Sparks are Flying at Union Hall

Slightly edited version of an article posted by Linda Seccaspina and AI Colour enhanced

ATTEMPT MADE TO CLOSE SCHOOL NO 3 IN UNION HALL AREA 2

Sparks are flying in the Union Hall section these days over action taken by the Ramsay School Area Board to close Number Three school which is located about half a mile east of the second line on the road leading into Almonte. Ratepayers up there declare that the first intimation they received of the Township Board's contemplated action was an item in the published minutes of a recent meeting stating that action had been taken to close the school.

Union Hall built in 1857

What angered the people of Union Hall particularly was the decision of the Board to transport their pupils to Number 2 School known as Wright's on the second line a few miles in the direction of Highway 15. Irate ratepayers around Union Hall declare that they have 11 pupils ready to attend their school while the one to which it is proposed to transport the pupils has only six. They insist it is a case of the tail trying to wag the dog.

While the Township School Area Board has made no statement for publication it is understood that the object it had in mind was to save money through eliminating one teacher and other maintenance expenses connected with a school. Two indignation meetings have already been held in the Union Hall in connection with the matter. At the first one nearly all ratepayers were present although Mr. Dave

McIntosh, one of the trustees who lives in that section, did not attend feeling, it is believed, that people would be freer to discuss the situation if he was not there.

It was decided to appoint a delegation to meet the Board and state the case for the ratepayers around Union Hall. But when a second meeting was called for the night of Civic Holiday, the Board signified its readiness to attend so no deputation was necessary. Mr. J. W. Barber of Perth, Public School Inspector for Lanark was asked to be present but he said that in as much as the meeting was to be held on civic holiday he had made other plans. Mr. Bert Miller, Chairman of the Board, who lives near Wright's School, a fact which the Union Hallers did not fail to note, and his colleagues on the Board, were asked a great many questions and there was much discussion back and forth.

According to people who were present at the meeting, the Board played its cards close to the chest and did not give away its hand by stating what it intends to do. Some think it may rescind its motion to close Number 3 School while others are of the opinion it will persist in its present intention.