

## **Early School - 1950s - 1960s**

The school was named after Father Rossignol. The school had thirteen to fourteen classrooms. Nuns taught the classes. There was only 1 native teacher named Miss Bouvier. Henry Walls was the principal. Priests at that time were Father Pourier and Father Rouel. There were only twelve students per class; boys and girls were in the same class. Pupils came from Ile a la Crosse, La Loche, Pine House, Dillon, Patuanak, Jans Bay, and Beauval.

No one had gym in grades 4 to twelve. There was no gym. There was a small library the size of a classroom. The subjects taught were Math, Science, Social Studies, French, Reading and Religion. Games played were sack races, marbles, rubber ball, and swings in the summertime.

The school was made up of a number of buildings each classroom was kept warm by a woodstove. The other old part of the school that stood next to the existing school had 7 classrooms. A building by where the rehab centre building currently stands had 2 classrooms, there were 2 classrooms by the pump house and 2 classrooms in back of the school. The teachers lived in houses around the school. A building was attached to the hospital for a girls' dormitory. The rehab centre building was the boys' dormitory.

Some rules:

If you were late for class, you weren't allowed in class until recess. Sister rang the hand bell if you were ½ hour late you got the strap (belt with a handle). If you didn't listen you knelt in a corner and faced the wall. You had to do all the work you missed when you were in the corner. If you were caught chewing gum you wore it on your nose until lunch or after school. No one went to the washroom until recess. Girls had to wear dresses to school. No one could speak Cree or Dene in the school. Were allowed to talk Cree or Dene after school.