of 500 students. In the school term of 1957-58, there were twenty-eight professors three Brothers of the congregation of the Sacred Heart, four Marist priests and three laymen professors teaching with 300 students attending classes. The Sisters of St-Martha of St. Hyacinthe, act as General House Keepers at the seminary. There are ten sisters to attend to the numerous home duties.

The Seminary also owns and operates a large farm.

The following is a list of the superiors since 1926.

1926-1931	Rev. Father Olivier Hudon Beaulieu,	Jesuit.
1931-1936	Rev. Father Alphonse Hamel,	Jesuit.
1936-1938	Rev. Father Ernest Dastous,	Jesuit.
1938-1942	Rev. Father Joseph Latour,	Clerc of St. Viateur.
1942-1947	Rev. Father Alphonse Gauthier,	Clerc of St. Viateur.
1947-1950	Rev. Father Chas.-Eugene Roy,	
1950-1954	Rev. Father Camille Le Bell.	
1954-	Canon Jean-Paul Goupil.	