

This narrative history of a Residential School was researched and produced by the Government of Canada as part of its response to litigation and the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation has not verified the content of this document. It is provided here for reference purposes only. Documented incidents of sexual and physical abuse are based on the documentary record and do not take into account survivor testimony.



You are welcome to contact the NCTR if you wish to add, comment on, or challenge any versions of the history presented herein.

**Wawanosh Home  
IAP School Narrative**

**NAME IN THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT (Schedule E/F)**

Wawanosh Home

**OTHER NAMES KNOWN AS (AKAs)**

No information found

**LOCATION**

The Wawanosh Home was located on a 15-acre site, five kilometres northwest of the Shingwauk IRS, just north of Sault Ste. Marie [WWH-000006].

**PROVINCE/TERRITORY**

Ontario

**OPERATING DATES AS AN INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL**

These dates represent the time during which the Government of Canada was responsible for the operation of the Indian Residential School, excluding any periods of closure.

January 1, 1879 to August 5, 1892

**OPERATING DATES CONTEXT**

The Wawanosh Home IRS opened in January 1879 to provide education and industrial training for Indian girls. The building was occupied while it was still under construction, and it was completed on August 19, 1879 [SWK-000927; WWH-000006; SWK-001285, pg. 6]. The Wawanosh Home received support from the federal government up until 1892 [SWK-000928, pg. 6-7; SWK-000933, pg. 12; SWK-000827, pg. 12-15; SWK-000938, pg. 8-9]. A report dated August 5, 1892, contains the last reference in available documents to the Wawanosh Home as an institution separate from the Shingwauk IRS [SWK-000938, pg. 2-3]. By 1893, the Wawanosh Home and the Shingwauk IRS for boys had amalgamated [SWK-000939, pg. 3].

**RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION**

Anglican Church

1879 to 1892      The Wawanosh Home was owned and managed by the Church of England, under the Diocese of Algoma [WWH-000006; WWH-000007; SWK-000938, pg. 8-9].

**CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL**

Date	Event	Document Reference
January 1, 1879	The Wawanosh Home IRS opened in January 1879 to provide education and industrial training for Indian girls. The building was occupied while it was still under construction, and it was completed on August 19, 1879.	SWK-000927 WWH-000006 SWK-001285, pg. 6

1881	To supplement the support received from the federal government, individual pupils at the Wawanosh Home were “supported separately” by donations from Canadian Sunday Schools and from a variety of other donors.	SWK-000928, pg. 6-7 SWK-000929 SWK-001285, pg. 6, 11-15
June 1885	The Principal noted that some pupils had to remain at the Wawanosh Home for the summer holidays.	SWK-000933, pg. 3
1886/87 to 1887/88	Due to financial difficulties, the number of staff at the Home was reduced, some pupil admissions were refused, and building additions delayed.	SWK-000934, pg. 6 SWK-000826, pg. 2-4
1889	The federal government provided additional support to the Wawanosh Home.	SWK-000827, pg. 4
1891	The school year was divided into six terms of about seven and a half weeks each. At the end of each term, examinations were held, followed by seven or eight days of holidays. The regular Christmas and summer holidays were eliminated but children who wanted to go home for several weeks were permitted to do so.	SWK-000937, pg. 3
August 1892	A report dated August 5, 1892, contains the last reference in available documents to the Wawanosh Home as an institution separate from the Shingwauk IRS.  By 1893, the Wawanosh Home was amalgamated with the Shingwauk IRS.	SWK-000938, pg. 2-3 SWK-000939, pg. 3-5 NCA-013474-0002, pg. 1-2 NCA-013474-0003 NCA-013473

## EDUCATION OF STUDENTS

### Grades Taught at the Indian Residential School

School Years	Grades offered	Document Reference
1879	No information was found regarding the specific grades offered at the Home. Girls were taught reading, writing and arithmetic, along with domestic duties such as cooking, washing, ironing and sewing.	SWK-000927, pg. 3
1883/84	No information was found regarding the specific grades offered at the Home. Pupils were taught grammar and composition, history, geography, and arithmetic. Girls had the option to study laundry work, sewing, and knitting instead of history and grammar.	SWK-000932, pg. 3
1889/90	No information was found regarding the specific grades offered at the Home. The Home functioned on a half-day system, with a half-day of classroom instruction and a half-day of “industrial employments,” such as cooking, baking, house work, sewing, knitting and laundry work.	SWK-000936, pg. 3

### Other Schools Attended by Residents

There is no indication that the Wawanosh Home pupils attended other schools.

## GENERAL ENROLLMENT STATISTICS OVER TIME

School Years	Number of Residents	If applicable, day scholars	Document Reference
1879/80	15	No information found	SWK-000927, pg. 3
1880/81	15	No information found	SWK-000928, pg. 6-7
1881/82	18	No information found	SWK-000929, pg. 4-5
1882/83	21	No information found	SWK-000821, pg. 12-13
1883/84	17	No information found	SWK-000932, pg. 9-10
1884/85	21	No information found	SWK-000933, pg. 12-13
1885/86	23	No information found	SWK-000824, pg. 2
1886/87	26	No information found	SWK-000934, pg. 11-12
1888/89	24	No information found	SWK-000827, pg. 14-15
1889/90	28	No information found	SWK-000936, pg. 9-10
1890/91	20	No information found	SWK-000937, pg. 12-13
1891/92	25	No information found	SWK-000938, pg. 8-9

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

School Years	Special Programs Offered	Document Reference
1887/88	<p>An "Onward and Upward Club" was formed to encourage self reliance in students speaking English in public.</p> <p>In October 1887, ten girls from the Wawanosh Home and 20 boys from the Shingwauk IRS travelled with the Principal to Montreal, Ottawa, Carleton Place and Kingston.</p>	SWK-000826, pg. 4

## INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Date	Event	Document Reference
1879	Construction of the Wawanosh Home, a two-storey stone building, began in the spring of 1877. The Home was completed and opened on August 19, 1879, but had been occupied by Indian girls during the year.	WWH-000006 WWH-000007 SWK-000927, pg. 3
1880	The main Wawanosh Home building had a frontage of about 40 feet. A classroom, dining-room, sitting-room, laundry, and kitchen were located on the ground floor of the building. The dormitories were located upstairs; one dormitory had eight double beds, the other had four beds.	WWH-000007
1882	The Wawanosh Home stood on 15 acres of land, 12 of which were under cultivation. The Home was surrounded by four outbuildings: a laundry, the laundress' cottage, a girls' play-house and stables.	SWK-001286, pg. 3
1889/90	The buildings at the Wawanosh Home included the main building, a laundry, a laundress' cottage, and a stable.	SWK-000936, pg. 3

## PHOTOS, PLANS AND LAYOUT

Date	Description	Document Reference
Undated	Picture of the exterior of the Wawanosh Home, and picture of students from Wawanosh and the Shingwauk IRS.	WWH-000007
1882	Picture of the exterior of the Wawanosh Home.	SWK-001286, pg. 2
1889	Plan of the Shingwauk IRS, park Lots 1 and 2; includes proposed (new) site for the Wawanosh Home.	SWK-001451

## DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO SCHOOL INCIDENTS

To date, we are unaware of any convictions for abuse at the Wawanosh Home or of any convicted abusers present at the school.

### Incidents (Sexual)

No information found.

### Incidents (Physical)

No information found.

### Incidents (Student on Student)

No information found.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1887            In October, ten girls from the Wawanosh Home and twenty boys from the Shingwauk IRS travelled with the Principal to Montreal, Ottawa, Carleton Place and Kingston [SWK-000826, pg. 4].

## PRINCIPALS/ADMINISTRATORS

Name	Position	Tenure Dates
Edward F. Wilson	Principal	1879 to 1892

Narrative Completed: September 20, 2012

Narrative Updated: January 22, 2013

The original school narrative document produced by Canada also contains a number of records that have been separated pending review.



National Centre for  
*Truth and Reconciliation*  
UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA