

Codex historicus of the St-Bernard Mission
1958-1978
Grouard, Alberta

PAA, PR1997.0109/2071b

[This notebook contains the notes for the years 1958 to 1978. Pages 1-78 only]
[Note: Because the school closed in 1961, the notes on the school end on page 28].

June 12, 1958 - page 4

Mr. John Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Welfare, comes for a short visit and spends the night on his way to McLennan.

September 2, 1958 - page 5

The reopening of the school year. 229 children register on the first day.

September 5, 1958 - page 5

Mr. M. D. McFarland, the new Assistant Superintendent of Welfare, came to visit the Mission to make contact with the staff and children. He left in the afternoon of the 7th, very satisfied and happy with his visit.

September 22, 1958 - page 6

Father Guimont leaves for Edmonton on business and will bring back at the same time some children from the Welfare to fill the vacant places.

September 27, 1958 - page 6

Bishop H. Routhier, Father Kinderwater & Mr. Oscar Fadum, Superintendent of the School Division met in Grouard to discuss the location of a new classroom block that the Education Department planned to build on the mission grounds.

February 26, 1959 - page 8

Meeting in Edmonton with the Minister of Education, Mr. Aalborg, regarding the plan to make Grouard a school district. Bishop Routhier and Father Guimont were assured that the district would be erected and that the Provincial Government would pay the cost of building a classroom block & maintaining the school district.

May 22, 1959 - page 10

Fr. Beuglet went to Shaw's Point with Fr. Guimont to examine the suitability of two vacation buildings, one of which would serve as a dormitory for the boys and the other as a kitchen and dining hall for the boys and girls. The old house would be used as the girls' dormitory.

June 15, 1959 - page 11

Marie-Raymond Gosselin, having left the Lebret Scholasticate for health reasons, arrived in Grouard to take charge of the older boys.

July 1, 1959 - page 12

The girls leave for Shaw's Point.

July 6, 1959 - page 12

It was the boys' turn at Shaw's Point, bringing the number of children to about 130. There were six Sisters, and usually a Father to stay at the camp to provide mass each morning.

July 21, 1959 - page 12

Mr. Oscar Fadum, Superintendent of the High Prairie Division, visited Grouard to confer with Father Lachance, the new Principal. The Grouard school will have the 10th Grade for 1959-60, taught by Father Lachance himself at the request of Mr. Fadum.

August 27, 1959 - page 15

The girls from Shaw's Point and some of the boys returned. The others returned the next day.

September 1, 1959 - page 15

Classes start. The teaching staff is not yet complete, and yet the children of the village come in great numbers to mix with the boarders, so that we can count 220 from the beginning. Father Lambert took charge of Grade 3 while awaiting the arrival of Tony O'Neil who arrived in the evening from Toronto after a trip that was partly made on foot.

September 2, 1959 - page 15

The faculty is complete. Father Lachance, the Principal of the school, teaches Grade 10, with only six students. There is no grade 9 this year. Sister Clarissa has both grades 7 (19 students) and 8 (11 students). Bert Ticheler is taking grade 6 with 39 students in a new class that has been organized in a part of the girls' room of the old convent, the other part being used as a room for day students. The 5th grade goes to Sister Hildegard again this year with 38 students. The 4th grade is divided in two because of the number of students: Rose Marie Giroux, who taught Gr. 2 last year, has Gr. 4A with 21 students. Tony O'Neill, 25, 158 Park Ave, Brantford, Ont. teaches Gr. 3, 25 students. Mary Nikiforuk, born in Mundare, 26-11-06, employed for 13 years at St. Paul's Vancouver, B. C., also a school teacher, teaches Gr. 2, 36 students. Sr. Joseph Gédéon is still teaching Grade 1 this year, 28 students.

September 4, 1959 - page 16

1st Friday of the month. Solemn Mass in honor of the Sacred Heart at 4 p.m., celebrated by Father Jean Lambert, parish priest. The middle of the church is occupied by the day students, while the girls and boys of the mission stand at the sides. This is still too narrow, since the rest of the children and several people from the village climb to the balcony. A good start to the 1959-60 school year.

September 10, 1959 - page 17

In the morning, Mr. Oscar Fadum, Inspector of the High Prairie School Division, accompanied by Mr. Stewart, in charge of correspondence courses, is pleased to note the presence of 262 students in the various classes, proposes two qualified teachers and gives the hope that the new school block will be built next spring.

September 11, 1959 - page 18

Frances Lues, who returned from the hospital yesterday at noon, resumed her class, Gr. 4B, with 25 students, including 11 boarders and 14 day students.

September 13, 1959 - page 18

Beautiful autumn day on this second Sunday of September. Mass for the children at 7 o'clock in the church with a sermon by the celebrant, Father Lachance. At 10:30 a.m., the parish mass with a nice attendance. The children spent the rest of the day at Shaw's Point.

September 22, 1959 - page 19

Mr. Robert Gray, Welfare Department officer for High Prairie, was invited to supper, after placing three children of the Andrews family in Grouard school.

October 14, 1959 - page 20

It is the opening of the month of the Holy Rosary. Fr. Lachance, superior, in agreement with Fr. Lambert, parish priest, has set the Rosary exercises at 3 p.m. so that all the students, including the day students, except for the students of Gr 1 and G2, attend the blessing, preceded by the recitation of the rosary, the litanies of the Blessed Virgin and the prayer to St. Joseph.

October 2, 1959 - page 20

At noon, departure of Mr. McFerland and the caretaker who took with them eight children, 5 boys and 3 girls from 5 to 10 years old.

October 5, 1959 - page 22

From 1 a.m. P.M. to 5 a.m. P.M., the clinic went to Grouard; parents were invited to bring their children to the parish hall for X-rays. The children from the mission also go there.

October 29 & 30, 1959 - page 24

Father L. P. Lachance, principal, went to the teachers' convention in Peace River, accompanied by two teachers, Sister Marie-Clarissa and Miss Barbara Nikiforuk. They left on the morning of the 29th and returned on the evening of the 30th.

December 31, 1959 - page 24

Since September, the school staff has remained the same, except that Grade 3A has passed into the hands of Father Jean Lambert, pastor, who replaced Tony O'Neill, now at the Sturgeon Lake mission (since Sept. 14). All is well at the mission. However, we have about ten fewer children than at the beginning of the year.

September 1, 1960 - page 26

Opening of the school year. Eleven classes: grades 1 to 9 inclusive. Three Sisters teach: Sister Marie Clarissa, Sister Mary Bernadetta, Sister Joseph Napoleon.

December 6, 1960 - page 26

St. Bernard's Mission ceased to offer its premises as classrooms to the schoolgirls of Grouard. In fact, a new school has just been built at a cost of \$350,000 by the Alberta Department of

Education of Alberta. A school district had been organized in June 1959 under the name Grouard School District #3722.

Summer 1961 - page 28

Note: Summer 1961. Father Gérard Tétreault, O.M.I., became principal of Grouard. No codex kept for two years; during this time, St. Bernard Mission had to close its doors. Sale of the Convent. Departure of the SS of Providence, demolition of the convent built in 1894, etc. Cf.: The Voice [of Grouard].

♦ Translated by Eloi DeGrâce with www.DeepL.com/Translator (free version)

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