

1973

The History of Saint Patrick's Schools

Researched by:
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To
the past, present and future
Patricians

To the Library of Saint Patrick's High School
Bernard J. Dunn

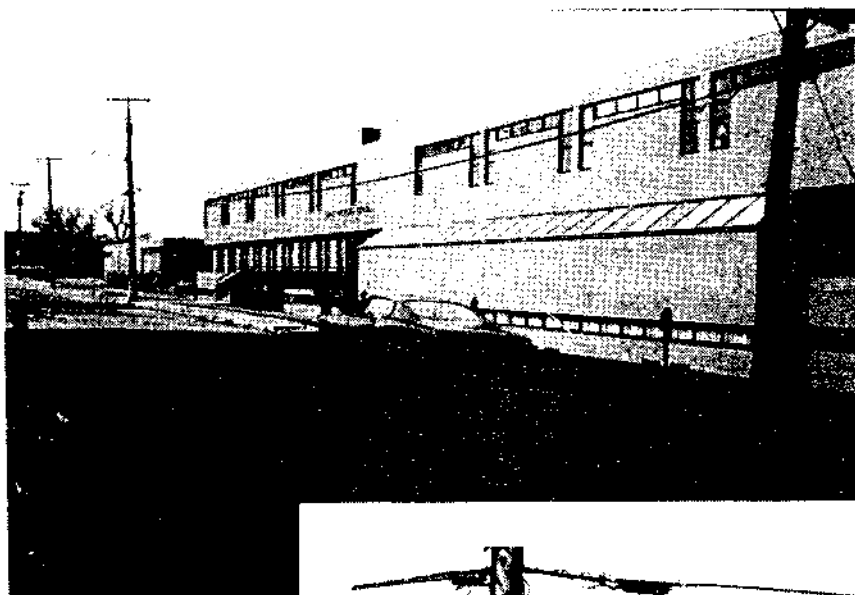
April 22, 1974.

THE HISTORY OF SAINT PATRICK'S SCHOOLS

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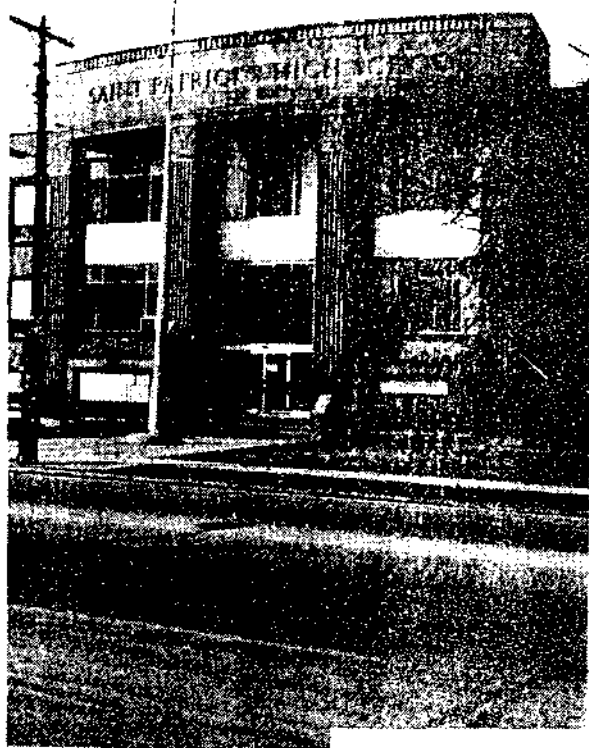
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SAINT PATRICK'S COMPLEX ON MAITLAND STREET



Photography by RICHARD HARLAND

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Photography by RICHARD HARLAND

I. INTRODUCTION:

February 16th, 1973.

This major research report focuses on the 'History of Saint Patrick's Schools', from the days of the school classes held in the basement of Saint Patrick's Church to the two magnificent complexes which bear the name of Saint Patrick's. These great educational institutions hold strong roots in the history of the Halifax Public Schools System.

The researcher was unable to find any previous work on the subject. As part of the research, he carried on interviews with past Patricians, looked up information in the School Board reports, and gained knowledge from the annals, files and past editions of newspapers. One hopes that this report will give the students a sense of pride in their school.

R. Bernard Hum

II. SAINT PATRICK'S SCHOOLS OF YESTERYEAR (1844-1950)

A. THE BEGINNING OF SAINT PATRICK'S SCHOOL

The first sign of formal public education for Roman Catholics in Saint Patrick's Parish was in 1844. At that time the parents had to pay for their children's education. A petition to the House of Assembly in 1846 requested a grant to pay for Roman Catholic children's education because the majority of the parents were not able to pay. It was not until 1865 that the House of Assembly passed the Nova Scotia Education Act of 1865 which stated there should be free education in Nova Scotia.

After the Education Act of 1865, classes were held in the basement of Saint Patrick's Church, and were accommodated in three inadequate rooms with five departments. In 1867 another petition was sent to the House of Assembly for a grant to support a new spacious school for Roman Catholic children who were deprived of their education. At that time the boys and girls were combined in one school and under one principalship on Brunswick Street but they were separated in different classrooms.

Early in 1869, the basement of old Saint Patrick's Church, a wooden structure which stood on the same site as the existing church of the same name, underwent major repairs and alterations. The room was partitioned by glass to make two compartments. The other portion

of a church basement was a room for the girls, which had a big disadvantage of having three departments in one overcrowded room. The rooms were very small. In a twenty foot square room, there were seventy-four pupils. The other rooms were in poor condition caused by smoke from the furnace and dampness from the wet weather which made it dangerous to the health of the teachers and pupils. In 1870, the Inspector called the School Board's attention to the conditions of the school.

"The Commissioners are under obligation to provide suitable accommodation for all the pupils in the City, and the sooner it is done the better for Education." ¹ Those were the conditions that existed in 1869.

On April 8th, 1872, the Saint Patrick's School on Lockman Street ² was opened and rented by the School Board for \$1050.00. The brick school building, near Saint Patrick's Church, contained ten classrooms with 786 pupils. Soon the two attic rooms were being repaired and used for extra classes. The school was filled and the School Board stated that there would be no extensive building program for years to come.

1. Halifax Board of School Commissioners Report of 1869.

2. Later Barrington Street

In 1876, the Christian Brothers, who had been teaching in Saint Patrick's School ever since the introduction of the public school system, were withdrawn. Their withdrawal, which was due to causes altogether unconnected with the school law or the relations with the commissioners, was in more ways than one injurious to the school.

In 1882, night school was opened at Saint Patrick's during the winter months and continued for many years. With the overcrowding at Saint Patrick's School, the School Board rented a room for the girls in Saint Patrick's Convent. The School Board paid \$100.00 rent for the room. In 1884, an amendment of the Education Act was made to include 'high school' work. Saint Patrick's School was chosen because it was centrally located near Saint Joseph's and Saint Mary's parishes. The formal opening of the 'high school' was on June 9, 1884. Supervisor McKay praised Saint Patrick's School on the progress it had made in the high school work. In two departments, three grades of academic work were taught under Sr. Mary Bernard and Sr. M. de Chantal. At this time classes were from nine a.m. to one p.m. This continued until 1942 when Queen Elizabeth High School was opened and double sessions began. With the overcrowding of Saint Patrick's School on Lockman Street in 1886, the Worrall Building, at the corner of Brunswick Street and Proctor's Lane was used for the

'high school' classes. Since there were not enough classrooms in the Worrall Building, one class was taught in the cloakroom.

B. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THREE SAINT PATRICK'S
ON BRUNSWICK STREET

With the increasing overcrowding of Saint Patrick's School, in 1887 a site was obtained on the west side of Brunswick Street, which was known as 'Salter Property'. On this site preparations were made to commence construction of a new school, the Saint Patrick's Girls' School, which "...will form another very creditable addition to our school buildings." 3

On August 19, 1888, the school was completed at a cost of \$19,500.00 and was handed over by Archbishop Connolly to the School Board which was renting it at 6% per annum of the cost for the term of twenty years, along with the condition, that, the teachers and pupils were to be of Roman Catholic faith. Other properties which were rented by the School Board for Roman Catholics' education were given up.

"The building was of brick, two stories high, well lighted and ventilated, with modern improvements, which render it as a school house second to none in the Province." 4

3. Halifax Board of School Commissioners Report
of 1887.

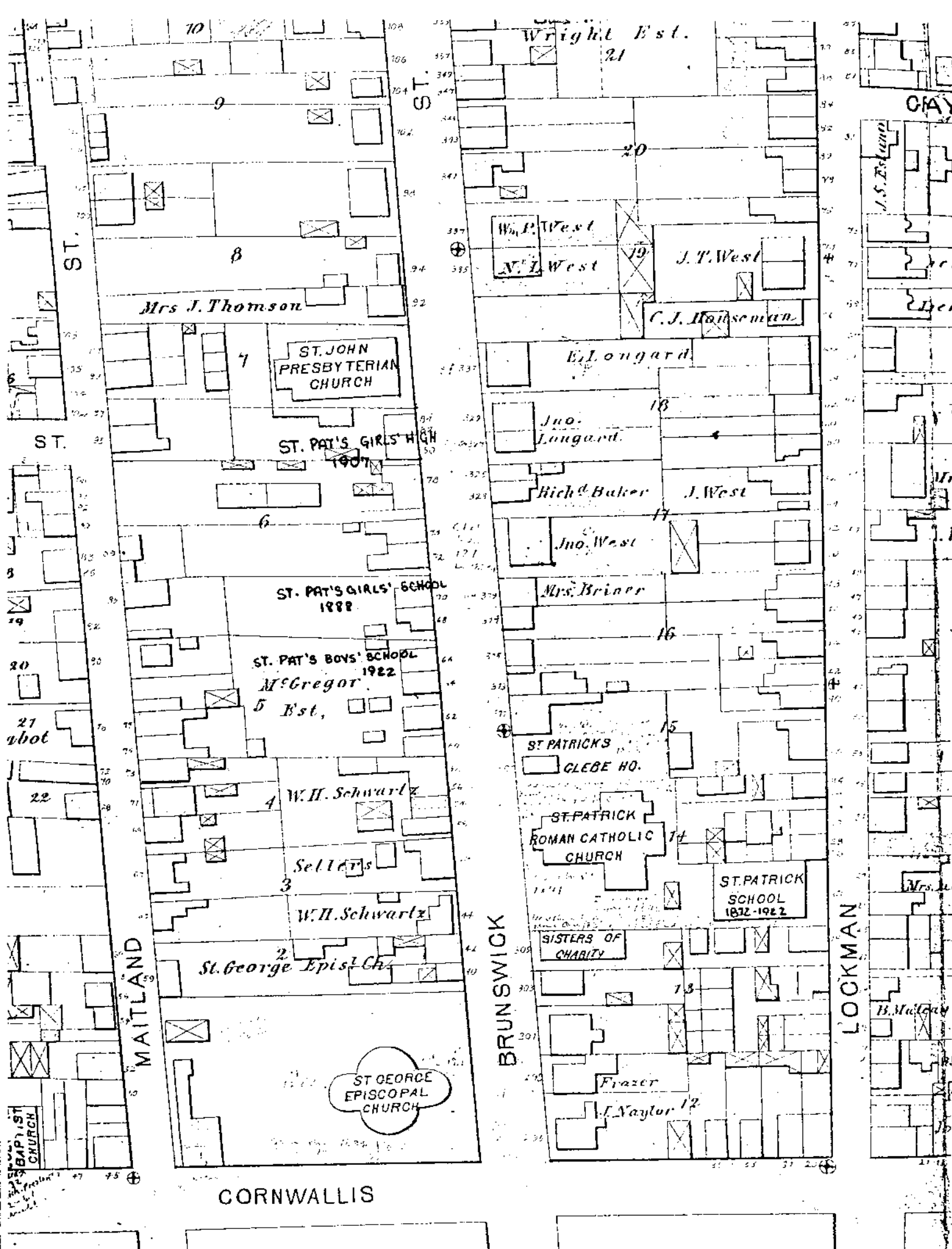
4. Halifax Board of School Commissioners Report
of 1888.

The school had eleven classrooms and only one room remained unoccupied. The school was the largest in the Maritimes at the time with an enrolment of 1033. As the girls moved to their new school, the boys took over the Saint Patrick's School on Lockman Street except for one class of girls which was taught in Saint Patrick's School on Lockman Street.

The lease of Saint Patrick's Boys' School was expired in 1891. It was re-leased on the agreement that the owner would keep the building in repair.

In 1898 a fire broke out in Saint Patrick's Boys' School on Lockman Street. "...a disastrous fire occurred in Saint Patrick's Boys' School, destroying the four upper rooms and injuring the others." ⁵ Through the courtesy of Rev. Father McCarthy, the basement of Saint Patrick's Church was used for school work until the building was renovated. The following year, it was renovated and hot water heating was installed. There was an increase of teachers on staff that year. Also during that year a 'School of Cookery' was opened in the basement of Saint Patrick's Boys' School so that the girls could have an opportunity to learn the art of cooking. Rooms were fitted up for the purpose and work started early in January of 1899. The School Board made improvements on Saint Patrick's Boys' outbuildings which were unsanitary and occupying space needed for a play-

5. Power, L.G. Halifax Public Schools Attended by Catholic Children.



Mrs J. Thomson

ST. JOHN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ST. PAT'S GIRLS' HIGH
1907

ST. PAT'S GIRLS' SCHOOL
1888

ST. PAT'S BOYS' SCHOOL
McGregor
1922

5 Est,

4 W.H. Schwartz

Sellers

W.H. Schwartz

St. George Episc'l Ch

ST GEORGE
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

Wright Est.
21

W.P. West
N.I. West

J.T. West

C.J. Haiseman

E. Longard

Jno.
Longard

Richd Baker

J. West

Jno. West

Mrs. Briner

ST PATRICKS
GLEBE HO.

ST. PATRICK
ROMAN CATHOLIC
CHURCH

ST. PATRICK
SCHOOL
1832-1922

SISTERS OF
CHARITY

Frazer

J. Naylor 12

CORNWALLIS

ground. These outbuildings were removed and new ones were built.

In 1904, the basement of the Saint Patrick's Boys' School was enlarged and renovated. Along with this an improved system of plumbing was installed at the cost of \$1,500. During that year high school work was given in two departments. At Saint Patrick's Girls' High School, there were one hundred pupils crowded into two departments and a small room apart from the main building was used for high school work of Grades D,C, and B.⁶ There was not any room for physics and chemistry laboratories and a Commercial Class. With the overcrowding of Saint Patrick's Girls' School, one class for high school work was held in the Saint Patrick's Convent and one class in the Manual Training Building. In 1905, some classes were double the number of students that the room should have permitted. A Commercial Class was taught in the cap room but it was discontinued later that year. The conditions at Saint Patrick's Girls' School could no longer be tolerated. With the overcrowding it was dangerous to the students and teachers. Besides this, there were four departments outside the main building. The only solution was to build a new structure which the School Board decided upon in 1906. After accepting the plans of Walter Busch, which included a brick building with granite trimmings,

6. Grades D,C, & B stands for Grades 9, 10, & 11.

containing an assembly hall, lavatory, library, teacher's room, office and six classrooms, "...tenders for construction were asked for and the contract was awarded to Messrs. Marshall and Son, for the sum of \$32,733.00" 7 Longard Brothers were accepted for installation of the heating apparatus. The cost of the land on the north side of Saint Patrick's Girls' School was \$2,300 and the total expenditure was \$41,500.

Saint Patrick's Girls' High School was officially opened on October 29th, 1907 at 2:30 p.m. and was handed over to the School Board. There were 116 high school students doing academic work in five rooms and the other two rooms were used by Saint Patrick's Girls' School. When the Saint Patrick's Girls' High School opened, the principal of the high school was also the principal of the girls' school. The vice-principal of the high school was in charge of Saint Patrick's Girls' School. This continued until 1941. Still the Saint Patrick's Boys' School continued to supply for the educational needs for high school students. At this time in history, the pupils had to write Provincial Examinations in order to get accepted in high school.

On September 17th, 1907, the Commercial Class was opened with Sr. Assisium teaching on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 o'clock to 12 o'clock.

Typing and shorthand were the main subjects taught with the classes being held in Saint Patrick's Girls' School.

In 1911, two pieces of land were obtained by the School Board at the cost of \$1,800 to provide additional playgrounds for Saint Patrick's Girls' High School. Along with the overcrowding at Saint Patrick's Boys' School on Lockman Street, two classes were held in the Manual Training Building on Cunard Street. In 1916, the Fire Marshall condemned the Saint Patrick's Boys' School as a fire trap. As a result the School Board decided it was not worth while to make alterations and they decided to construct a new school to take the place of Saint Patrick's Boys' on Lockman Street. Later that year or the early part of the next year, the School Board obtained ground property on Brunswick Street on the south side of Saint Patrick's Girls' School for the building of the new school. But construction of a new school was delayed because of the outbreak of the First World War. If it was not for the War the school would have been long since occupied.

On December 6th, 1917, Halifax experienced the greatest man-made explosion before Hiroshima. Many schools were damaged and some were destroyed. Saint Patrick's Girls' High School was damaged the worst of the three Saint Patrick's Schools. Next in line of damage was Saint Patrick's Girls' School and then Saint Patrick's Boys' School on Lockman Street.

After the Halifax Explosion, classes of Saint Patrick's Girls' were held in Saint Mary's Girls', Alexandra and Acadia Schools for a half a session each day. Repairs on the schools were started early the following year. The cost of repairs for Saint Patrick's Girls' High was \$22,919.38, for Saint Patrick's Girls' School was \$11,516.43 and for Saint Patrick's Boys' School was \$10,205.73. The total cost of repairs for the three schools was \$44,641.54.

In 1918, the Alumnae Association of Saint Patrick's Girls' High School was formed. It played a prominent part in school activities. The main purpose of the Alumnae Association was to grant scholarships. The first Alumnae Directress was Sr. Francis de Chantel. The first president of the Alumnae Association was Miss Theresa Regan. This Alumnae Association continued for many years.

In 1920, Sr. Rose Catherine opened the first grade twelve at Saint Patrick's Girls' High School.

Also that year, construction began for the new Saint Patrick's Boys' School. The fireproof structure, which had fifteen classrooms, an assembly hall, industrial arts room, and a science laboratory, was opened in 1921. The boys moved from the Lockman Street location to the new Saint Patrick's Boys' School on Brunswick Street. The original Saint Patrick's School was later turned into Schwartz Spice Factory.

In 1924, the first Canadian Catholic Students' Mission Crusade (C.C.S.M.C.) Unit was organized. The first officers were Gladys Hawes, Maude Inglis, Margaret Beazley, Helen Mitchell, Gertrude Ellis, Lillian Dockrill and Elsie Harris. In 1935, a national rally of the C.C.S.M.C. was held in Halifax at Saint Patrick's Girls' High School. Saint Patrick's Church on Brunswick Street was also used for many functions.

In 1925, Saint Patrick's Girls' High School adopted the school uniform with the colors being blue and white. In 1927, an application was made to the City Council to enlarge the accommodations of Saint Patrick's Girls' School where six classes were on half time but permission was refused. The late Rev. Msgr. Gerald Murphy of Saint Patrick's Church donated the land adjoining Saint Patrick's Girls' High School and the construction of an addition was started. This was built by the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation which was, the owner of the school. The addition was completed in 1929 and was leased to the School Board. The six additional classrooms were to take care of the crowded conditions at Saint Patrick's Girls' School.

In 1929, with the increasing enrolment of students in high school grades at Saint Patrick's Boys' School, the lower grades had to be transferred to the Manual Training Building on Cunard Street. The lower grades included Primary to Grade 4. This building was known as

Saint Patrick's Annex. Classes remained in the Manual Training Building until the high school classes were moved to the old Saint Mary's College Building on Windsor Street.

In 1930, the School Board was negotiating for the purchase of land for the playgrounds of Saint Patrick's School, and in 1944 final plans of obtaining the land were completed and the playing area was constructed.

During the year 1933, the Sheet Metal Class was taken out of the Saint Patrick's Boys' School and was brought to Cunard Manual Training Building. By this time, the other schools in the city taught Grade 9 in the common schools but Saint Patrick's Schools considered Grade 9 as a part of the high school.

The golden anniversary of Saint Patrick's Girls' High School was held in June 1934. Sr. Rose Catherine, principal of the high school, made it a memorable event. The program of activities which lasted a week consisted of: High Mass of thanksgiving, graduation exercises, a banquet, a picnic, a Holy Hour, the presentation of a drama play entitled, "Via Vitae" and an alumnae reunion.

Also that year, Saint Patrick's Girls' High School Home and School Association commenced. It was the first association being organized in Halifax. Miss Alice Haverstock and Sr. Rose Catherine organized the association. Their main objective was to better the communication between the parents and teachers. This

Home and School Association continued throughout the years and it included the boys when the new Saint Patrick's High School was opened in 1954.

Major repairs were made on Saint Patrick's Girls' School in 1936. The School Board constructed a new fire escape and made sanitary improvements in the school, which were also made at Saint Patrick's Boys' and Saint Patrick's Girls' High Schools. Besides this, Saint Patrick's Boys' School had considerable repairs in the exterior at some considerable cost.

In 1936, free books were given to the students from Primary to Grade Eight; before this the pupils had to buy their own books. This was done through the work of the Liberal member of the House of Assembly, the Hon. Gordon B. Isnor. The high school students had to buy their own books at this time, but later they were able to rent their books.

Early in 1940's, a gun was stolen from the gun rack in the rifle range. The guns and rifles were taken out of Saint Patrick's Boys' School and placed in the Armouries on Cunard Street. Miss Eileen Burns suggested that the empty room could be used as a library. The facilities were turned over to Miss Burns who became the librarian of the school. No funding was provided for the library by the School Board. Through Miss Burns' determination, a canteen was formed and the profits were used to buy books. Contributions were also made from

the area residents and businessmen which aided the purchases of library materials.

In 1946, Saint Patrick's Boys' School constructed three new classrooms in the basement and the school was rewired, relighted and redecorated. At Saint Patrick's Girls' School repairs were made on the steel fire escape. In 1947, fluorescent light fixtures were installed at Saint Patrick's Girls' School. Other repairs were made to the other two schools as well.

The Commercial Class at Saint Patrick's Girls' High which was located at Saint Patrick's Girls' School was discontinued because of the opening of the Halifax County Vocational High School in 1950.

A period of time has passed. This is the Saint Patrick's of Yesteryear...

III. SAINT PATRICK'S SCHOOLS TODAY (1950-to the present)

A. SAINT PATRICK'S HIGH ON QUINPOOL ROAD

In 1944 the 'Post War Planning Committee' of the School Board planned to build a Roman Catholic High School in Halifax, which was second on the priority list. Also that year, the School Board was taking action to obtain the property of the old Saint Mary's College at the corner of Quinpool Road and Windsor Street. So in 1949, the school Board sent a request to City Council for a large sum of money to be loaned for the purpose of building the high school, so that it would relieve the congestion at Saint Patrick's Schools. The architects were chosen in 1949. They were Downie, Baker and Ahern who planned for a forty-two classrooms, chemistry, physics and biology laboratories, home economics, library, gymnasium and auditorium. In 1950, the School Board acquired a large area of land at the corner of Quinpool Road and Windsor Street which was the former Saint Mary's football field, from the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation. On November 13, 1951, the sod was turned by Mr. Alban Murphy, the Chairman of the School Board, to start the construction of the new high school. In 1952, the tenders for the school were chosen. The contractor was the Foundation Maritime Limited and cost was \$1,710,000.00 for construction of the building.

In 1951, the School Board was fortunate to be able to rent the facilities vacated by Saint Mary's College after they moved to their new quarters on Robie Street.

They transferred the high school students from Saint Patrick's Boys' School to the old Saint Mary's College Building on Windsor Street and this relieved the overcrowding at Saint Patrick's Boys' School. The building on Windsor Street had to have some repairs to meet the requirements of the Fire Prevention Regulations. The teachers and students had to put up with the noise of the construction of the new high school. In 1951, Saint Patrick's Boys' High and Saint Patrick's Girls' had their first combined graduation at Queen Elizabeth High School Auditorium. This Queen Elizabeth High School was named after King George VI's wife. The combined graduation continued for the next two years until the opening of the new Saint Patrick's High School.

Before the completion of the high school, there was a rumour that people want to change the name of the school to King George VI from Saint Patrick's Senior High because of a "lack of identity with three Saint Patrick's Schools buildings on Brunswick Street and one out on Quinpool Road..."⁸ The reason why those opposed calling it Saint Patrick's was that this will be more confusing. There was a meeting of the School Board and the question of changing the name of the school was raised but through the work of Mr. Manual Zive, the name of Saint Patrick's High School was kept.

Saint Patrick's Senior High was ready to open in

8. Interview with John R. Carroll

September of 1954. The cornerstone was laid by the Hon. Harold Connolly, on August 19, 1954. The two million dollar Saint Patrick's High, which was the largest school in Canada, was officially opened on December 17th, 1954 by Mrs. Marjorie Woodill, Chairman of the Halifax School Board. Mr. H.R. Wyman, Deputy-Mayor, unveiled the plaque and Dr. R.E. Marshall, Supervisor of the Schools, presented the key to the school to Mr. Frederick W. Coolen, principal of the new Saint Patrick's High School.

With the opening of the new Saint Patrick's High School on Quinpool Road in September, the boys from Saint Patrick's Boys' High on Windsor Street and the girls' from Saint Patrick's Girls' High on Brunswick Street moved into the new high school. Mr. F.W. Coolen who was the principal of Saint Patrick's Boys' School, was appointed principal of the new Saint Patrick's High and Sr. Rose Catherine who was principal of Saint Patrick's Girls' High School was appointed associate principal. So there were now two schools in one building with a co-educational system. The boys were taught by male and female teachers in the west end of the school and the girls were taught by the Sisters of Charity in the east end of the school. The main lobby was the partition line for the boys and girls. The only time the students would be mixed was in a few of the sciences, in extra-curricular activities and in graduation. This format was carried on until the introduction of computer time

scheduling in 1970-71 school year. As a result classes were scheduled through noon hour with the main benefit a much greater selection of subjects for students.

Since Saint Patrick's High School was so large and the high school students took up only one-fifth of the area, the School Board decided to place all of the Grade Nine feeder schools in the north west wing of the school in 1954. These Grade Nines were mixed with boys and girls but when they entered high school in Grade Ten, classes were separated according to boys and girls. Finally the Grade Nines gradually went back to their own schools because of the increasing number of high school students. It was not until 1964 when the last Grade Nine classes went back to their feeder schools.

When Saint Patrick's Senior High opened in 1954, the Library was not completed. It was being used as a carpenters' workshop. The books were stored in the old Saint Mary's College Building and consisted of 8,000 volumes, 4,000 volumes from the boys' high school and 4,000 volumes from the girls' high school. Miss Eillen Burns was named librarian by Mr. F.W. Coolen and Sr. Rose Catherine. Also Sr. Mary Inez was named the associate librarian. Plans of the library were revised because there were an architectural errors in the placement of the staircase. The School Board furnished the library with new library furniture. Since the School Board supplied the furniture, they did not supply money to the library to buy books. Many

donations were given to the school library by prominent people in the area.

On February ²3, 1955, the Library was officially opened. The speaker at the opening was Premier Henry Hicks. Dr. Ralph Marshall, acted as chairman of the ceremonies. Mr. H.R. Wyman, Chairman of the School Board, Miss Alberta Letts, provincial librarian and Archbishop J. Gerald Berry were all present at the opening ceremonies. Miss Eileen Burns gave the history of the two libraries and Sr. Mary Inez explained the services offered by the Library.

As time progressed, enrollment continued to increase in the high school. In 1966, there was talk of expansion of the senior high school facilities. In June of that year, the School Board approved of the 'High School Needs Committee' for additions under Federal-Provincial Grants for vocational areas. So in 1967, an addition was projected for the north end of the school. The Maritime Conservatory of Music (formerly...) building was demolished to make way for the new addition. The twenty-seven classroom addition cost \$651,000.00 and the Capital Expenditure Grant Agreement paid 75% of the cost the building and of the equipment for the vocational department. In the addition, there were to be eight commercial rooms, eight storage rooms for commercial equipment, ten academic classrooms, one demonstration and visual aid room and two lavatories. Construction of the new school wing was finished in 1969, but classes

moved in on the top floor in the latter part of 1968. The remaining floors were opened early in 1969. With this opening of the new wing of the school, the commercial classes at the Halifax Regional Vocational High School were discontinued. The official opening of the new wing of Saint Patrick's High was on October 8, 1969 by Allen J. MacEachern, Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

The 1970-71 school year was the first time the boys and the girls were mixed in the classrooms. This was the result of the introduction of the computer time scheduling in which all students' subjects were programmed. Saint Patrick's High has the largest selection of subjects for students to choose, in all of Metro.

When Saint Patrick's Senior High was opened, it was the largest school in area in Canada. But now, Saint Patrick's High School has lost that title but they still have the largest high school population in Nova Scotia with the enrollment of 1,905 students.

B. PATRICIAN REFORMATION OF THE THREE SCHOOLS
ON BRUNSWICK STREET

When the high school students left Saint Patrick's Boys' School on Brunswick Street to the old Saint Mary's College location in 1951, the school was changed into elementary grades. The classroom desks and seats were readjusted for junior pupils. And as the high school girls left Saint Patrick's Girls' High in 1954, the school was changed into a junior high school for girls and boys. The tower on the school was removed and the interior was repaired. Toilet facilities were installed for boys. Rooms were fitted for home economics and the old laboratory was made into classrooms.

At this time, the schools were re-organized along the following lines: Saint Patrick's Junior High taught Grades Seven and Eight with mixed classes, and Grade Nine was taught at Saint Patrick's Senior High but returned to the junior high school in the early 60's; Saint Patrick's Girls' School taught pupils from Primary to Grade Six, and Saint Patrick's Boys' School also taught from Primary to Grade Six.

In 1960 with the increasing number of high school students at Saint Patrick's Senior High, there was a demand for additional space. And it was found that there should be a limit to the number of Grade Nines. It was felt that the students would gradually return to their original schools. So the assembly hall at Saint Patrick's Junior High was changed into three classrooms to accommodate the

Grade Nines who returned to Saint Patrick's Junior High in 1961.

This reform of the three schools on Brunswick Street was the result of the School Board's attempt to solve the problem of overcrowding at Saint Patrick's Senior High School. This format of junior high, boy's elementary and girls' elementary schools carried on into the '70's when it was to be replaced by a building or buildings with the combination of the three schools.

C. WANT, FIGHT & DEMONSTRATE

On December 5, 1964, the School Board projected in 1967 a new school in Saint Patrick's Parish. Then in 1967, the School Board reviewed a proposal to replace the three Saint Patrick's buildings on Brunswick Street. On May 1, 1968, Robert J. Flinn, architect, was appointed to design and supervise the construction of a complex and to renovate the Saint Patrick's Boys' School. The architect presented preliminary sketches of the school which contained classes of 'honeycomb shaped' or six-sided classrooms in July, 1968. In November 1968, the School Board and special community agencies asked City Council to review the proposal for the new school and pointing out that it should meet more than the ordinary needs of the school. This original design of the new school was placed before the Department of Regional Economical Expansion (DREE), Senior Board Staff and the

Architect to discuss the cost estimates of the building program in 1968. The following year in 1969, the plans of the school were changed and there were difficulties with obtaining the land, which delayed further progress of the new school complex.

"Then, it appeared that there were delays and cutbacks in finances and mounting concern in the local area," 9 resulting in the formation of the Saint Patrick's School Citizen's Committee in the early part of 1970. This Saint Patrick's School Citizen's Committee was a group of concerned parents, teachers, social workers and priests who worked together as a pressure committee to fight for the new school.

In August, 1970, the School Board called for tenders for the school and the lowest bidder was Dineen Construction (Atlantic) Limited who were one million dollars over the expected budget. Because of the delay for the go ahead to start construction on the new Saint Patrick's Complex, a student demonstration was carried out to boycott classes on the afternoon of November 25, 1970. Early in January, 1971, City Council accepted the tender for construction of the school under the conditions laid down by DREE and with financial assistance from the Provincial Government. The contract for construction of the school was \$1,729,953.00, and the first sod was turned by Premier Gerald A. Regan to start construction of the new school in February 1971. The con-

tractors demolished the addition on Saint Patrick's Girls' School to make way for the new complex. This made "interesting" conditions for teaching because of the noise from construction of the new school complex.

In 1972, Saint Patrick's Complex (Phase One) was completed and the three schools moved into one building; this school complex was overcrowded and worked under a co-educational system for the rest of the school year. There were fires in the three old schools. After the fire in Saint Patrick's Junior High and Saint Patrick's Girls' School, they were torn down as the complex replaced them. Also Saint Patrick's Boys' School was renovated over again because of the fire causing \$45,000.00 damage. The renovation of the Saint Patrick's Boys' School became Phase Two of Saint Patrick's Complex. As a result of Saint Patrick's Complex, the elementary classes were mixed for the first time. The official opening of Saint Patrick's Complex (Phase One) was on October 3, 1972. The ribbon was cut by Premier Regan and Mayor Walter Fitzgerald of Halifax. Premier Regan stated during the official opening that the Provincial Government would help to construct more schools. Classes moved into Phase Two of Saint Patrick's Complex in January 1973 which contains classes from Primary to Grade Three.

This school- 'Saint Patrick's Complex' is the largest elementary school in area in Halifax and ranks third in population after Saint Catherine's School and

Oxford School.

"The committee on St. Pat's has it priorities.
One of them happens to be dignity," 10 ...this is
how they achieved their goal - the new Saint Patrick's
Complex...

10. The Dartmouth Free Press, April 27, 1970.
Vertical File of Halifax Neighbourhood
Center on Saint Patrick's School Citizen's
Committee.

IV. EPILOGUE

To finish this report, I leave to you the following quotations:

"May this be the contribution of Saint Patrick's to the life of this city - the character as well as the learning of those who pass through its halls." ¹

"May each dear pupil's steady aim

Be to increase Saint Patrick's fame." ²

"For Saint Patrick's School, God bless it,

We'll live the Golden Rule

For God, for Canada, and for Saint Patrick's School." ³

1. Hon. R.M. Fielding, Minister of Municipal Affairs.
The Halifax Mail Star, December 18, 1954, page 29.

2. Sr. Rose Catherine, former principal of
Saint Patrick's Girls' High School.
1951 Patrician Echoes Yearbook.

3. School Song for Graduation '72.
Saint Patrick's Junior High School.

V. APPENDIX A

IMPORTANT DATES AND FACTS IN THE
HISTORY OF SAINT PATRICK'S SCHOOLS

- 1844- Education for Roman Catholics in Saint Patrick's Parish.
- 1865- First school classes held in Saint Patrick's Church basement.
- 1872- Opening of Saint Patrick's School on Lockman Street.
- 1884- High School work taught in Saint Patrick's School.
- 1888- Saint Patrick's Girls' School was opened on Brunswick Street and Saint Patrick's School on Lockman Street became the boys' school.
- 1898- Saint Patrick's Boys' School was damaged by fire.
- 1907- Saint Patrick's Girls' High School was officially opened on the north side of Saint Patrick's Girls' School. Commercial Class was opened at Saint Patrick's Girls' School.
- 1917- The three Saint Patrick's Schools were seriously damaged by the Halifax Explosion.
- 1918- Saint Patrick's Girls' High School Alumnae Association was formed.
- 1921- South of Saint Patrick's Girls' School, the new Saint Patrick's Boys' School was officially opened.
- 1929- An addition was made to Saint Patrick's Girls' School.
- 1934- Golden Anniversary of Saint Patrick's Girls' High School.
- 1934- Home and School Association was formed.
- 1944- Post War Planning Committee planned to build a new Roman Catholic High School in Halifax.
- 1950- Commercial Class at Saint Patrick's Girls' High School was cancelled because of the opening of the new Halifax County Vocational High School.
- 1951- Saint Patrick's Boys' High moved from their Brunswick Street location to the old Saint Mary's College building on Windsor Street.

- 1951- Construction of the new Saint Patrick's High School on the old Saint Mary's College football field was started.
- 1954- December 17th. - the official opening of Saint Patrick's Senior High School.
- 1954- Saint Patrick's Girls' High School moved to the new High School and the building on Brunswick Street was taken over by Saint Patrick's Junior High.
- 1955- February 2nd. official opening of Saint Patrick's High School Library.
- 1964- School Board planned a new school in Saint Patrick's Parish.
- 1967- Proposal to build a new school to replace the three Saint Patrick's on Brunswick Street.
- 1967- Planning for expansion for Saint Patrick's Senior High School facilities for business courses.
- 1968- Honeycomb school was projected on Brunswick Street.
- 1969- The New Wing of Saint Patrick's Senior High was officially opened.
- 1970- Students, parents and teachers fighting for a new school complex on Brunswick Street.
- 1970- At Saint Patrick's High, classes were mixed for the first time because of the introduction of the computer time scheduling.
- 1971- Fires in Saint Patrick's Junior High, Saint Patrick's Girls' and Saint Patrick's Boys' Schools.
- 1972- Official opening of Saint Patrick's Complex (Phase I) on October 3rd.
- 1973- Classes moved into Phase II of Saint Patrick's Complex, after 1972 Christmas Break.

V. APPENDIX B

THE PRINCIPALS OF SAINT PATRICK'S SCHOOLS FROM 1865-1973

1. Principals of St. Patrick's School in the church basement

John Walsh	1865-1869
Brother Mainfrey	1869-1870
Brother Phillippian	1870-1872

2. Principals of St. Patrick's School on Lockman Street

Brother Odorich	1872-1876
Patrick E. Scott	1876-1880
Peter O'Hearn	1880-1917
Frederick J. Phelan	1917-1922

3. Principals of St. Patrick's Girls' High School

Sr. Mary Bernard	1884-1886
Sr. Doloresa	1886-1887
Sr. Mary Bernard (2nd term)	1887-1890
Sr. M. de Chantal	1890-1904
Sr. M. Evaristus	1904-1915
Sr. Mary Aquinas	1915-1919
Sr. Rose Catherine	1919-1944
Sr. Teresa Maria	1944-1948
Sr. Rose Catherine (2nd term)	1948-1960

4. Vice-principals of St. Patrick's Girls' High School
who were in charge of the St. Patrick's Girls' School

Sr. Cecilia	1906-1912
Sr. Agnes	1912-1928
Sr. Mary Fidelis	1928-1933
Sr. Mary Vincentia	1933-1936
Sr. Mary Ethelbert	1936-1941

5. Principals of St. Patrick's Girls' School

Sr. M. Raphael	1941-1943
Sr. John Hugh	1943-1948
Sr. Lary Ligouri	1949-1960
Sr. Marion David	1960-1968
*Sr. Mary Ethelreda	1968-1970
*Sr. Ruth Kline	1968-1970
Mrs. Catherine Clancy	1970-1972

*Sr. Mary Ethelreda and Sr. Ruth Kline are the same person. In 1969 the Sisters were allowed to change their names back to their original names.

6. Principals of St. Patrick's Boys' School
Frederick J. Phelan 1922-1945
Frederick W. Coolen 1945-1950
Eric J. Mullaley 1950-1956
Donald F. Fahie 1956-1969
Leo P. Arab 1969-1972
7. Principals of St. Patrick's Junior High School
Donald F. Fahie 1954-1956
William N. Duggan 1956-1969
Thomas P. Rissesco 1969-1972
8. Principal of St. Patrick's Boys' High School
on Windsor Street
Frederick W. Coolen 1950-1954
9. Principals of St. Patrick's High School
Frederick W. Coolen 1954-1957
John R. Carroll 1957-1967
John (Jack) E. Lynch 1967-
10. Associate Principal of St. Patrick's High School
Sr. Rose Catherine 1954-1960
11. Vice-Principals of St. Patrick's High School
A. Sr. Mary Ligouri 1960-1963
Sr. Rita Gertrude 1963-1972
Sr. Francis Xavier 1972-
B. John R. Carroll 1954-1957
Lawrence W. Smith 1957-1963
Christopher D. Grant 1963-1972
Michael A. Campbell 1972-
12. Principal and Vice-Principal of St. Patrick's Complex
Thomas P. Rissesco 1972-
A. Bernard Inglis (V.P.) 1972-

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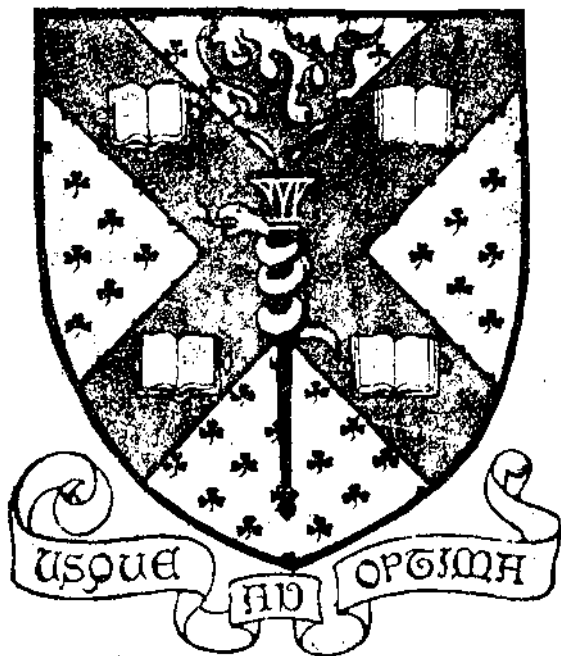
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Mr. William N. Duggan
Mr. Donald F. Fahie
Mr. George A. Healy
Dr. Maurice E. Keating
Sr. Marguerite Keenan
Miss Joan Lawrence
Mr. John E. Lynch
Mrs. Margery MacDonald
Miss Florence MacIsaac
Mr. Joseph F. McSweeney
Mr. James M. O'Regan
Miss Lenore Pelham
Mr. Thomas P. Rissesco
Miss Mary G. Stone
Sr. Francis Xavier Walsh

THE COAT OF ARMS



Grant of Ensigns Armorial

TO all and sundry whom these presents do or may concern, We, Sir Thomas Innes of Learney, Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order, Baron of Learney, Kinnairdy and Yeochrie, Advocate, Lord Lyon King of Arms send greeting:

Whereas the Principal of St. Patrick's High School, Halifax, Nova Scotia in the Dominion of Canada, on behalf of the said School, having by petition unto us of date 15th October 1953 shown: that the said school at present consists of two sections, St. Patrick's Girls' High School whose principal is Sister Rose Catherine of the Sisters of Charity, and St. Patrick's Boys' High School, whose Principal is Frederick W. Coolen, B.A., but that they are to be united and lodged in a new building to be erected at the corner of Quinpool Road and Windsor Street in the Willow Tree Section of Halifax: and the petitioner having prayed that ensigns armorial might be granted unto the said school such as might be found suitable and according to the laws of arms, know ye therefore that we have devised, and do by these presents assign, ratify and confirm unto the petitioner, on behalf of St. Patrick's High School, Halifax, Nova Scotia, the following ensigns armorial, as depicted upon the margin hereof, and matriculated of even date with these presents upon the 140th page of the thirty-ninth volume of our public register of all arms and bearings in Scotland, videlicet: OR, SEMEE OF TRE-FOILS VERT, ON A SALTIRE GULES FOUR OPEN BOOKS PROPER, BOUND OF THE FIRST, ALL SURMOUNTED OF A TORCH SABLE ENFLAMED OF THE THIRD, THE SHAFT ENCOILED OF A SERPENT OF THE FIRST; WHICH ARMS ARE TO BE BORNE BY THE SAID ST. PATRICK'S GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL UPON A LOZENGE ENVIRONED OF A RIBBON OF THE LIVERIES, VIZT. VERT DOUBLED OR, AND BY THE SAID ST. PATRICK'S BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL UPON AN ESCUTCHEON AND IN AN ESCROL BELOW THE SAME THIS MOTTO "USQUE AD OPTIMA": by demonstration of which ensigns armorial, incorporeal feudal heritage and as a fief-annoblisant, insignia of nobility, the said St. Patrick's High School is, amongst all nobles and in all places of honor, to be taken, numbered, accounted and received as an incorporation-noble in the noblesse of Scotland: in testimony whereof we have subscribed these presents and the seal of our office is affixed hereto at Edinburgh, this first day of February in the second year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth the Second, By the grace of God, of Great Britain, Ireland, and the British Dominions beyond the Seas, Queen, Defender of the Faith, Etc., in the year of our Lord 1954.

THOMAS INNES OF LEARNEY, LYON.