

Celebrating the past

building the future

Burnaby School District 41

Centennial Anniversary

1906 - 2006



1906 • 2006
BURNABY
SCHOOL DISTRICT 41



What's Inside

- Our Early Years
- Our Growth Years
- Our Leadership
- Our Current Years
- Our Future

Glancing Back . . .

Quality public education has been a community expectation since the first meeting of the Burnaby School Board in 1906. The legacy of quality education and lifelong learning in Burnaby, which began with the amalgamation of early one-room schoolhouses and continues today in 48 schools and a number of district programs, makes us all proud of our vibrant neighbourhood schools, diverse programs and services and, most importantly, solid student achievement. Join us as we celebrate and reflect upon our first 100 years.

The 2006 – 2008 Board of School Trustees
Back row, left to right: Ron Burton (Chair), Larry Hayes, Tony Coccia, Richard Lee
Front row, left to right: Kathy Corrigan (Vice-Chair), Diana Mumford, Helen Chang



Celebrating



The Burnaby School District's history is linked to that of the City of Burnaby. Burnaby was incorporated on September 22, 1892 with a population of 300 and the first Burnaby school was built two years later, in 1894.

"It came from the same need to take care of the community and take care of the children," said Jim Wolf, City of Burnaby historian.

Before 1894, children living in Burnaby either attended off to school in Vancouver or New Westminster, but that became unpalatable for some Burnaby residents.

"To let your child go with a pail lunch and then send them off on muddy roads, where they were threatened by bears and cougars – there was a need to send them to school closer to home," said Wolf. "The fact the students were gone all day long was a cause of consternation for parents. You wanted to know your children were safe."

Around this time, the provincial government passed a municipal government act, which allowed rural municipalities to provide education to their children as long as they could prove they had enough school-age children to warrant a school.

"The school board had to come up with its own piece of land and come up with a teacher and a building," said Wolf. Land for the school was purchased from Thomas Trapp on July 23, 1893.

"They went to tender with it and, within a few months, the school was up and they found a teacher and they were open by January 1894," said

Wolf. That first school was the Burnaby School, located at what is now 18th Avenue and Canada Way.

While funds were in short supply, the district had its first teacher, Ethel Le Page, and a one-room schoolhouse with more than 30 students, ranging in age from four to 16. "The new Burnaby School opened on Monday with 25 pupils and 30 were present the following day," said a January 25, 1894 report in the Daily Columbian. After only three months, Le Page was replaced by Ellen Lister, who taught at the school for over 10 years.

In 1896, the provincial government placed several acres of land east of Central Park up for sale. This resulted in a large settlement and the need for the construction of Burnaby West School, later known as Kingsway West School, McKay at Kingsway. According to Mr. Hugh Brown, the original principal of the school, "The history of Kingsway West School is the story of the growth of this section of Burnaby from a backwoods settlement with only a few scattered houses set in a great forest to a thriving urban community."

That school was followed by Barnet School (near the Barnet Sawmill) in 1902 and Dundonald School (Gilley Ave. and Marine Drive) in 1905. Each school was considered a rural school under the municipal government act and operated independently of one another.

"It soon became untenable to keep those schools running independently," said Wolf. "So when the School Act changed in 1906, Burnaby was right there to form its own municipal school board." Five individuals were elected to the area's first school board in March of 1906. Those individuals were Donald Ross, who acted as chairman, J.J. Mervin, Henry J. Whittaker, Mr. Thrussel and Thomas Sanderson. Sam Shepherd, a former teacher, was the Secretary.

At the time, Burnaby was the third largest municipality in the province with a growing population of 800 and the newly-formed Burnaby School Board quickly realized that the one-room schoolhouses on small plots of land would no longer accommodate the huge growth. To meet the demand, Burnaby's municipal government appropriated \$20,925 in taxes in 1908, up from \$2,731 in 1907, to build new schools. "Owing to the increase in the juvenile population, it became necessary for the Board of School Trustees to borrow additional funds for building new schools and for improvements to existing ones," said Peter Byrne, Burnaby Reeve, in his 1908 Statement of Accounts.

Architect Joseph Bowman was hired to design the buildings. He came up with a system of modular schools, which quickly became known as the Grey Buildings. "They went up in quick succession to replace the old one-room schoolhouses across Burnaby," said Wolf.

With new schools throughout the municipality, families began to move into the area thereby increasing the student population in Burnaby's new schools. This period also saw a change in school design from wooden schoolhouses to schools made of brick.

By 1912, the economy was booming. Burnaby continued to grow and the school district continued to meet the demand of families moving to the area. A year later, the boom went bust and soon, men are going off to fight in the First World War – and not coming back.

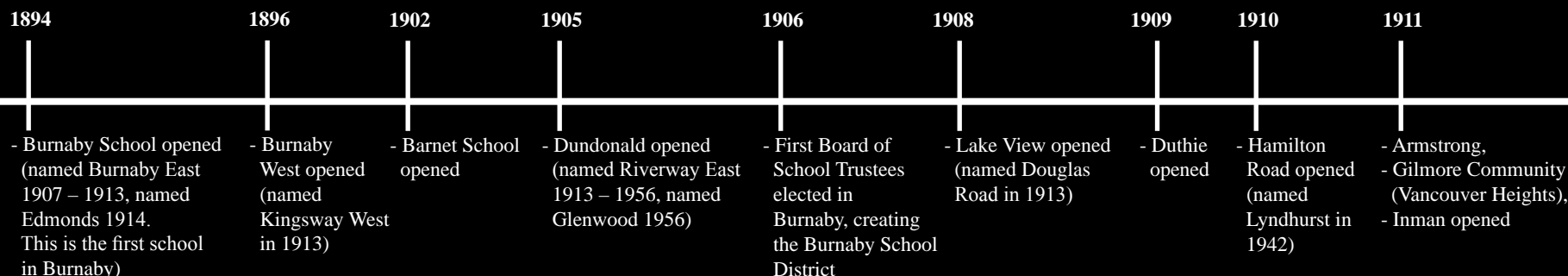
"It was a very sad time for the community and the schools as well," said Wolf. "Everyone was profoundly affected by these world events."

Did you know?

According to the minutes recorded for the business discussed in 1906 by the Board of Trustees, some of the issues of the day included:

- a request to the city for an advance of \$150 to pay teachers and caretaker salaries;
- a precautionary plan be established to vaccinate all Burnaby children at the Dundonald School against small pox after a Vancouver resident died of the illness. The doctor who attended to this Vancouver resident, also provided healthcare to a family in the area of the Dundonald school;
- the appointment of Sam Shepherd as Secretary of the School Board; and
- an estimation of the school board expenses in order to determine the level of taxation.

Timeline sourced through Burnaby School District historical records



Our Early Years

Did you know?

The district's school facilities grew from three schools at the turn of the century to 16 by 1916.

The post-war era 1920s was again a time for growth for the city and the district. Soldiers were given land claims and young families began to move back into the district. More money and land were appropriated to meet the demand of people migrating to the area.

From 1920 to 1929, eight new schools were built to meet the needs of students in the district, including Burnaby South and Burnaby North, the first secondary schools in Burnaby. Up until 1921, students attended high schools in Vancouver and New Westminster.

"Burnaby finally grew up to become a modern education system with two tiers of primary and secondary education," said Wolf.

The 1930s were a defining period for both the municipality and the school district as the Great Depression hit. All new school development came to a halt and Burnaby's population was thrown into chaos.

However, the Depression also brought a sense of community to the area, which saw the development of community gardens at school sites and the return of community sports, which were common from 1911 to 1920. These types of activities and this strong sense of community helped Burnaby survive the Depression.



Riverway East School

Helen Moysiuk, nee Silvanovicz, was a student at Riverway East starting in 1936. She shares a few of her fond memories about school life during that time . . .

I remember that a friend down the street, who was a year older, was already in school. I would stand by the gate and ask him what school was like but he would never tell me. I remember being quite frightened because he wouldn't talk about it. The first day of class, I was quite afraid and very, very obedient. I listened to what the teacher had to say and did exactly what I was told to do.

Riverway East was a mile from home. We would walk up Willard Street, which is still there, to the top of Marine Drive and then along Marine Drive a ways. It was all bush and gravel roads.

We all got to school on time and we played. If you were late, you would get detention or have to write lines. There was a large staircase going up to the school and underneath was a large undercover shelter, so if it rained, we would play under there. We would play tag or hopscotch or skip rope until the teacher or the principal came out on the porch and rang the big school bell. Then we would all line up and march into the school.

We would walk in single file and go immediately to your desk and sit down, waiting for the teacher to start class. I remember we all stood up and said the Lord's Prayer. Then, I think, the teacher would give out thyroid pills. I don't remember why. Then she would start her lesson.

The first floor of the school was Grades 1 – 3 all in one room and then you'd go up these oil-covered stairs and the second floor was Grades 4, 5 and 6 all in one room. Only one side of the school had windows. There were rows of desk, like one row Grade 1 and then Grade 2 and 3. There weren't many in each class. I have class pictures with almost the entire school in that one small picture.

I remember people had to go around every day and fill up all the inkwells because they were part of the desk. There was a little glass insert that sat in the desk. We all had red pens and the quills, and in the desk was a little indentation for your pen to lie in when you weren't using it. The desk had a little shelf underneath it for your books and crayons.

I remember the toilets flushing and tiny little sinks, which was a novelty to all of us because almost everyone where we lived had outdoor toilets. At

May Day at Central Park - 1936
Helen Moysiuk, nee Silvanovicz (far right)

home, we had no running water inside so it was a novelty to wash your hands in a sink.

We packed our own lunches. We had a little lunch kit, a pail, with a little handle on it. Mine was dark blue and there was nothing on it, like no flowers or a Mickey Mouse. In the summer, I remember having tomato sandwiches that would soak right through the bread.

But, we quite often had a hot lunch. We each had to buy a plate to take to school with us but I can't remember if we also had to bring our own knife, fork and spoon. It was a group of women that would prepare the hot lunch. I remember it fondly because the food we had at school was very different from the food my mother cooked. My mother's food was quite simple . . . like borsht.

Everyone would eat the hot lunch. I don't think it happened every day and I can't remember if we had to pay for it. But I do remember the butter. We had a cow and we would churn the butter. That was something my brother and I had to do. Often that butter would go rancid because there was no refrigeration and we didn't want to eat it. I remember our neighbour Mr. Campbell, he was a bachelor and we would go visit him because he would always give us a piece of bought bread and butter. He would slice the butter like cheese. That was the biggest treat going, especially after eating homemade butter, and the butter at the school was the same.

It was a real treat.

At Riverway East, we used to get a nickel from Mr. Feakes, our teacher. We had to wash blackboards and then go outside and hit the chalk brushes together to get the chalk out and then he would give us a nickel. We would go across the street and buy candy. And you would get a lot of candy for a nickel.

I really had a happy time at school. They were happy times.



Riverway East School, Div II - 1938
Helen Moysiuk, nee Silvanovicz (5th from left)

1912	1913	1914	1921	1922	1923	1925	1929	1936
- Alta Vista opened (named Nelson in 1913)	- Howard Avenue, Kingsway East, Schou, Second Street Community opened	- Duthie closed - Sperling opened	- Burnaby North opened	- Burnaby South (named Hugh M. Fraser Secondary 1940 - 1942), - Riverway West, - Seaforth opened	- Capitol Hill replaced Howard Avenue one-room school - Kitchener opened	- Kingway East closed - Windsor opened	- Stride Avenue Community opened	- First Burnaby School Inspector appointed

Celebrating

Fifty-one former Burnaby South Secondary School students died during World War II. To commemorate their memory, the school created a memorial site, located at the former site of the school and now named Burnaby South Memorial Park. There, three tennis courts and a cenotaph mark the memorial.

When Burnaby South Secondary School moved locations, the school erected a plaque in recognition and honour of those students who gave their lives in defence of their country.



After the Second World War, the city began to fill rapidly with a migration from the Prairies and young families settling down with land claims. The inspector's (equivalent to today's superintendent of schools) report in 1950 described Burnaby as "experiencing an unprecedented period of expansion with direct implications as to additional school accommodations." To accommodate the huge growth, the school district began constructing new schools, 18 in the 1950s, 11 in the 1960s and three in the 1970s. As well, the "grey buildings" which sprung up in the 1920s and '30s were demolished and the brown bungalow buildings were renovated.

The new Clinton School, built in 1948, became the prototype for all elementary schools. It featured classrooms on one level, eliminating dangerous stairs. The new secondary buildings were usually two-story stucco blocks. Wood-burning fireplaces were replaced with forced heating systems.

Student population in the district peaked in 1969 when the city's population was 120,200 and 29,565 students were enrolled in 50 schools.

Janet White, a former Burnaby school district student and teacher, and head of the Burnaby Retired Teachers Heritage Committee, spent 46 years learning or teaching in the system. She was in the first class that attended Cascades Heights Elementary, in the first class to go through Moscrop and had the distinction of being in the first class to graduate from Burnaby Central in 1960.

White believes the key to the district's success over the years has been that it never stopped growing with the community, continues to meet the needs of students and has been able to keep up with the technology explosion.

"I think Burnaby has always been an excellent district," said White, who taught home economics, French and physical education. "It always managed its funds really well and always had good leaders."

She said the introduction of programs, such as English as a Second Language, helped the district keep up with a huge immigration settlement to the area.

"It was quite progressive when I was teaching there," said White.



Burnaby South students take a lunch break in a crowded classroom



Above: Students from Clinton Elementary School
Below: A gym class at Nelson Avenue School



Did you know?

1951 . . . In March, 2,200 school children stayed home because of the flu.

Timeline sourced through the Burnaby School District historical records

1945	1947	1948	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
- Rosser opened	- Barnet School closed	- Clinton opened	- Alpha, Lochdale Community (Aubrey Street), Marlborough opened (Marlborough Street)	- McPherson Park opened	- Kingway West closed	- Cascade Heights (Smith Avenue), Riverside (Meadow Avenue), Suncrest, Westridge opened	- Brentwood Park opened (Delta Avenue), Lyndhurst replaced Hamilton Road	- Morley (Morley Street), Sussex opened (Irmin Street)	- Kensington, Moscrop opened - Fire at Alpha

Our Growth Years

Burnaby School District - Administration Office - 5325 Kincaid Street



The Burnaby School District's Administration Office is located at 5325 Kincaid Street. The building was originally built in 1958 to accommodate a growing district. In its early years, there were no surrounding residences, no church across the street and no paved road access. Now, even with a few additions throughout the years, this one-story office building has reached its capacity to house the district's administrative staff.



Did you know?

In 1969 . . . Enrolment in the Burnaby School District peaked at 29,718 with 40 elementary schools and 11 secondary schools. Kindergarten classes are added to the school program.

Ross Hepburn taught in Burnaby schools for more than 35 years. He shares a few memories about teaching during that time . . .

I went to senior matriculation (senior matric), also called Grade 13. One of the advantages of going to senior matric was it was local. It was close. It was in your high school. It was only \$75 so it was cheaper than going to UBC for first year.

It was very common to have Grade 13, go to normal school, which was a public school that trained teachers in a one-year program, go into the classroom and never achieve a university degree. It wasn't required in those days. Most teachers I would have had as a student never had a degree. I knew one Burnaby principal who never had high school graduation. He went into the service and then took a university preparation course. It was also quite common to have 18 and 19 year olds teaching in the classroom. I was only 20 when I started teaching.

I started teaching in 1953. I had Grade 6, 7, 8, 9 and I taught physical education. Gilmore had no gym at that time so we did everything outside. They were good kids, really good kids, and we had fun.

I taught at Gilmore, then Edmonds Junior High and then I went to Burnaby South in 1968. For 20 years at South, we only had Grades 11 and 12. It wasn't until 1987 when the Grade 8s came. The senior secondary was a unique place in the sense that you could treat the students more maturely. You didn't have many rules, really.

In the early days, we would have to turn in our registers to the principal for him to check. We had to turn in our lesson plans. We had to turn in our lesson outlines. It was all done by hand. We didn't have computers.

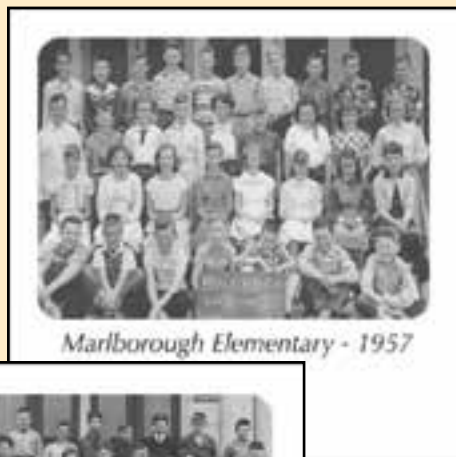
I was always interested in sports. As a teacher, I coached a lot and sponsored different groups. I was a (teacher sponsor) at dances. Our dances had lots of activities, like spot dances. They were all on Friday nights. We used to call them mixers and have live bands.

I think today there's more pressure on the kids. There wasn't as much pressure on students back then as there is today. A lot of students left school and went into apprenticeships. That was very common. You could get into the police force in Grade 10. You could get into the fire department in Grade 10. A lot of students didn't stay in school.

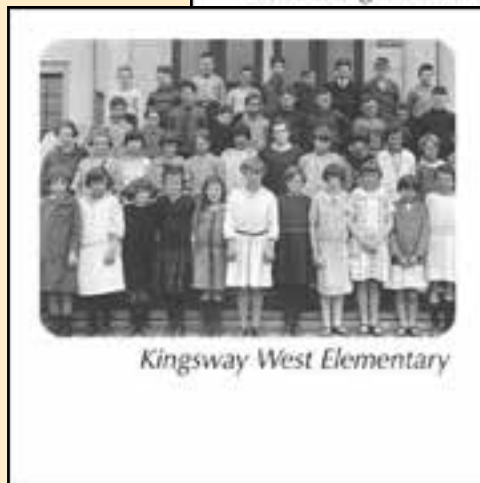
If you look at the grad classes of the '40s, they would represent maybe about 30 per cent of adolescents in the community. The rest were working. Why go to school when you could work? I had 44 classmates in my Grade 8 homeroom and only 6 of us graduated high school. That's the way it was. It wasn't until the '50s that schools retained students longer because different programs were brought in.

But, today, of course, students stay in school because getting a good education is essential in today's competitive marketplace.

Top left: Burnaby School District Administration Office prior to the move in 1958
Top: An aerial view of the current Burnaby School District Office location



Marlborough Elementary - 1957



Kingsway West Elementary

1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
- Burnaby Central (Canada Way), - Lakeview (Mayfield Avenue), - Twelfth Avenue opened (12 th Avenue)	- Aubrey opened (Stratford Avenue)	- Parkcrest opened (Halifax Street)	- Burnaby Heights (Willingdon Avenue), - Cariboo Hill opened (16 th Avenue)	- Buckingham (Buckingham Avenue), - Maywood opened (Imperial Street)	- Chaffey-Burke opened (Sardis Street)	- Fire at Alpha	- Brantford (Brantford Avenue), - Confederation Park (Pandora Street), - Cameron opened (Erickson Drive)	- Gilpin (Eglington Street), - Royal Oak opened

Celebrating



Dr. Elmer Froese: A Visionary in Education

By Grade 3, Elmer Froese knew he wanted to be a teacher. What he didn't know was that realization would mark the earliest beginnings of a 39-year career in education.

Froese, referred to as one of Canada's most eminent educators, spent 23 years as the Superintendent of the Burnaby School District. At the time of his retirement in 1996, he was the longest-serving Superintendent in the province, as well as, one of the longest serving superintendents in the country.

The man who served such a remarkable term and helped shape Burnaby's public school system came from humble beginnings. Other than his book-loving family, his exposure to education began in a Saskatchewan one-room schoolhouse that housed 57 students in 10 different grades and only one teacher.

From there, he delved deeper into a career in education. He completed an arts degree at the University of Saskatchewan and later, graduated as the "Most Distinguished Graduate Student with a Doctorate in Education," with a Masters in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Houston in Texas. Along the way, he taught and was a school administrator in Saskatchewan.

In 1973, he joined the Burnaby School District as the district's first locally-appointed Superintendent. For the next two decades, Froese was responsible for the overall operation of the district and its future development. Just a few of his achievements in this position included guiding the district through severe enrolment decline, reorganizing the district's secondary school system into the Grade 8 – 12 format and opening the Schou Education Centre as a staff development centre.

Through his career in Burnaby, Froese earned numerous awards and accolades including an honorary life membership in the Canadian Education Association, a lifetime achievement award from the Burnaby Chamber of Commerce, an award for Outstanding Efforts and Commitment to New Generations from Rotary International and the BC School Superintendents Association's (BCSSA) highest honour of a Distinguished Service Award.

Who knew all that would come from a Grade 3 student who dreamed of being a teacher?

Did you know?

Three former School Trustees have been elected as local Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) for Burnaby - Eileen Dailly, Pietro Calendino and Barry Jones. Eileen Dailly was appointed Minister of Education and Deputy Premier during her term.

Board Chairs

We are fortunate in Burnaby to live in a community that has valued quality education and has a proud tradition of supporting public schools. At each municipal election, which is now held every three years, community members come forward to serve a term as trustee on the school board. In this capacity, these involved people have helped guide and shape the Burnaby School District over the past 100 years.

Mr. D. Ross	1906 – 1908	Mr. G. Grant	1925
Mr. N. Smith	1909	Mr. C. Harper	1926
Mr. T. Mayne	1909 – 1912	Mr. R. Baxter	1927
Mr. W. Coulter	1913 – 1914	Mr. H. Stanley	1928
Mr. J. Russell	1915	Mr. G. Grant	1929
Mr. J. Murray	1916 – 1917	Mr. J. Dickson	1930
Mr. W. Coulter	1918 – 1919	Mr. H. Stanley	1931 – 1932
Mr. W. Dingle	1920	• Commissioner J. Bennett	1933
Mr. G. Grant	1921 – 1922	• Commissioner H. Fraser	1934 – 1940
Mr. H. Swann	1923	• Acting Commissioner R. Bolton	1941
Mr. J. Dickson	1924	• Commissioner B. Bracewell	1942

- There was a brief period of time in the '30s when the Burnaby School District was operating on a deficit budget and the province stepped in with a commissioner to govern the district. One of these commissioners, Hugh Fraser, renamed Burnaby South Secondary School after himself (Hugh M. Fraser Secondary School) during his tenure. Once the Burnaby School District was once again viable, the name was changed back to Burnaby South Secondary School

Mr. J. Dickson	1943 – 1944	Mrs. W. McKee-Wilson	1963
Mr. G. Ladner	1945 – 1946	Mrs. E. Dailly	1964
Mr. W. Grieve	1947	Mr. J. Daly	1965
Mrs. E. Wilson	1948	Mrs. E. Dailly	1966
Mr. T. Goode	1949	Mr. W. Burke	1967
Mr. W. Grieve	1950 – 1953	Mr. C. Murnane	1968
Mr. E. Crampton	1954	Mr. J. Daly	1969
Mr. W. Maxwell	1955	Mr. J. Fleming	1970
Mr. H. Salisbury	1956	Mr. J. Chalk	1971
Mr. S. Noble	1957	Mr. J. Daly	1972
Mr. J. Mason	1958	Mrs. J. Johnson	1973
Mrs. W. McKee-Wilson	1959	Mrs. B. Clark	1974
Mrs. E. Dailly	1960	Mr. C. Murnane	1975
Mr. J. Daly	1961	Mr. G. Begin	1976
Dr. L. Beamish	1962	Mr. B. Jones	1977

- Elections changed to biennial elections in 1977

Mr. B. Jones	1978	Mrs. S. Carroll	1986
Mr. G. Begin	1979 – 1983	Ms. C. Jones	1987 – 1988
Mr. B. Jones	1984 – 1985		

- Elections changed to every three years beginning with the November 1987 elections.

Mrs. D. Caddell	1989 – 1990	Ms. C. Jones	1998 – 1999
Mr. R. Burton	1991 – 1992	Mrs. A. Smith	2000 – 2001
Mr. P. Calendino	1993 – 1994	Ms. M. Redman	2002 – 2005
Ms. C. Jones	1995	Mr. R. Burton	2006 – Present
Mr. R. Burton	1996 – 1997		

Superintendents of Schools

The Burnaby School District is fortunate to have had leaders who had vision and foresight. Leaders come from several places within the district, but none more so than the position of Superintendent of Schools.

Clifton G. Brown	1936 – 1953
C.J. Fredrickson	1954 – 1962

- In 1958, the title of the position was changed from Municipal Inspector of Schools to District Superintendent of Schools.

Chris Taylor	1962 – 1968
Clarence Rendle	1968 – 1973
Dr. Elmer Froese	1973 – 1996

- Dr. Elmer Froese is the first locally appointed Superintendent of Schools. Prior to 1973, the Ministry of Education appointed all Superintendents.

George Miller	1996 – 1999
Henry Kojima	1999 – 2000
Sheila Rooney	2000 – Present



Sheila Rooney

Our Leadership



Commerce class, Burnaby South Secondary School - 1950

In 1987, the Burnaby School District initiated a district-wide program to restructure its secondary schools. This restructuring involved the re-organization of the secondary school system and an aggressive move into the application of modern computer and communication technology.

A program was initiated to explore and implement a variety of technology-based programs at Burnaby's Cariboo Hill Secondary School, in order to establish and refine systems and practices that could be applied throughout the school district. Research and development, led at the school level, laid the basis for the technological features, which would be

central to Burnaby's new hi-tech high school.

The original Burnaby South Secondary School, with its storied 70-year history, had essentially reached its limits in terms of capacity and renovation. Planning began for the creation of a new Burnaby South – one that would take education into the 21st Century and would make integrated use of technology in instruction based on systems and practices tested at Cariboo Hill.

As plans for the new Burnaby South evolved, the district saw the opportunity to put into practice many of the ideas being designed for the new school. The district focused its technology initiatives on Cariboo Hill secondary School, which was touted as the district's technology centre. Within this school, the district added four computer labs focusing on library services, business education, literacy and general purpose. All four labs were connected with an internal network. The implementation of these new features targeted Grade 8 students by providing ten hours from each of the core subject areas to focus on learning keyboarding and word processing skills. These advancements were not limited to student learning experiences, teachers also used technology to manage and record student marks and attendance.

With the planning and development of Burnaby South 2000 well underway, the Burnaby School District developed a series of seminars called "ThinkTech ThinkTanks". The three seminars invited professionals from around the world who were committed to education and technology to come together to stimulate creative thinking about education and planning for the future. "ThinkTech ThinkTank 1" examined and discussed emerging issues surrounding education, particularly partnerships and the use of technology. "ThinkTech ThinkTank 2" focused on architectural design, planning, partnerships and technology. "ThinkTech ThinkTank 3" focused on the application of communication technologies in an educational environment – teaching and learning in the educational village.

Coincidentally, the Burnaby School District entered into discussions with the provincial government to include the Provincial School for the Deaf in a public school setting, thereby creating an opportunity to extend technological innovation to the benefit of the province's deaf students. In 1993, the district opened four schools housed in two new facilities. Burnaby South, the district's newest high tech secondary school, is also the location for the Provincial School for the Deaf (secondary).

The concepts proposed for the new Burnaby South, and the innovations within, were developed with strong interest and support from corporate partners including IBM Canada, Telus, Dynacom and Creative Learning Systems. Staff, students and community members from throughout the Burnaby district played a major role in developing the innovative components of the school. Howard / Yano Architects took on the challenge of turning these futuristic ideas into a working, living "educational village".

At the same time, the district opened South Slope Elementary School, which also includes the Provincial School for the Deaf (elementary). Although environment and services differed at the elementary level from those described for secondary students, incorporating technology to enhance learning remained the same.

As the millennium approached, technology continued to increase in focus and importance in the development of the new schools scheduled for construction over the next few years. Two secondary schools, Burnaby Mountain and Byrne Creek, included technology at the core of the delivery of educational services and learning opportunities for students. Burnaby Mountain built on the success of blending technology and education that evolved out of Burnaby South.

The development and design of Byrne Creek moved education and technology into the 21st Century. Many of the advancements of this state-of-the-art school include multiple computer labs, a computerized library, wireless environment, video conferencing capabilities, and a dynamic Centre for Dialogue, which is a three-tiered, semi-circular meeting space modeled after the Wosk Centre in downtown Vancouver and designed to connect students to the world.

Today, technology and education partner to provide students with the optimum learning experience to prepare them for an ever-changing, fast-paced world. This standard in education began with the leadership and vision of the district and a school called Burnaby South, which opened in 1922 and was reborn in 1993 as the school of the future.

A Reflection: From Slide Rule to Wireless Environment

In 1962, a fresh-faced student walked into Cariboo Hill Secondary School and began his 46-year history with the Burnaby School District. As a Grade 9 student, Mike Greenway focused on memorizing his timetable and getting familiar with his new school. Little did he know, he would return to the district 10 years later as teacher and retire as a principal in 2006.

During his time as a student in the 1950s and '60s, as a teacher in the 1970s, and through his tenure as a high school administrator from the late '80s to his retirement, Greenway has seen huge changes in education. As a math teacher, he began teaching with a slide rule. "My first calculator, I bought on sale at The Bay for \$99.99 and all it did was multiply, add, divide and subtract," he said.

Greenway said the huge wave of technology brought on by the computer age was merely a ripple in the '70s.

"The impact of computers in the '70s was very minimal. As we moved into the '80s, computers became an important part of education," he recalled. And, he added, it's not just computers that have had an impact on education over the past decade. The whole field of technology has transformed the classroom and the learning experience.

Byrne Creek Secondary School, Burnaby's newest secondary school and the last school at which Greenway was principal before retiring, was built as a wireless environment and laptops for students can be found in the classrooms. Teachers at Byrne Creek regularly use video conferencing as an educational tool to bring noteworthy people into the classroom via video feed. Another computer program allows teachers to pick and choose the video clips they want to download from the Internet so they can examine a section of history in a smaller context.

"It's (technology) really changed how we teach and how we learn," said Greenway. "We've come a long way since slide rules. To me, it's been an explosion of information and technology."

Greenway commends the school district for supporting schools and maintaining technical opportunities for students. "These are not cheap (laptops, wireless environments) and you have to make a decision and prioritize what's important to the students," he said, "and not all school districts are able to do that."



Computer labs, Byrne Creek Secondary School

Did you know?

In 1981, there were three computers in the entire school district. That number jumped to 260 in 1984 and now there are computers in almost every classroom.

Celebrating



In the fall of 1969 the Burnaby school population hit its peak. There were 29,449 students, including 1,900 kindergarten students, 16,264 students in Grades 1-7 and 11,273 Grades 8-12. At the time, the district boasted 50 schools, including 39 elementary and 11 secondary. There were also 1,232 teachers.

By 1975, the total number of students had dropped to 25,199, a decline of 4,250 from its peak years of 1969-70. Hardest hit was Grades 1-7, which saw a decline of 3,662 students in six years.

To complicate the declining enrolment situation, there was a shift in the student population from South Burnaby to North Burnaby.

In 1976, the school district and the City of Burnaby signed a partnership agreement for the establishment of a Community School program.

Community schools are regular elementary schools with special belief in, and emphasis on, the value of community involvement. It is a neighbourhood hub, a centre where students, staff, families, residents, agencies and local businesses work together to build a strong and caring community. It is a welcoming place where people find resources, ideas and friendship.

Community schools involve local residents in a variety of ways. Each designated community school has a community council with broad local representation. This council promotes the free exchange of ideas, identifies local needs, and participates in solving issues of local concern.

As a result of declining enrolment in the late 1970s, the district embarked on a "plan for adjustment" which led the district to consolidate junior and secondary school programs and, subsequently, closed a number of schools. Between 1979 and 1984, the School Board closed nine schools and reduced staff to meet provincial government restraint levels of funding. Schou Elementary was converted to a district resource and staff development centre in 1979. Duthie-Union closed in 1980, Glenwood and Sussex Elementary Schools closed in 1981, while Riverside and Riverway West Elementary Schools, Royal Oak and Burnaby Heights Junior Secondary Schools were closed in 1982. During this time, the school district also cut 14 per cent of its teaching staff, or 163 full-time positions, 10 per cent of school-based administration staff and 11 per cent of the district's non-teaching staff.

By September 1984, the school district had bottomed out at 17,648 students registered at 44 schools and a budget of \$57.8 million.

By 1990, the school district had students from 42 different language backgrounds and reached out to help the culturally diverse student population and special needs students with Heritage Language programs, a special education task force, new special education programs and multicultural workers and services. Enrolment was back on the rise after a 20-year slide. With 19,393 students enrolled from Kindergarten to Grade 12.

At this time, as well, the school district was preparing to move education into the 21st century with a "new" Burnaby South Secondary School, which was dubbed Burnaby's school of the future. The new Burnaby South opened in 1993 on the 24-acre former McPherson Park Junior Secondary School site. The school was designed to house 1,800 students from Grade 8 to 12 and also incorporated into its design the BC School for the Deaf. However, within a year, the enrolment exceeded 1800 students. This innovative facility was designed to reflect sensitivity to the environment, the use of advanced technology, a commitment to community use and full access for those with special needs. Simply put, it was designed as an educational facility for the 21st Century.

At the same time, the district opened South Slope Elementary School, which also includes the Provincial School for the Deaf (elementary). Like Burnaby South, this school focuses on bringing together deaf and hearing students in a public school setting. It is a school dedicated to quality education and the principle of inclusion, offering the latest in educational technology in a fully accessible environment designed for effective learning.

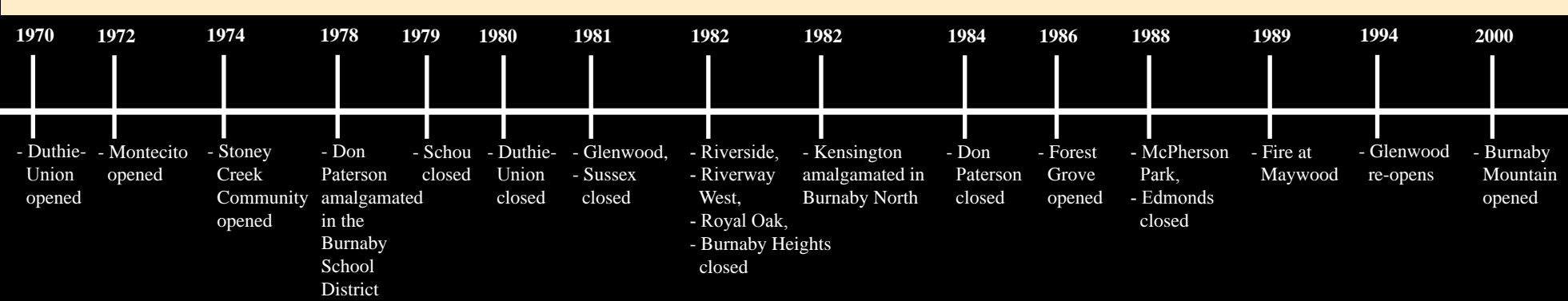
As the district entered the 21st Century, the city's population continued to grow and the need for additional schools became evident, specifically in the northeast and southeast sections of the city. In 2000, Burnaby Mountain Secondary School opened with a focus on community access, technology and environmental sensitivity.

In 2004, the district opened its newest elementary school. Taylor Park Elementary was built in the



Did you know?

Burnaby introduced its French Immersion Program at Aubrey Elementary School in 1977. The program was expanded to Morley Elementary in 1979. In 1984, the program was expanded to the secondary school level with a Grade 8 program at Moscrop. More than 540 students were enrolled in the program in 1984, and today 1,644 students are enrolled in French immersion in nine different schools.



Our Current Years

southeast corner on an old city landfill. By the design of this new school, it was evident that the design for elementary schools had traveled a far distance from the initial one-room schoolhouse, the grey buildings and the brown bungalows. Taylor Park consists of two pods of classrooms. Each pod has a covered inside courtyard, which is surrounded by classrooms. These unique pods are kept warm using solar heat as their primary source. The courtyards are wonderful areas for small assemblies and groups of students to gather throughout the day.

This open-space concept was also incorporated in the design of Byrne Creek Secondary School. This facility, which opened in 2005, is also located in the southeast section of the city. With the most advanced technology and school design available, Byrne Creek was built to accommodate several areas of focus ranging from arts to athletics. The school, with its dance studio, media arts computer lab, two gymnasiums, artificial turf field partnered with the City of Burnaby, as well as a unique Centre for Dialogue, offers students a depth and scope of opportunity to satisfy all interests.

Did you know?

- 1985 – Cable 10 starts providing regular coverage of the board meetings
- 1986 – The Burnaby School District goes smoke-free
- There are seven community school programs in Burnaby

Spotlight on Burnaby South Secondary School

In March of 1993, the Burnaby South 2000 Project was completed and the doors opened to the new Burnaby South Secondary School. It was a school for the new millennium.

The original Burnaby South Secondary School reached its limit in terms of capacity and renovation in 1987. Planning began on a new Burnaby South, which was to be housed on the old McPherson School site. The result was one of the most advanced educational facilities in the country.

The new Burnaby South signified a quantum leap in education design. Embracing the information age and technology, the school was designed to be a global village – an education village linked by communications and technology, fostering cooperation and growth. It was built to better address the educational needs of students by regarding technology as an indispensable skill in preparation for the new millennium. The new Burnaby South also incorporated a model of student-centred, student-driven learning and the realization that people with special needs – the deaf, the disabled, those with learning disabilities – are entitled to equal access and opportunity.

Upon completion of the \$34.5 million facility, the new Burnaby South Secondary School served about 1,500 students in Grades 8 – 12, hosted the Provincial School for the Deaf, and contained multimedia facilities.

The school also boasted:

- a unique fibre optic network serving the school's extensive educational and communications technology;
- video monitors, one in every classroom, common area and hallway, functioning as the school's information source;
- an educational village design with six distinct wings emanating from the school's central core;
- more than 300 computers, numerous multimedia facilities and technology labs;
- a 625-seat professional standard performing arts theatre, with state-of-the-art lighting and sound;
- a fitness centre that includes two large gymnasiums, dance studio, weight room and a 220-metre indoor running track; and
- a facility that is both power smart and environmentally friendly.



Phases of construction of Burnaby South Secondary School.



2004 2006

- Taylor Park opened

- Byrne Creek opened

Did you know?

In the 2002/2003 school year, the Burnaby School District established its International Program. In its inaugural year, 92 international students enrolled in the program. Today, the program enrolls over 450 students from 15 different countries.

Celebrating

Spotlight on Burnaby Mountain Secondary School



Burnaby Mountain Secondary School



Construction of Burnaby Mountain Secondary School

In response to the ever-increasing population in Burnaby's northeast area, plans to build a secondary school for the community were initiated in 1993. An intensive, six-year planning process resulted in a \$28-million facility—Burnaby Mountain Secondary School.

The new facility, which opened in 2000, focused on three main areas: environmentally-sound construction, advanced technology in the classroom and community access. In addition, the facility has the distinction of being the only Burnaby school to have a geo-thermal heating system, which lies under the playing field. The high priority on conserving and protecting the eco-system was also reflected in the school's focus on environmental studies and stewardship by staff and students.

The educational technology in the new facility included multimedia services, distance information access and computer-based instruction. Burnaby Mountain Secondary School was created as a green space. During its development, special attention was given to protect the adjacent creek tributary and additional tree planting was incorporated to stabilize and re-enforce the remaining forested areas around the school. The focus on the environment continued with the inclusion of an extensive storm water management and biofiltration system. The facility also has the distinction of being the only Burnaby school to have a geo-thermal heating system, which lies under the playing field. This high priority on conserving and protecting the eco-system includes environmental studies and stewardship by staff and students.

Technology was included in the new facility at the broadest level, including multimedia, distance information access and computer-based instruction. The school featured a comprehensive network and integrated technology system, which supports instructional programs and enhances the learning experience for students at the school.

The community-focus is also evident in the layout and interior design of the school, which accommodates both daytime and after-hours community access. The northern half of the building houses the academic core, which can be separated from the recreational facilities of the south end. This separation provides the opportunity for community groups to use the facilities and enhances a long and strong relationship between the school district and Burnaby Parks and Recreation.

Today, Burnaby Mountain Secondary continues to serve the community and provide a rich and broad learning experience for all of its students, as it was planned to do so when it was first contemplated in the early 90s.

Green Philosophy Built Up in Burnaby Schools

The Burnaby School District values the world of tomorrow. Not only does it prepare students for that changing and challenging future, but it is also helping to preserve the environment.

Since 1993 when the new Burnaby South Secondary School was built, the Burnaby School District has taken responsibility to minimize the ecological footprints of its new schools.

It all starts with the position of the building on the location site. Wind direction and speed, as well as sun orientation are measured to take maximum advantage of natural heating, lighting and ventilation. In the case of Taylor Park Elementary, the school was constructed on a former municipal landfill.

Burnaby's newest schools, which includes Burnaby Mountain Secondary, Taylor Park Elementary and Byrne Creek Secondary, also have the following green features:

- sharing the parking lot with the adjoining park to reduce concrete and asphalt (Taylor Park);
- keeping original trees and using turf and wildflowers around the schools (Taylor Park);
- using energy-efficient lighting systems with motion sensors;
- using heating, air-conditioning and energy control systems that respond to changes in outside temperatures and changes in traffic and use;
- incorporating motion-activated lights, taps and hand dryers in washrooms;
- harnessing all available natural light;
- incorporating double-glazed windows and extra insulation;
- using instant hot water dispensers at sinks to eliminate a central boiler (Taylor Park);
- making gas stoves standard in cooking labs (Burnaby South);
- utilizing on-site storm water detention (Burnaby Mountain)
- installing covenants on existing groves of trees at the tributary (Burnaby Mountain)
- filtering waste water; and
- utilizing a comprehensive recycling program (Burnaby South).

In all, the district has taken an innovative, cost-effective and environmentally-sensitive approach to building new schools that has set a new standard for B.C. schools. The latest Burnaby schools reflect a tangible commitment to environmental awareness and protection.

Change in curriculum is another response to growing environmental awareness. Automotives and woodworking are moving towards the computer-based study of transportation and fabrication. Science programs place a greater emphasis on micro-chemistry, with fewer chemicals and controlled emissions.



Taylor Park Elementary School

Taylor Park school design proceeds

An architect is expected to be chosen next week for the new Taylor Park elementary school and design work will then begin immediately. Burnaby school district treasurer Greg Frank said this week. The province has committed \$133,283 to pay for the design plan. Meanwhile, Burnaby school dis-

trict staff have met with city parks department staff to discuss whether joint planning opportunities may be possible. Another meeting will take place after the Taylor Park elementary architect has been selected. Frank said the purchase of the 20-acre Telus site at 6969 - 10th Ave. is now complete, with the school

district taking possession of the site, which is being cleared as it's vacated, phased in over the next nine months. The last parcel will be turned over by Jan. 1, 2001. The target date to open the long-awaited southeast secondary school on the site to ease overcrowding at Burnaby South is September 2002.

Our Current Years



Outside Byrne Creek Secondary School

Spotlight on Byrne Creek Secondary School

In September 2005, Byrne Creek Secondary School opened its doors to a new world of enhanced opportunities for students.

Just as Burnaby South Secondary School was once the school of the future when it opened in 1993, Burnaby's newest secondary school is the next step in school design and program opportunity.

More than four years in planning and construction, the creation of Byrne Creek Secondary entailed a thorough, comprehensive, consultative process centred on providing today's students with every opportunity for future success. The school boasts a number of unique architectural features, including 16-metre high atrium that form a bright, spacious student commons. In classrooms and other learning areas, fresh air and heat are circulated by way of an innovative, cost-efficient energy system. "Tilt up" construction ensures added safety in the event of an earthquake.

Byrne Creek features six computer labs in addition to a computerized library. Even more innovative, the school participates in a pilot program, which focuses on the use

of laptop computers in a wireless environment. Enhanced technical features in a wireless environment allow access to computers and computer-based resources such as Internet without being limited to specific locations and equipment. Two Apple computer labs support comprehensive Media Arts and Graphic Arts programs for students. The school also has two "superlabs", which are modern, large-scale Science laboratories equipped to accommodate two classes at a time.

Another feature of the school is the Centre for Dialogue, a three-tiered, semicircular meeting space equipped with drop-down screens, microphones, cameras and computer access. Ideally suited for videoconferencing, the Centre for Dialogue allows Byrne Creek students to participate in international presentations and global discussions.

A fine arts focus is evident by large art rooms, a two-story dance studio and a drama facility connected to the Centre of Dialogue. The school's Physical Education facilities are also impressive, including two regulation-sized gymnasiums and a state-of-the-art fitness area.

Technology. Fitness. Fine Arts. Applied Skills. Academics. Whatever the focus, Byrne Creek, with its innovative design, modern equipment and resources, and comprehensive programs, is a school designed to help students reach their full potential and be prepared for an ever-changing, fast-paced world.



Inside Byrne Creek Secondary School



State of the art facilities at Byrne Creek Secondary School include a science lab, a dance studio, and a gymnasium



Students work at a computer

Celebrating Our Future



Looking Forward . . .

As the Burnaby School District enters its second 100 years, the legacy of quality education and lifelong learning continues. In tribute to our rich history, we strive for a progressive public education system that meets the needs of all learners in our community. Thank you and congratulations to everyone who has left a positive imprint on public education in Burnaby. While the future is always unknown and uncertain, one thing will remain constant – Burnaby schools will always be Good Places to Learn.

The 2006 – 2008 Board of School Trustees
 Back row, left to right: Richard Lee, Ron Burton (Chair), Tony Coccia, Larry Hayes
 Front row, left to right: Kathy Corrigan (Vice-Chair), Diana Mumford, Helen Chang

