

Historical Memories

**A publication of interest to everyone interested in the history
of schooling in School District 57**

The following 6 pages are a 'taste' of Volume 1.

Page 4 lists all the contents in this edition.

Enjoy a quick look at what Prince George Retired
Teachers' Association Education Heritage Committee has created.

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School District No. 57 (Prince George)

Historical Memories

PEOPLE, PLACES, PROGRAMS & SERVICES



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Introduction

This is the first installment of a snapshot history of about 150 schools established in School District No. 57 (Prince George) over the last one hundred years.

This district's educational past is intricately interwoven with the access to forest and mineral resources provided by the Nechako and Fraser rivers and the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway. At the turn of the century, the early traders, trappers, loggers and miners began to establish communities to support their endeavours. As families migrated to these pioneer settlements, a need for schooling became evident. The first school built in the Prince George area was in South Fort George in 1910 and the first high school followed several years later. Giscome and McBride were the largest rural schools established during the 1920's along the line of the new Grand Trunk Pacific Railway east of Prince George.

World War II had a dramatic effect on the growth of northern school districts with an army camp established in Prince George and the building of a highway to Prince Rupert. In 1946, The Public Schools Act consolidated over 30 small rural school districts in our area to three large districts: Prince George, Quesnel and McBride. In Prince George, the student population increased from 100 in 1945 to over 3300 in 1958 and the district climbed from 27 schools in 1945 to 43 schools in 1955.

In the 1960's and 1970's, the school population doubled and tripled overnight as the pulp industry hit the central interior region. The district had difficulty keeping up with a neighbourhood school construction program to accommodate a bulging enrollment and the instant town of Mackenzie added its students to an already overtaxed system. The year 1968 saw the amalgamation of McBride School District into the Prince George District.

The 1980's and 1990's saw the district dealing with an era of budget restraint but also saw the development of alternative choices such as French immersion, Montessori, Aboriginal and Teen Mom programs. As small family sawmill operations were centralized and large corporations began to dominate the forest industry, many of the small rural schools were closed. Declining enrollment and shifting population continues to provide budget challenges as Prince George grows up.

In the 2000's, a university in the north has encouraged K-16 partnerships with colleges and school districts throughout the region. An educational undergraduate program at the University of Northern British Columbia is now training teachers, who will, it is hoped, stay in the north to become the educational pioneers of the next century.

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Paintings of Rural Schools

Beaverly School

Oil Painting by Alice Westra

The original Beaverly School was located on Muralt Road in East Beaverly off Highway 16 west of Prince George. Construction began in 1918 and was completed by the community in 1919. Miss Olive May Clark was the first teacher from January to June 1919.

Miss Boccock taught in the fall of 1920 but Miss L.T. Cowdell finished the year. The first teacher's desk was a gift from Mr. Geo. E. McLaughlin, manager of Northern Lumber Co. The building was used as a school from 1919-1925 and again from 1930-1947.

No enrollment data was sent to the Department of Education until 1946 when the school became part of School District No.57 (PrinceGeorge). In 1947, this building closed with 6students enrolled in Grades2-6.

The building still stands in a farmer's field in East Beaverly and is used for hay storage. In1966, a new school was built on the west side of Highway 16 on Western Road and is still operating under the same name. The students are bussed from East Beaverly to this school.

Edgewood Elementary

4440 Craig Drive, Prince George

1974 to Present



Edgewood Elementary 1980's
SD 57 Education Heritage Collection

MOTTO

Respect Yourself, Others and the Environment

HISTORY

Edgewood was built in 1976, during the school construction boom of the mid 1970's. It is located at the end of the Edgewood Terrace subdivision off North Nechako Road, in a park-like setting. The school is a modern building with 10 classrooms, a library and full-sized gymnasium. The grounds include two grass playing fields and playground equipment.

The school was originally named North Nechako II, in a 1973 referendum. The need for a new building originated from the overcrowding of North Nechako Elementary School. Edgewood staff and students attended North Nechako from 1974-1976, while their school was under construction.

PRINCIPALS

Don Reimer
Rick Manning
Ken Todd
Ron Smith
Donna Dojack
Lorraine Burns
Craig Brennan
Steve Fleck
Tim Yule



Edgewood Elementary Staff 1977
SD 57 Education Heritage Collection

ENROLLMENT

YEAR	GRADES	#
1976	K-7	206
1980	K-7	143
1985	K-7	104
1990	K-7	82
1995	K-7	75
2000	K-7	68
2005	K-7	198
2009	K-7	153

Source:
Public Schools Annual Report (s)



Edgewood Elementary Div. 2 Class 1985

SD 57 Education Heritage Collection

DEMOGRAPHICS

Enrollment figures have fluctuated widely from a high of 231 students in 2002 to a low of 68 students in 2001. The high enrollment resulted from the influx of North Nechako Elementary school students, when that school closed in 2002.



Edge of Nukkolakewood Kids Council 1994-1995

SD 57 Education Heritage Collection

Students living in the Edgewood subdivision, North Meadow subdivision, and along North Nechako Road now attend this school.

Nukko Lake students were bussed to Edgewood in 1994-1995, when their school was under construction. The students renamed the school Edge of Nukkolakewood School during this time.