



## News & Community

# Demolition crew uncovers Kanata history

BLAIR EDWARDS  
KOURIER-STANDARD

A construction crew renovating the old schoolhouse on March Road has uncovered a little bit of Kanata's history.

When workers peeled drywall from one of the walls inside the building, they discovered the original pine blackboards with a lesson nearly a century old written in white chalk.

"What does the blood lose and what does it gain as it passes through the

lungs?" were two of the questions written on the board.

Roman numerals are printed on another piece of blackboard.

"We thought it's pretty cool," said one of the workers, Jeff Bray. "There's some history – an old schoolhouse dated in the 1900s."

A plastic surgeon plans to give a face lift to the school, which was built in 1892, and open a two-storey office and clinic in March.

Dr. James Lacey says he wants to renovate the schoolhouse so it maintains its character and heritage. He is currently practising medicine out of the Almonte General Hospital.

Lacey estimates the renovations will cost several hundred thousand dollars.

The new offices will add 105 square metres in floor space to the building's 170 square metres.

Tymen Van Stryland, foreman of the demolition crew from Vilida Construction, which was

hired by the general contractor, RND Construction, says he will remove the boards and laminate them.

"We're trying to keep as much of the original look as possible," said Van Stryland. "The boards are very brittle – they're so old. We'll try."

### ORIGINAL BOARDS

The school's first blackboard was made of four pine boards, about half-a-metre tall, painted black, and nailed to the wall of the school.

"When the schools were built the boards were put in," said Lloyd Richardson, who lives next to the schoolhouse.

At the time, March Township was divided into six sections, with a school in each district.

The March Road schoolhouse was one of two built out of stone from a local quarry.

The other Catholic and Protestant schools were constructed using brick or lumber.

Between 30 to 40 students attended Grade 1 to 8 at the school.

"The writing (on the original blackboard) would be there at least (from) 1910 or earlier," Richardson said.

Richardson's family bought the schoolhouse in the early 1960s.

"When we bought the school the boards were covered with slate."

Richardson sold the property a few years later to an arts studio.

Dr. Lacey purchased the schoolhouse last year.

## Food cupboard thanks residents

KANATA FOOD  
CUPBOARD

The Kanata Food Cupboard would like to extend a great big thank you to everyone in the community who has helped us make life a bit easier for many by volunteering or generously donating food, gifts and funds.

Over the course of a year we depend on our volunteers to help us pick up, sort and deliver food. Volunteers also come in the form of businesses and community groups such as Scouts, elementary and secondary schools, community associations and service clubs – all of whom have worked hard to raise amazing amounts of food and money. Without these volunteers, the food cupboard would not be able to operate.

It is thanks to the efforts of each supporter that for the past 20 years we've been able to help Kanata families when they need us most.

This year we provided Christmas dinners and gifts for nearly 300 families, from an individual to families of 10 or more. Many of these families were "adopted" by local companies, community groups, churches and individuals. The food and gifts they supplied will bring a smile to many children and their par-

ents. We are truly grateful for this support.

There are many in need in our community and in view of higher energy costs more and more families are finding it difficult to make ends meet. The food we provide helps to maintain good nutrition, which is so important to maintaining good health.

With that in mind, the food cupboard asks you to consider giving a little extra this season – placing food in the bins at the supermarkets, or sending a cash donation are just two ways of helping. Donations of \$10 or more received by year-end will be acknowledged with a tax receipt in time for next year's tax return. Donations can be mailed to Kanata Food Cupboard, 20 Young Rd., Kanata ON, K2L 1W1.

We would also like to congratulate the winner of the 2005 Christmas Tree Raffle, H. Kroll. Thanks to all who supported this fundraising effort that raised \$2,386 for the Kanata Food Cupboard.

On behalf of the Kanata Food Cupboard, thank you Kanata and Merry Christmas!

For more information on the food cupboard and our services please call 836-7847 or visit our web site at [www.kanatafoodcupboard.ca](http://www.kanatafoodcupboard.ca).



Tymen Van Stryland, Jeff Bray and Dave Johnston were three of the Vilida Construction workers who uncovered a century-old pine wood chalkboard this week under the drywall of an old schoolhouse on March Road.

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