

**ELLISTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
**Grade 3 Social Studies Notes (1981/82)**

ELLISTON

A. FIRST CALLED "BIRD ISLAND COVE"

1. Named after many islands off here, with numerous birds on them.
2. First, when inhabited, trees grew down to the water's edge.
3. People came here to fish because of good fishing grounds off here.
4. They cleared the land and built homes.

B. RE-NAMED ELLISTON IN 1902

1. Named after the first Methodist minister Rev. Ellis who first visited here in 1814.
2. The suggestion of changing the name Bird Island Cove to Elliston, in memory of its first pioneer minister, was made by Rev. Charles Lench.

C. ELLISTON

1. A small fishing community of about 600 people.
2. The main industry here is fishing.
3. The fishing industry has declined over the years.
4. 50 years ago, as many as 50 – 60 boats fished out of here.
5. Today only about 6 boats fish out of here.
6. Years ago, fishermen split, salted, and dried their fish.
7. Today fish is shipped fresh to the fish plant at Bonavista.
8. Only a few flakes and fish stores are left to remind us of the old days.
9. Elliston has no natural harbour. Fishermen have been trying for years to get a breakwater which would give them a man-made harbour.
10. Fishing is much easier today. Fishermen do not have to spend long hours splitting, salting, and drying their fish. They do not have to take oars and row to the fishing grounds. They have motorboats. Years ago, women worked almost as hard as men at

the fish on shore. Today no women work at the fish here except those who work in the fish plants at Bonavista or Catalina.

11. Most of the people here no longer earn a living from fishing. They earn a living at the fish --- not catching it but at the fish plants at Catalina and Bonavista where they prepare the fish for shipment to other countries. Most people here still earn their living from the fishery but not like their forefathers or mothers did.
12. Roy Baker's garage is located on the side of C. Tilley Ltd which was a large business. It had a large two story general store, a garage, and a several large fish stores. The business bought and exported salt fish and employed many people. It was the town's largest business. It went broke and closed its doors in the fall of 1966. The stores were sold and torn down. Oldford's Enterprises Ltd, owned by Mr. Winston Oldford, owns one of the large stores.
13. Population: Over the years the population has declined. There are about 600 people living here which includes The Neck and Maberly.
14. Elliston become a municipality in 1965, and the town hall was built in 1967. The first mayor was Gerald Tilley, who was also manager of C. Tilley Ltd. The present mayor is \_\_\_\_\_.
15. Elliston has three churches: United Church, Anglican, and Salvation Army. A few years ago, also had a Pentecostal Church but was closed because of poor attendance – not enough followers. It was sold and is now owned by Mr. Reg Coles.
16. A new water and sewer system was started a few years ago. It will cost more than two million (\$2,000,000) to complete. Water for the system comes from artesian wells.
17. The town's main roads are paved and looked after by the Provincial Government. The by-roads or lanes are looked after by Council and are not paved.
18. SCHOOLS: Elliston once had four schools; - a one room school at Maberly which is still there and used as a church; a one room school on the NECK which has been torn down, a one room school at Elliston North which is now a home occupied by Mr. Wilfred Murphy a retired teacher. The old school on the South Side is now part of the new United Church Hall. The present school opened in 1958 first taught all grades Kindergarten to Grade 11. Now there are only three rooms open – Grades Kindergarten to Grade 6. Students in Grades 7-12 go to Bonavista schools by bus. Years ago, all children walked to school, now most of them ride in bus or cars.

19. Very little farming or AGRICULTURE (growing crops, raising animals) is carried on in Elliston. The land is too hilly and rocky, and grass is not too plentiful. Some people grow enough vegetables for their own use, a few people raise some cattle, but most buy their vegetables from other farmers in the Bonavista Bay area.
20. Elliston is located about 8 kilometers from Bonavista. It is just a few kilometers from Cape Bonavista in TRINITY BAY. On the Newfoundland Map this is where we are located.



21. Elliston has two T.V. Towers located on Elliston Ridge – CTV Channel 10 and CBC Channel 4.

22. There were two war bases located here. One was located on Marks's Path. It was built during the last war in the 1940's. The second base was built in the late fifties on Elliston Ridge where the TV Towers are located. A winding road leads up to the Ridge. Both bases were built by the Americans. Looking out from the ridge we can see the whole surrounding area including the broad ATLANTIC OCEAN.

CONCLUSION TIME has changed our community. Your parents, grand-parents and great grand-parents, older brothers, and sisters lived in a different Elliston than the one we live in.

Your NEIGHBOURHOOD is the part of your community you know best. As you grow with our community help make your neighbourhood and community a happy place to live in.

Be CONSTRUCTIVE \_\_\_\_\_ NOT DESTRUCTIVE

[www.townofelliston.ca](http://www.townofelliston.ca)

Information Provided by Mr. Neal Tucker