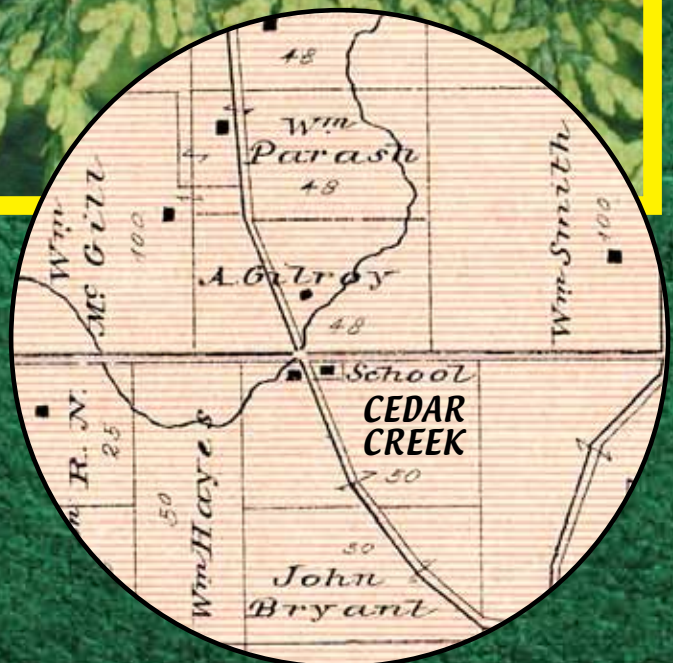


Discovering CEDAR CREEK

Uncovering the history of the small hamlet of Cedar Creek which is virtually unknown today – but has a long history in the former Reach and Scugog Twps.

BY J. PETER HVIDSTEN



DISCOVERING CEDAR CREEK

Researched & Published by J. Peter Hvidsten

Cover Design: J. Peter Hvidsten

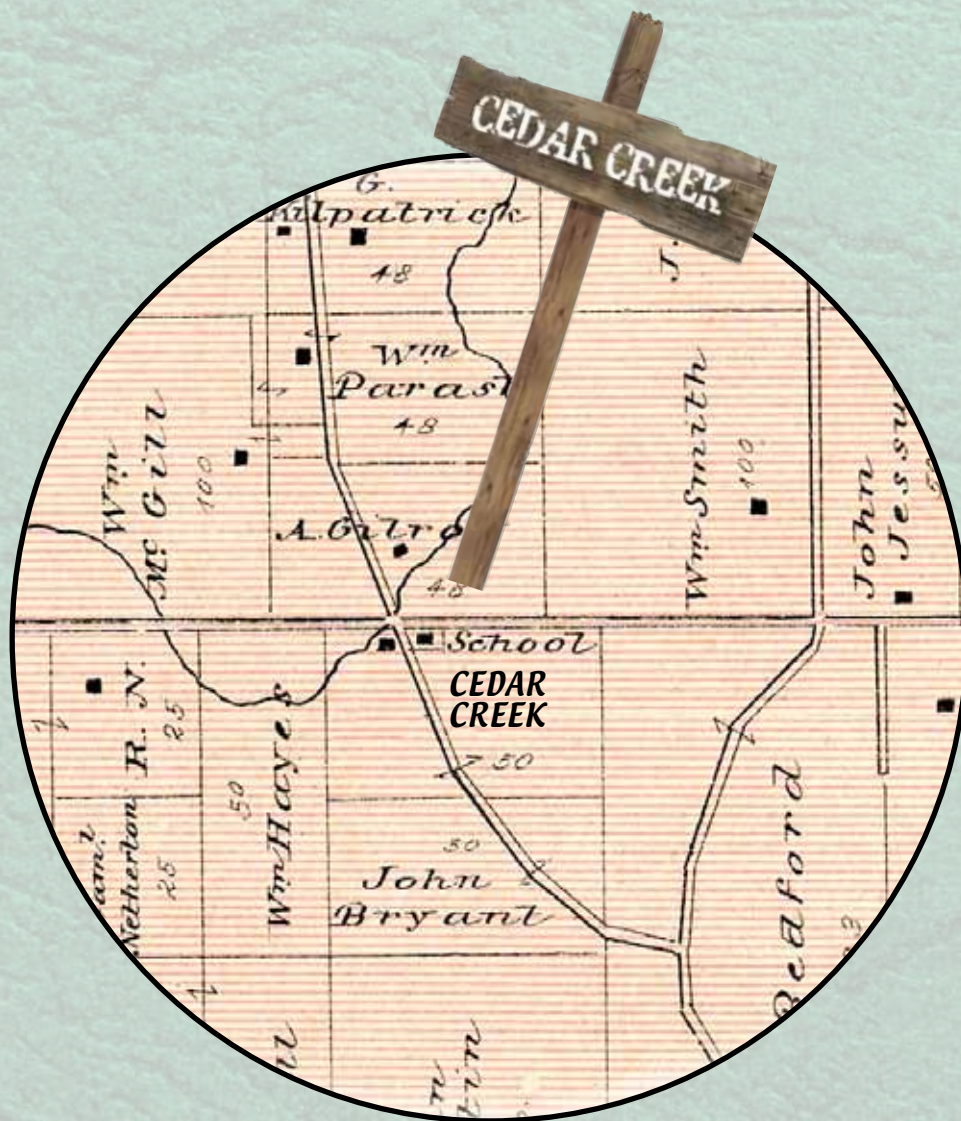
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Discovering CEDAR CREEK



Above: A circular map showing a section of Reach Township in 1877. The centre of the circle identifies the settlement of Cedar Creek, which is located about three miles south of Prince Albert on Old Simcoe Road.

Acknowledgment

In compiling the history of Scugog Township, the voices and memories of local residents have proven invaluable. Their contributions – through stories, photographs, and thoughtful guidance – breathe life into the historical record and give depth to its details. This has never been truer than in the creation of *Discovering Cedar Creek*, where the intimate recollections and carefully preserved documents of the community have helped reconstruct the fabric of a once-thriving rural settlement.

One of the richest sources of information came from the Honeydale Women's Institute's *Tweedsmuir History*. These volumes, lovingly maintained, offer detailed insights into the lives of early settlers, the establishment of the first schoolhouse, and the teachers who shaped the minds of Cedar Creek's children.

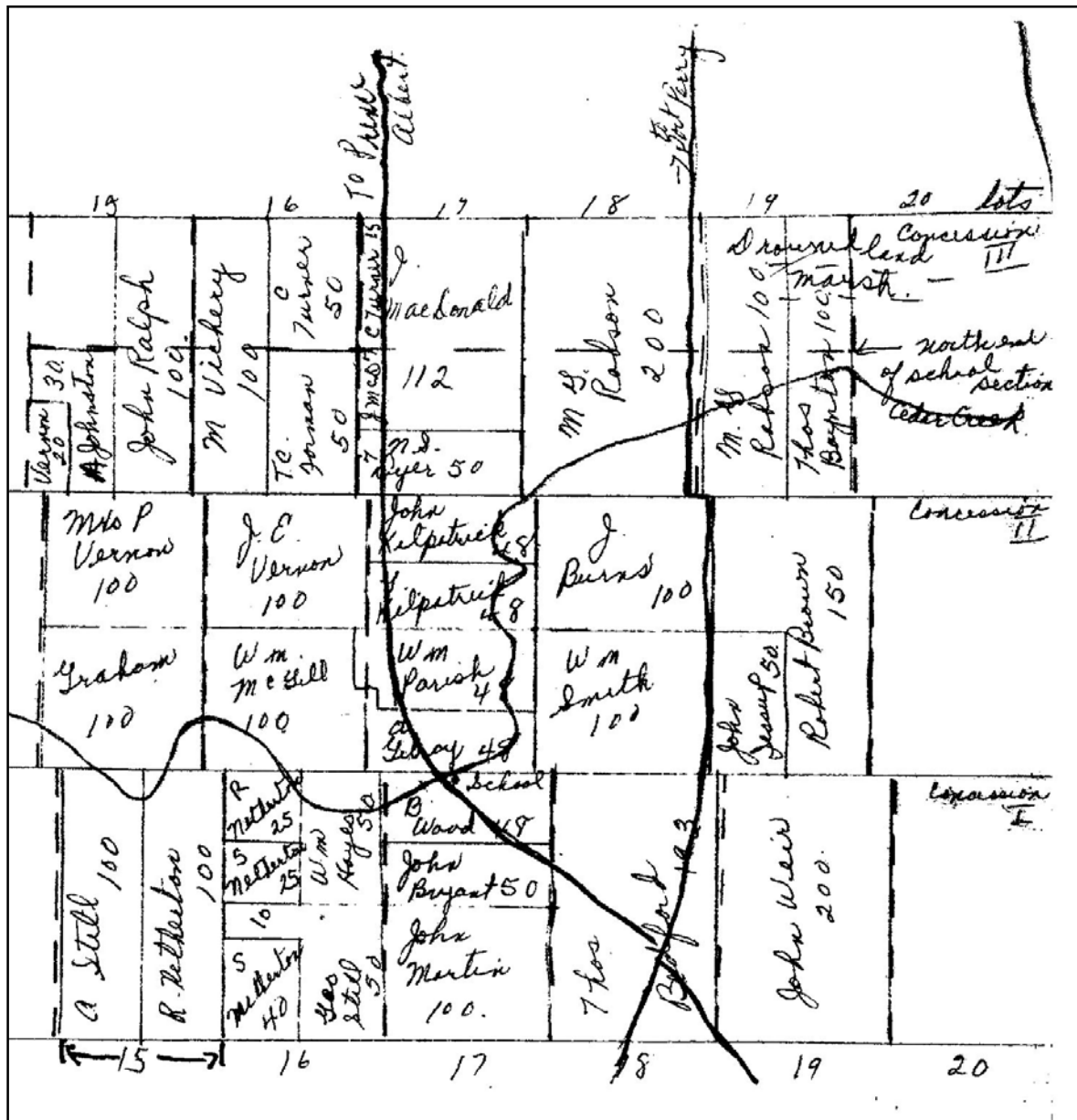
Among the most significant contributions was a history of the Cedar Creek School compiled by Murray Clark, a teacher at the school between 1935 and 1939. His account was later expanded upon by dedicated residents George Kilpatrick and Alexina MacCulloch, whose documentation brought remarkable clarity to the early years of education in the area. Through their efforts, we gain a window into the mid-19th-century school experience, complete with names of teachers, salary records, and notes on schoolhouse repairs.

It was not until 100 years after the school was built that this small settlement gained its first store, when Alfred Kemp built a home at the top of the hill, with an attached general store and snack bar.

Over the decades, this humble establishment became a focal point of community life. Newspaper articles from the *Port Perry Star* helped trace the evolution of this building and its various owners over a span of nearly seventy years. Thankfully, early photographs of the Ridgeview Snack Bar were also uncovered, offering a rare visual record of this important chapter in the settlement's story.

This work would not have been possible without the generous assistance of many individuals and organizations. My sincere thanks go to:

1. The women of the Honeydale Women's Institute for preserving and sharing their invaluable historical records;
2. Lucy Wilson and Marcia Burgess for contributing photographs that vividly capture moments in time; and to
3. The *Port Perry Star* for its extensive archival coverage of the community over the years.



Hand drawn map of Cedar Creek with land owners provided courtesy of Ralph Sommerville.

Introduction

Today, the mere mention of “Cedar Creek” almost always will be met with a blank stare and the question... “what, or where, is Cedar Creek?”

It’s rather difficult to describe Cedar Creek since the settlement to this day has never been identified as a community on a map – or in any of the Ontario Directories or Gazetteers.

To the best of my knowledge there has never been a “Cedar Creek” sign at its entrance and at no time was there a Post Office, or Church for this small cluster of homes along Old Simcoe Road.

The name Cedar Creek can plausibly be attributed to a small creek which flows through the valley, then north from the settlement through a thick growth of cedars, into the swampy land at the south end of Lake Scugog.

Today, more than 175 years after it was first identified as a community in newspaper articles, Cedar Creek still exists – at least in name, if not on a map. Currently the area is home to 20 or more property owners, but it’s identity remains a mystery to most who live in Scugog Township.

The cluster of homes which make up Cedar Creek can be found about three miles south of Prince Albert on Old Simcoe Road. The homes stretch along one side of the road, which was carved out of the bush in the early 1840s. This road was then known only as Simcoe Street.

Anyone travelling north along this route from Oshawa, about a half a century ago, would have passed through Cedar Creek on their way to Prince Albert and Port Perry. Today the road through Cedar Creek is called Old Simcoe Road, beginning where it veers west off of Simcoe Street, just north of the crest of what is commonly referred to as “The Ridges”.

Cedar Creek was first identified as a settlement in 1841 when a school house was opened for the children in that sector of Reach Township. The school was located on the south side of the creek, on the east side of the “former” Simcoe Street, where the road intersects with the 2nd concession of Reach Township.

Thirty years after the school was opened, in June 1871, a local newspaper, *The Ontario Observer*, published a story about the first anniversary of the Cedar Creek Union Sunday School on the abutting property. More than 100 children participated in the celebration, and the Reach Brass Band performed. Sunday School services would have been held in the school house, as was common practice at that time.

John and Emily Greenwood's son Bob grew up in Cedar Creek, and attended the one-room school as a youngster, until it was closed in June 1958. After its closure, he and the students from Cedar Creek continued their education three miles north of the hamlet, at the Prince Albert Public School.

Although there is very little information about the history of Cedar Creek, it is apparent it was an active small community during the late 1800s.

It came into more prominence in the early 1950s, when the *Port Perry Star*, began publishing a news column from Cedar Creek, in which a local correspondent, George Kilpatrick wrote about events and activities taking place within the community. The column was a weekly feature in the newspaper until George retired in 1982. Efforts to keep it going by Shirley Cummings lasted a short time before Cedar Creek news ceased to be published.

*By J. Peter Hvidsten
June, 2025*



Acknowledgment



GEORGE KILPATRICK

The history of the Cedar Creek School on the following pages was complied by Cedar Creek teacher Murray Clark in 1937, and later completed by George Kilpatrick & Mrs. Alexina MacCulloch.

~

Mr. Kilpatrick was also the Cedar Creek correspondent for the Port Perry Star for more than 30 years before retiring.

This section of Reach Township map from 1877 shows the proximity of Cedar Creek to Prince Albert and Port Perry. It would have been along the main route from the southern ports of Oshawa and Whitby in the mid-1800s.

History of CEDAR CREEK

S.S. No. 3 - Reach Township



The Cedar Creek school provided education for the children of the area for more than 110 years, aside from a decade when the school was closed for lack of students.

Attendance began to decline towards the end of the century and by 1911 there were only two students attending the school. Following several special meetings of the School Board it was decided to close the school at the end of the school term in June 1912.

Ten years later work got underway on restoring the foundation of the school, laying new hardwood flooring inside. The school was repainted, the porch was shingled and in September 1921 the school opened again.

Photo colourized by J. Peter Hvidsten

HISTORY of CEDAR CREEK SCHOOL

by Murray Clark

George Kilpatrick and Mrs. Alexina MacCulloch

The third school in Reach township was built in 1841 at Cedar Creek. In 1844 a school was built on the graveled road in the second concession at Cedar Creek. Some think this log building was moved across the corner to the first concession on the site of the later school.



This section of an 1860 map of the Township of Reach, shows the Cedar Creek area, and identifies the location of many of the early settlers in the area.

According to the assessment roll of 1852 the following people lived on the lots in the concessions that was to become the Cedar Creek School section.

Many of the early settler names can be seen on the 1860 map opposite this listing.

Concession One

Lot 15	A. Still, Alex Jamension
Lot 16	John Tripp, Benjamin Tripp, John Lark
Lot 17	Issac Bradly, Ebenezer Martin
Lot 18	Thomas Bedford
Lot 19	John Weir
Lot 20	John Weir, Win. Harrison

Concession Two

Lot 15	Ann Crooky, Andrew Graham, Silas Vernon
Lot 16	William H. Pork, John Mosure, John McGill, Wm. Mosure
Lot 17	John Hall, John Cosswell, Geo. Kilpatrick, Thos. Kilpatrick
Lot 18	J. Burns, Vim. Smith
Lot 19	Mark Magamn, John Jessup
Lot 20	James Hall, John Lockson

Concession Three

Lot 15	Silas Vernon, Robert Doddy, Moses Vernon, John Turner
Lot 16	Richard Northcott, Henry Marsh, John Turner
Lot 17	Henry Marsh, Lewis Roberts, Ed. Kirkby, Henry Walker, Allan McTaggart
Lot 18	Wm. Graham

Part one by Murray Clark, 1937

In 1855 an old log building situated in the low corner of the later known school yard was the only educational institution known in the three sections of Shirley, Prospect and Cedar Creek. This building was equipped with long pine benches one of which is still preserved and may be found at the back of the present school room. There were two windows facing the main road but no blackboards.



There is no known picture of the Cedar Creek log school building but this photo of students and teacher in front of a log building, circa 1885, in Muskoka, Ont., provides a look at a similar sized school of that era.

The entry in the Secretary's book for that year is composed of a list of the parents or guardians and a record of the number of pupils each had attending this school. A charge of 2s (shillings) 6d (pence) (63 cents) each per quarter was levied on them and a property tax of 12s 6d (twelve shillings, six pence) (three dollars) per L100 (one hundred pounds) assessment.

Authority was given Mr. G. Collins by the trustees Silas Vernon and Thomas Bedford - quote (after ten days from the date here of July 13, 1854) to collect from the several individuals in the annexed rate bill the amount opposite their respective names. In the same document Mr. Collins was given authority to seize and sell goods or chattels and to retain his own fees. The total taxes levied from 37 (thirty-seven) taxpayers amounted to L15, 18s, 6d (79.44) (allowing \$5.00 to the L).



There is no way of knowing what the original Cedar Creek log school house looked like, but this illustration of the Glen Erin log school helps provide an idea of how a typical school room may have looked

At the meeting on January 9, 1856 this system was changed. John L. Taylor, a carpenter, succeeded Mr. Thomas Bedford in the office of trustee and secretary. Each pupil was required to pay the sum of 3s, 9d, (90 cents) per quarter and the school was to be kept open the whole year. Every scholar was required to deliver 4 cord of good wood or pay 2s, board within one month from the above date. Mr. James W. Bingham taught the school that year for a salary of L5 per month according to a receipt dated May 3, 1856. In the same year Miss Smith taught one month while Miss Armour taught the last five months at a salary of L4, 5s (\$21.20) per month.

On November 18 of the same year the first municipal grant was paid. It amounted to L4, 6s, 4d (\$21.50 as compared with the amount collected from the pupils L9, 3s, 9d (\$45.90) and by the rate bill L12, 8s, 9d (\$62.10). For the next two years 1857-1858 Mr. John C. Campbell taught the school.



Slate chalk boards similar to these were used by Ont. school students during the 1800s.

On December 7, 1858 a special meeting was held to consider breaking up the school section but the motion was lost.

With the appointment of Mr. John McTaggart in 1859 as secretary the records were kept in Canadian currency and Mr. Donald McCrimmon received \$290.00 annually for tuition during the years of 1859-1861.

The school was made free to residents in 1862 except for cord of wood or its value, levied upon each child entering during the winter months. Non-resident children were to pay \$200 per month which amounted to \$7.50 during the year.

On January 1, 1862, R.V. Langdon who held a first-class certificate was employed for \$286.00 per annum. In 1864 Miss Mary Covey, who later became the wife of Wm. McGill, was engaged to teach at \$180.00 per year. During the same year three grants were paid to the section of which the largest was the Clergy Reserve Grant of \$35.00. Books

valued at \$2.50 were bought and given as prizes. This practice was continued for many years under the influence of Dr. Ryerson.

Although minor repairs were being added to the old log school as late as March and April of 1864 it seemed to have served its day. So a simple entry in the Secretary's book changes the scene. Quote - December 16 Paid Wm. White for school house \$200. During the following year a note of \$212.00 was paid. Messers John Weir, Silas Vernon and John McTaggart were the trustees in office that year. Mr. McBrien brother of the inspector became the first teacher at a salary of \$260.00.

During the following year 1865 the school was painted at a cost of \$20.57. Mr. Graham dug out the stumps in the yard and sawed up some trees. Mr. Bedford bought the log structure which was sold by public auction for \$12.50. He erected it on the Oshawa Road across from Mr. Spencer's woods one-half mile from its former location. It was changed into a house and occupied by Mr. Bedford's hired help. In 1866, \$400.00 worth of insurance was placed upon the school and its contents.

In 1868 the porch was added at a cost of \$32.50 and two outside toilets were built at a cost of \$12.00.

According to a deed dated January 10, 1870, 5908 square links of land were added to the school yard. This strip about ten feet wide across the east side and five feet wide across the east side and five feet wide on the south was bought from Mr. Gilbert Wood at a cost of \$50.00.

On April 22, 1870 Cedar Creek School (S.S. No. 3) was publicly examined.

The attendance was large with both pupils, and visitors.

The trustees were all present as well as a number of parents of the pupils. The classes underwent a thorough examination and sustained themselves well, giving evidence of much care on the part of the teacher - Miss Convey.

The School House is clean, tidy and well furnished. It has an attendance of some 60 or so of bright intelligent pupils as can be found in any school around.

In 1872 Mr. John Dresson took a contract to dig a well and stone it at \$1.25 per foot. A special meeting was held later to buy materials to curb the well. A pump was bought but the well never proved to be of any use.

On July 14, 1875 Mr. Pringle was asked for his resignation by August 15 and an agreement was made with Mr. Geo. Stone stating that his salary was to be \$425.00 if he made good but on failing he would receive only \$400.00. He received only \$400.00 for the people at a special meeting voted unanimously as dissatisfied with the teaching. The secretary Mr. Wm. McGill deposited his salary with the clerk of the court and notified him of the same.

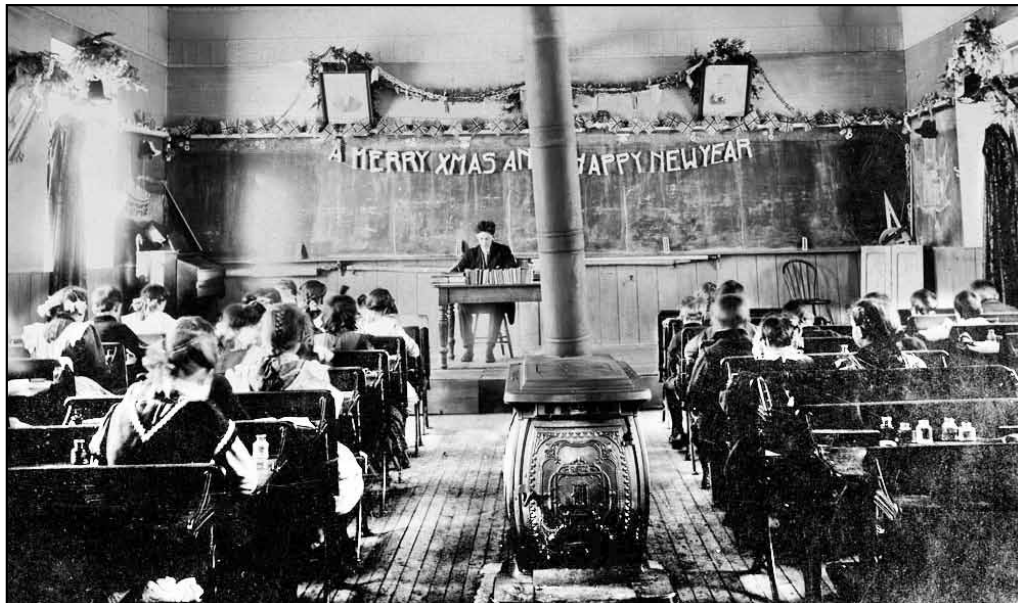
Elections were held in this building as early as 1872 and \$1.00 each was paid for the taking of the census in 1876 and 1877. Then a map was made. During the year 1878 Miss Louise Marsh taught 80 pupils. A school picnic was held that year. A flag was bought for the school costing \$1.76.

In 1879, 14 cords of beech and maple wood were bought for \$1.00 per cord.

In 1880 the first teachers' superannuation was \$4.00. Mr. Ralph refused to act as trustee in 1882 and at a special meeting Mr. Richard Netherton replaced him.

The first iron desks were placed in the school in 1894 at a cost of \$75.80. Slate blackboards were installed in 1900 at a cost of \$15.95.

In 1911 Mr. Joseph Ralph shingled the school. In the same year the attendance had dropped to two pupils. After several special meetings it was agreed upon to close the school in June 1912. The balance of money left with the school at that time was \$319.50.



An picture provides example of a one room school, circa 1900, in Gleneig, Ont. The school in Cedar Creek first installed iron desks in 1894, and slate blackboards were installed in 1900.

\$60.00 was paid annually to both Prospect and Shirley schools from 1912 to 1921 for pupils attending each.

For the re-opening in September 1921, the foundation of the school was repaired, 1,300 feet of new hardwood flooring at \$80.00 per thousand (M) was laid, and 350 feet of matched lumber at \$60.00 per M was used to build the partition. The school was repainted and the porch was shingled.

On November 27, 1922 a stove and tin for the floor was bought from Archer Hardware for \$28.50. A teacher's table was bought from Letcher Furniture for \$19.03. Also from E.M. Mayer Company school supplies were bought such as a clock, maps and teaching supplies to the amount of \$102.05. On December of 1922 they received a township grant of \$300.00 and a Trustees' Levy of \$502.41.

In April 1924 Mrs. Foster was paid for painting the school inside with alabastine.

In August 1924 lumber and shingles were bought for \$42.81 and Arthur White built the wood shed for \$21.00. On January 17, 1925 \$18.50 was paid for a new box stove and the old stove returned.

In March or April each year money was paid into the School Fair Fund. The Fair was held in September at Manchester.

The annual meeting was held the last Wednesday in December. At the meeting on December 30, 1925 it was moved by Ed Conlin and seconded by Thomas Carnochan that the Secretary-Treasurer be paid \$5.00 per year. On August 27, 1926 C.L. Vickery Lumber was paid \$124.00 for cedar siding for the school. Josiah Smith put the siding on the school and was paid \$46.00. Thomas Bear was paid \$40.50 for painting the school and W.L. Parish paid \$65.56 for materials for the above work.

Mrs. Harris was caretaker of the school for several years. In 1922 she received \$15.00 a year and in 1927 it was raised to \$50.00 a year. In May 1927 wire fence was bought from Parish Hardware for \$27.71 and fence posts from Jim Hortop for \$8.10. Art White was paid \$10.75 for erecting the wire fence. On March 31, 1928 an organ was bought for \$5.00. In July 1928 Art White shingled half the school for \$14.00. Vickery Lumber was paid \$36.20 for the shingles and Parish Hardware \$2.78 for shingle nails.

On August 24 the Port Perry Milling Company was paid \$42.30 for lumber. The lumber was used to build the platform at the front of the school and for repairs.

In August 1930 new desks were bought from E.M. Mayer School Supplies for \$89.00. In November 1930 ceiling material amounting to \$3.55 was bought from Pedlar People, also \$7.93 worth of material from Oshawa Lumber Company. J.W. Hambley was paid \$95.20 for labour for installing the ceiling and for repairs.

In 1945 the School Board wished to install the hydro in the school.

Mr. A. Archibald, the inspector, refused to give the board permission to do so as the attendance was small and he would like to close the school. George Kilpatrick, the secretary-treasurer, wrote to the Hon. George Drew, Premier of Ontario and Minister of Education asking permission to have hydro put in. Mr. Archibald soon gave them permission. The ratepayers were willing to pay for the hydro if the government grant wasn't paid.



Cedar Creek School - 1928

Back Row: Jim Carnochan, Nora Gilroy, James Blain, Paul Mosienko, Laretta Conlin, Fred Carnochan, Tony Fectichshan.

Centre Row: Bernice Gilroy, Marion Conlin, Maurice Edgerton, Joe Fectichshan.

Front Row: Helen Conlin, Nellie Mosienko, Jean Blain, Emily Blain, Willa Edgerton, Aelen Mosienko,
Helen Robertson, Ted Blain, Marion Fectichshan.



Cedar Creek School - June 1940

From left: Bill Smith, John Graham, Roy Blain, Merlin Slute (teacher), Ruth Somerville, Jean Keetch,
Hazel Corner, Yvonne Somerville, June Cochrane, Greta Corner, Wilma Cochrane,
Joyce Edgerton, Allen Keetch, Murray Bernard.

In February 1931 Miss Smith, the teacher was paid 35.00 for garden seeds.

In 1931 \$37.62 was spent for hot lunches. Money was spent for hot lunches for several years.

In June 1931 Miss Lucille Leask was paid \$36.00 for music lessons and a music grant of \$330.00 was received.

In October 1932 indoor toilets were bought from Kaustine Manufacturing Company. Lumber was bought from Sam Griffen to enclose the toilets to \$8.65. A.J. Pilkie was paid \$38.20 for building the closets. In January 1933 – \$130.00 was paid on a note for the toilets and \$40.00 in November 1933. \$20.00 had been paid down at time of purchase.

In September 1936 the trustees agreed to pay Frank Harris \$15.00 for repairing his well for the use of water hereafter. In November 1938 two planks were bought from Lake Scugog Lumber Company for \$1.00 for manual training. In 1939 or 1940 meetings were held regarding the closing of the school but the enrollment increased and it was kept open.

In August 1941 Ed Balfour painted the school for \$28.00.

In September 1942 shingles were bought from Reesor Lumber Company for \$54.45 and nails and screws from Carnegie Hardware for \$3.65. Bert Dennison shingled the school for \$27.00.

In August 1945 paint was bought from Carnegie Hardware for \$45.20. Ed Balfour painted the inside for \$31.20.

In October 1945 \$63.65 was paid C. Kight for building the cement platform, repairing the stone foundation and fixing the porch.

Inspectors that visited the school:-

Mr. James McBrien	1872-1909
Mr. Robert Walbs	1909-1913
Mr. R.A. Hutchison	1913-1920
Mr. T.R. Ferguson	1920-1930
Mr. R.A. Hutchison	1930-1943
Mr. A. Archibald	1943-1947
Mr. H. Bobingbroke	1947-1950
Mr. R.O. Staples	1950



James McBrien

In November a hydro pole was bought for \$4.00. Mr. Everett Fice of Oshawa, a former student, bought the wire and did the wiring for \$84.15.

In November 1945 light fixtures and bulbs were bought from Carnegie Hardware for \$41.25.

In June and July of 1946, \$150.00 was paid Hiscocks for toilet alterations.

During the latter 1940s money raised at Christmas concerts went to buy a piano and curtains for the stage.

In 1951 the section joined the Area School Board. The last trustees were Richard Spencer, Russell Corner and George Kilpatrick who was Secretary-Treasurer as well as trustee.

In 1952 or 1953 the oil stove was put in the school. In June 1958 the school closed. In September 1958 the children were taken by bus to Prince Albert Consolidated School.

In June 1958 John Greenwood organized a public meeting at the Cedar Creek school to form a Community Association to make the old school building into a community hall after it was closed by the school board.



This aerial picture from Google Maps shows houses lining the east side of “Old Simcoe Rd” in the small settlement of Cedar Creek. This small community which has been known as Cedar Creek since the 1840s, has never been identified as a hamlet, or village in official Ontario records and aside from residential homes, had no commercial buildings. The only community facility was a small wood-frame school building which closed in 1958. The garage and store opened during the 1950s.

(A) Cedar Creek Schoolhouse

(B) Cedar Creek Store & Garage



This date of this picture of the Cedar Creek schoolhouse is not known, although it is believed to have been sometime during the 1920-1940s. By this time the bell tower was missing from the roof.

The school was a Community Centre. For many years the school was the community gathering centre. Before 1900 Sunday School was held in the school.

The Christmas concert was the annual highlight. The teacher and pupils, with a little outside help, put on an entertaining evening of songs, drills, dialogues and music.

Sometimes admission was charged and the money went to buy needed furnishings for the school - small and large - including the piano and curtains for the stage.

Ernie Willerton bought the school building, then sold it to Gordon Harris of Port Perry. He sold it to Carol Larocque who sold it to Norris Doherty. He and his family used it as a house until 1973 when they built a new home on the property.

Some of the lumber and timbers from the old school went into the dining room ceiling of Emiel's Restaurant in Port Perry. Some of the old metal ceiling was used in the renovation of the old town hall in 1975.

Many presentation parties were held for a newly-wed couple also for a few departing or retiring families.

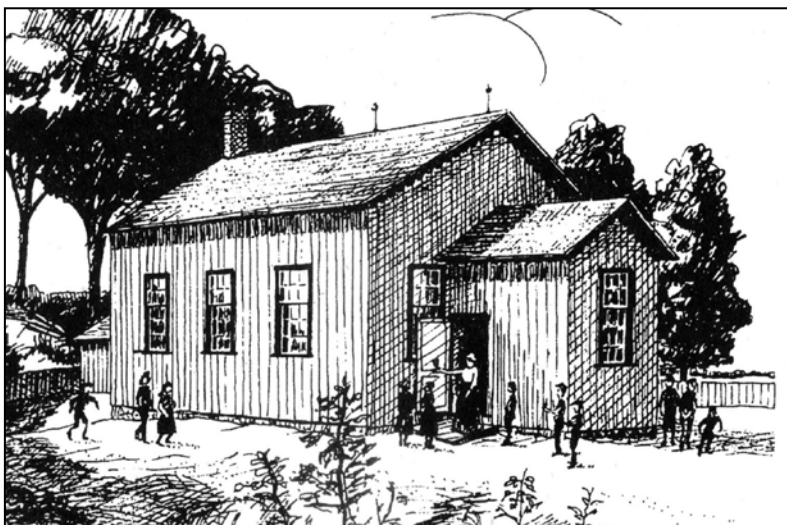
From 1872 until its closed the school was used as a polling division for Federal, Provincial and Municipal elections.

After the hydro was put in a welcome-home party was held for John Greenwood on his return from World War Two.

A Home and School Club was formed in the mid 1950s. A few euchre parties were held to raise money. The club was not too successful.

When Mrs. F. Sandison taught music the children participated in a music festival. It was a most entertaining evening showing their musical skills along with the children from the other schools.

Rev. C. R. Nelson gave Religious Education during the 1950s. Near the end of the school year he conducted a Rally. Children from various schools participated in junior and senior events. Awards were given in several fields - best kept notebook, finding passages in the Bible - etc. for the pupils and the schools.



An example of what small rural schools looked like during the 1800s. The Cedar Creek school was very similar to this style of building and began welcoming students from Reach Township in 1841. There were about 30 students attending this rural school at the time it closed in 1958.

Teachers of Cedar Creek School

Teacher	Date of Employment	Salary
Mr. G. Collins	Jan. 1855	
Mr. James W. Bingham	Jan. 1856	L5 \$25.00 month
Miss Smith	July 1856	"
Miss Armour	Aug. 1856	L4 5s \$21.20 month
Mr. John C. Campbell	Jan. 1857	"
Mr. Donald McCrimmon	Jan. 1859	\$290.00 per year
Mr. R.V. Langdon	Jan. 1862	\$286.00 "
Miss Mary Covey	Jan. 1864	\$180.00 "
Mr. A. McBrien	Jan. 1865	\$260.00 "
Mr. James P. Taylor	Jan. 1867	\$300.00 "
Mr. E.A. Tonkin	Jan. 1868	\$300.00 "
Mr. Ward	Jan. 1873	\$260.00
Mr. Pringle	Jan. 1874	\$420.00 "
Miss A. Madden	Aug. 1875	\$280.00 "
Mr. Geo. Stone	Jan. 1876	\$400.00 "
Mr. Andrew H. Harn	Nov. 1876	\$400.00 "
Miss A. Madden	Jan. 1877	\$300.00 "
Miss Louise Marsh	Jan. 1878	\$250.00 "
Mr. R. Sangster	Jan. 1880	\$300.00 "
Mr. X. Moore	Jan. 1881	\$250.00 "
Miss Byam	Jan. 1883	\$300.00 "
Mr. A. Allin	Jan. 1885	\$300.00 "
Miss Madden	Jan. 1886	\$300.00 "
Miss S. Johnston	Jan. 1887	\$275.00 "
Miss Dunn	Jan. 1888	\$300.00 "
Miss Weir	Jan. 1890	\$260.00 "
Miss Mitchell	Jan. 1891	\$240.00 "
Miss Weir	Jan. 1893	\$250.00 "
Miss Redman	Jan. 1894	\$240.00 "
Miss Tripp	Jan. 1895	\$250.00 "
Miss Ethel Berket	Jan. 1898	\$250.00 "
Miss Eva Pound	Jan. 1900	\$190.00 "
Miss Mary Fawlie	Jan. 1902	\$205.00 "
Miss Madden	Jan. 1905	\$240.00 "
Miss Cornish	Jan. 1906	\$225.00 "
Miss Martin	Jan. 1908	\$365.00 "

School closed from December 23, 1911 ot September 1, 1921

Teachers of Cedar Creek School

CONTINUED

Teacher	Date of Employment	Salary
Mrs. L. O'Dell	Sept 1921	
Miss H.R. Carter	Nov. 1921	
Miss Southern	Jan. 1922	
Miss Forsythe	Sept. 1922	
Mr. Percy Miller	Sept. 1923	
Miss Munn	Sept. 1923	
Miss M.E. McGinnis	Oct. 1923	
Miss Hodgson	Jan. 1924	
Mr. Marshal Malcolm	Sept. 1925	
Miss Eunice Malcolm	Sept. 1927	
Miss McKercher	Sept. 1928	
Miss Smith	Sept. 1930	
Mrs. Lloyd Smith	Sept. 1933	
Mr. Murray Clark	Sept. 1935	
Mr. Merlin Slute	Sept. 1939	
Mrs. Earl Martyn	Oct. 1940	
Mr. Merlin Slute	Nov. 1940	
Mrs. Maud Johns	Sept. 1941	
Miss Una Sleep	Sept. 1943	
Miss Dorothy Playter	Sept. 1950	
Mrs. A. Beckman	Sept. 1952	



MISS FRANCES
PATIENCE BYAM
Teacher 1883

CEDAR CREEK SCHOOL CLOSED

Following the closure of the Cedar Creek School in 1958, children were transferred to Prince Albert Public School at the start of the new school year in September the same year.



Cedar Creek School - June 1954

Back row, from left: Lloyd Wilson, Bashie Benschop, ' Murray Blain, Carol Larocque, Erika Benschop, Jim Wilson, Ronnie Larocque, Billy Fitze, Grace Wilson, Yaurice Fielding, Shirley Fitze, Ronnie Willerton, Leonard Greenwood, David Mosienko, Larry Willerton, Wayne Willerton.

Front row, from left: Rae MacCulloch, Pat Holtby, Margaret Craighead, Larry Larocque, Jim Boynton, Rick Larocque, Irene Blain, Joan Wilson, Susan Clothier, Bob Greenwood, Ian MacCulloch, Pat Boynton, Paul Larocque.



Cedar Creek's Ridgeview Snack Bar & Gas Pumps



Colourized by J. Peter Hvidsten

The Cedar Creek store and garage was located at the corner of Simcoe Street and Old Simcoe Road. It was built by Alfred Kemp about 1950, and served the people of this southern section of Reach Township for many years. Later the store and garage were operated by Frank Ouimet and his family. Pictured are Carol Ouimet with Dave Wilson about 1959, on the south side of the store.

Photo courtesy Lucy Wilson.

TUCKED INTO THE QUIET CROSSROADS of Simcoe Street and Old Simcoe Road is the small settlement of Cedar Creek. The name “Cedar Creek” is likely derived from a small creek that runs through the valley and continues north through a dense growth of cedar trees before flowing into the wetlands at the southern end of Lake Scugog.

Although its name does not appear on maps, Cedar Creek is still known locally, with landmarks such as the former “Ridgeview Snack Bar” and service station at the head of the road, although now abandoned.

Cedar Creek first came into prominence in 1841 with the establishment of a schoolhouse for children living in that part of Reach Township. This early institution marked the beginning of a recognized community in the area.

Less than a decade after the small log schoolhouse was opened, Alfred Kemp built a small store and home at the street junction. He expanded the front of his new home with a modest addition that soon became a small general store. By 1954, it became known locally as “*Ridge View Grill*”, a name that would shift slightly over the years but become a familiar fixture in the area. That same year, Mr. Kemp installed gas tanks, turning the property into a service station as well—one of the few available in this rural part of the township.

The business, though small, quickly became a hub for the surrounding farming and commuting community. But rural life wasn’t always tranquil. In May 1953, the store and Kemp home were broken into. Although the cash box and till were damaged, nothing was stolen. Kemp and his wife continued to operate the store and station until July 1959, when they sold the business and relocated to Oshawa.

In the years that followed, Ridgeview changed hands several times. In 1959 Frank and Carol Ouimet purchased the property and continued to operate the snack bar and garage for an undetermined time before selling to Mrs. Harriette Saunders.

During the summer of 1970, Mrs. Saunders sold the business to Robert and Gladys Burgess. Though the Ridgeview name and its essential roadside character remained unchanged, the snack bar and the Shell gas pumps were under the management of the Burgess family, and the garage was operated by John Obstfeld.

Like so many of the owners before them, the Burgess family remained for only a short time before selling to Les and Barbara Robert.

Colourized by J. Peter Hvidsten



Ridgeview Snack Bar, circa 1970, when operated by Bob and Gladys Burgess.

Photo courtesy Marcia Burgess

The Roberts took over operations in December 1972 and under their management, Ridgeview operated seven days a week and served both meals and mechanical needs, with a licensed mechanic on site.

The property itself featured a two-bay garage and a single apartment above, accessible by an outdoor staircase and complete with a small deck that overlooked the front lot.



Ridgeview Service Station, circa 1970 when owned operated by John Obstfeld.

Photo courtesy Marcia Burgess

Marcia and Maurice Burgess were quite young when their parents purchased the Ridgeview Snack Bar, but when asked for a description of the inside of the building, Marcia provided the following details:

She recalled that access to the Ridgeview snack bar was through a narrow screened door into a typical 50s style diner where customers were greeted with small tables and wood chairs on each side of the door.

Upon entering, customers found themselves standing in front of a well-worn counter with stools from which they could order small lunches or purchase snacks, drinks and home baked goods while their car was being gassed-up.

The snack bar's kitchen was tucked into

a corner to the right of the counter, and washrooms were located down a narrow hallway to the left.

Outside, a door on the north side led to a basement apartment which, Marcia recalls, was their family's living space below the snack bar.

Although not large, she recalled there was a small living room and three bedrooms. The cooking of meals for the family took place upstairs in the snack bar kitchen.

In addition to the family's living quarters, a floor above the snack bar was a small two bedroom apartment with a deck

overlooking the property and a spectacular view to the north all the way to Port Perry and Lake Scugog. Access to this apartment was by way of a wooden staircase on the south side of the building.



In 1976, the property was listed for sale at \$163,000 – a notable price at the time, reflecting both its commercial use and attached living quarters. But it wasn't until May 1978 that the Roberts successfully sold the Ridgeview business and property to Chris and Mitchell Kowal.

Under the Kowals ownership, in partnership with the Pioneer Gas Group, the gas bar underwent significant renovations, most notably a \$100,000 overhaul of the gas bar in 1983. Old tanks were removed, new lighting and pumps installed, and the store itself received a refresh that included a large banner across the front promoting *"Ridgeview Bar-B-Cue Chicken."* Locals, however, continued to refer to their only local retail store and garage as simply *"The Ridges."*



Despite its new look, Ridgeview retained its nostalgic charm. In 1985, a local newspaper reporter captured that essence in a feature, describing it as a *"cozy relic of the past,"* reminiscent of roadside diners along old Route 66. The mismatched coffee cups, worn counter, and glass bottles of Heinz ketchup gave the place a lived-in feel that endeared it to many.

In May 1988, the Ridgeview snack bar closed for extensive renovations, reopening as the *"Donut Gallery"* under the management of Bob Chapman. By this time the gas bar was under the ownership of Cango Petroleums. For a number of years during the 1990s, the snack bar became known as *"The Ridgeview Diner"*, and provided breakfasts as well as take-out coffee and pastries. Unfortunately due to its isolated location at the top of the Ridges, the Cango gas bar was hit by thieves multiple times.



Tragedy struck in April 2000, when a fire, later confirmed to be arson, destroyed the snack bar portion of the building. Though the gas pumps and garage were spared, the heart of Ridgeview's operation was gone.

The following year, the Cango group made plans for a new 1,200 square foot building, complete with a lighted canopy over expanded pumps, modern office space, and public facilities. Yet despite these ambitious plans, the energy around the site had faded.

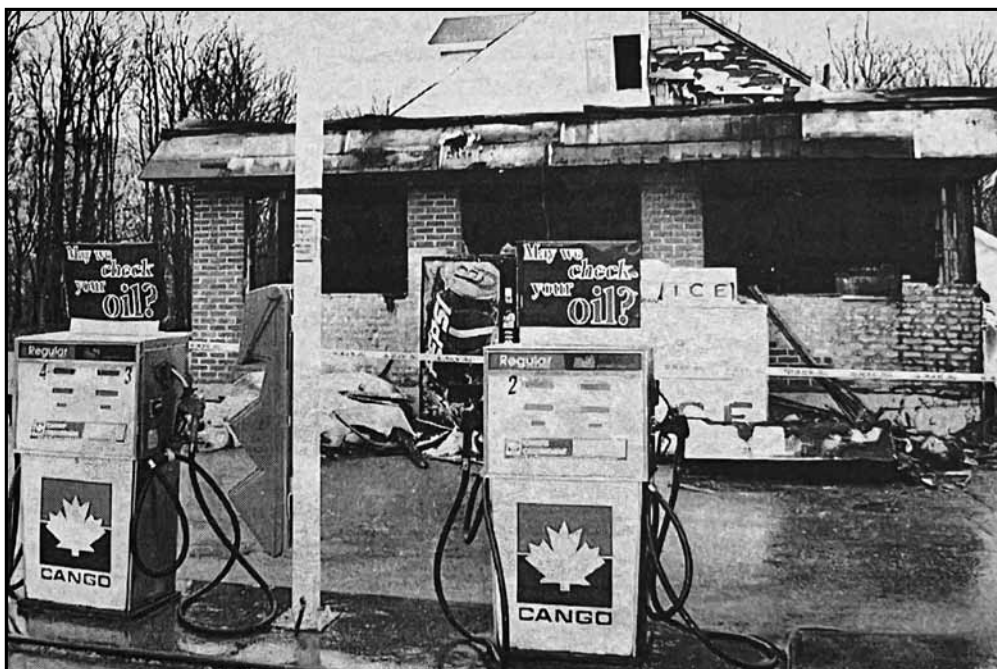


This picture taken in April 1983 shows the Ridgeview Gas Bar official opening after a \$100,000 renovation of the gas pumps by the Pioneer gas company. Attending the celebration are, from left, Ted Allen, Pioneer, Mitch Kowal, Ridgeview owner, Mayor Jerry Taylor and Ed Allen, president of Pioneer Petroleum.

In the years that followed, the pumps were removed and the property slowly fell into disuse. The large lot on which Cedar Creek's only general store and garage were located now sits empty. The gas pumps are gone, and the large canopy and the boarded up store are all that remain.

From gas station to grill, from coffee stop to donut shop, Ridgeview was was an important meeting place for area residents and a convenient stop for the travelling public, for a snack, cup of coffee and tank of fuel for more than half a century.

Today, the Ridgeview Snack Bar and Service Station exists only in memory.



Tragedy struck at the Rideview Cango gas station in April 2000, when a fire, later confirmed to be arson, destroyed the snack bar portion of the building. Though the gas pumps and garage were spared, the popular snack bar was destroyed beyond repair.



The former Ridgeview Gas Bar and Snack Bar building now vacated and in ruin. Exactly when it closed has yet to be determined, but it was abandoned for many years before this photograph was taken in May 2024.

NOTE: The information in this story comes primarily from the Port Perry Star newspaper articles and former owners and is accurate to the extent of the information available. It is possible there are details and names not known at the time of this publication, and we apologize for anything missed, or unavailable at the time.

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