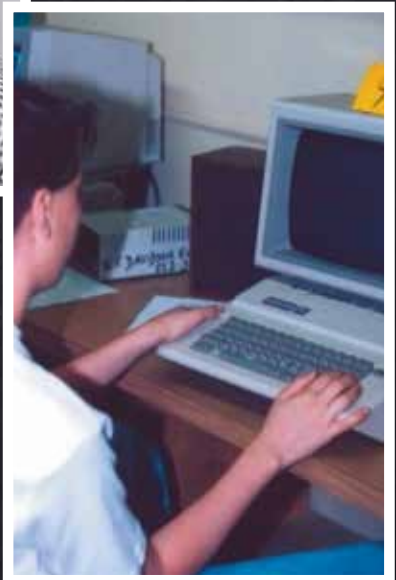
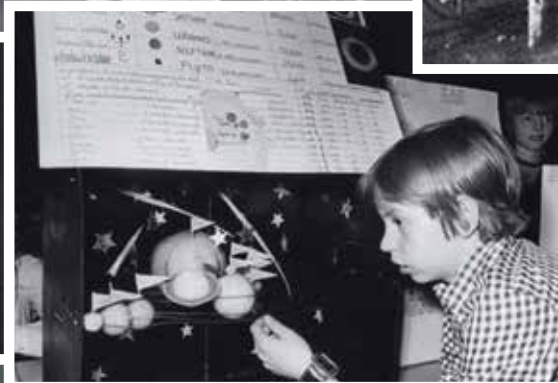
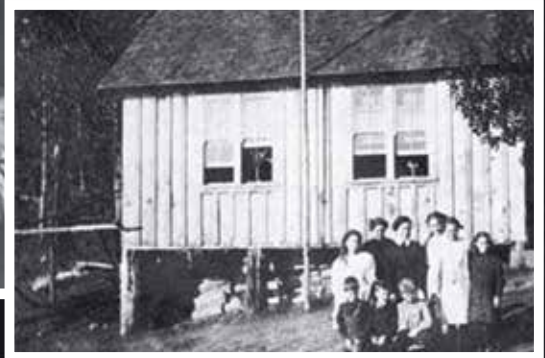


THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SURREY RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION  
1990-2020

# SNAPSHOTS

Memories of the Surrey School District





This is the year of anniversaries - the 30th anniversary for the Surrey Retired Teachers' Association and the 75th anniversary for the BCRTA. For three decades, the SRTA has been providing services to an ever-increasing membership. To highlight this milestone year, the Heritage Committee decided to undertake a special project about the history of the Surrey School District.

Due to COVID restrictions, information was gathered primarily by e-mail and phone conversations. SRTA members and others were contacted and provided recollections. We thank them for their contributions. They are named at the end of this document. Information received may have been adapted to fit our format and all original sources will be kept in our archives. We have tried to double-check our facts but, this proved to be difficult at times. We apologize for any errors and invite you to help us set the record straight.

We have come to appreciate the significant contributions made by individuals and groups to the development of the largest school district in British Columbia. The district's history is long and many changes have occurred over the years. We hope that these memory "Snapshots" will form the beginning of the heritage portion of the SRTA's website. The intent is that information will be added and that "Snapshots" will continue to grow and provide a portrait of the Surrey School District's history.

We would like to acknowledge the assistance we have had in producing this document. Our thanks to the Surrey Historical Society for use of information from their website and to Stacey Gilkinson at the Surrey Archives for her assistance, guidance and resources. We'd also like to thank the SRTA for their support throughout this project. And, a special thank you to Kirsty Senior for doing an excellent job with the graphics.

We hope you enjoy "Snapshots".

**SRTA Heritage Committee:**

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July, 2021

*\*Cover photos courtesy of Surrey Archives, B. Deeter, District #36, BCTF*

## THE SURREY RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION... BEGINNINGS

The beginnings of our association can be traced to a meeting which occurred in 1982 when representatives from Surrey, Langley, and Delta met to create an organization to represent retired teachers in their districts. The meeting was held at the old STA building on 62nd Ave. and 136th St. with Leo Murray as the first president. Luncheons, travel opportunities, guest speakers, and fundraising for bursaries for students were activities offered to members. As the membership grew, it was felt that services to retirees and the management of the bursary fund could be done more effectively by the individual districts and so it was agreed that each would become an independent branch.

The inaugural meeting of the Surrey Retired Teachers' Association was held in September 1990 with Rita Hansford as president and Barry Dack as vice-president. In attendance were



nineteen charter members who formed the core of the association's 164 members. Since then, successive executives have worked to provide services such as newsletters, workshops, heritage, brunches, luncheons and sunshine service to its members. Liaising with the school district, the community and other seniors' groups has also become a focus. The SRTA continues to grow and in 2021 has a membership of about 1040 retirees.

*Rita Hansford, President, and Doris Hahn, Membership Chair - members of the first SRTA Executive  
Photo courtesy of The Trudy Rutherford Collection*

## THE SRTA BURSARY FOUNDATION

In the same year that the Surrey Teachers' Association was formed (1990), a bursary committee was struck consisting of members of the executive. After considerable work, a foundation was established to provide bursaries for Surrey secondary students wishing to become teachers. Funds were collected through donations, fundraisers, and casino nights. For about a decade, the SRTA Bursary Foundation Committee awarded dozens of scholarships to worthy students. In 2003, it was decided to work with the Surrey Foundation to manage the bursary funds. The interest generated by the investment made all those years ago in the Surrey Foundation (now Surrey Cares) account, as well as donations by individuals, continues to provide funding for bursaries each year.



# Surrey School District Timeline

## 1800s to 1920s

- 1882** - first school opened in Clover Valley with 12 students and Miss Martha Jane Norris as teacher
- 1882-1905** - each school constituted as its own district
- 1906 (March)** - Surrey School District established with 11 schools; 11 teachers; 300 students and an elected Board of School Trustees with 5 members
- 1906-1949** - school board offices located in the Municipal Hall in Cloverdale
- 1912** - Surrey's first high school class taught at Cloverdale Public School
- 1917** - BCTF formed
- 1919** - Victoria teachers strike over salaries: first teachers' strike in the British Commonwealth
- 1920** - 20 schools; 937 students
- 1922** - students bused to new Cloverdale High School
- 1922** - first night school opened in White Rock
- 1928** - King George V's picture to be displayed in all classrooms

## 1930s to 1950s

- 1930s** - 430 students; overcrowding at the high school
- 1940** - Queen Elizabeth and Semiahmoo High Schools built; Surrey High School renamed Lord Tweedsmuir
- 1941** - teachers in Surrey designated a union of professionals with William Davidson and F. McKinnon as presidents. The Surrey Teachers' Association included classroom teachers and principals.
- 1942** - huge population increase; 15,302 residents
- 1943** - first District Inspector of Schools, K.B. Woodward, appointed
- 1946** - The Surrey School District #36 as it is presently constituted established and included White Rock schools.
- 1948** - 35 schools; 5000 students
- 1940s** - Ruhamah Utendale, first female elementary principal appointed. She was also the first Black educator in district.
- 1949** - board offices moved to the Agricultural Building at Surrey Centre; North Surrey High School opened
- 1953** - 39 schools; 8,069 students; 246 teachers
- 1956** - portable classrooms in use
- 1959** - 55 schools; 15,220 students; 469 teachers
- 1950s (late)** - blacklisting of Surrey district ended; many teachers hired

## 1960s

- 1960s** - grade seven transferred to elementary school from secondary
- 1960s** - district reading programs established with itinerant reading teachers; introduction of school psychologists and speech therapists; later speech language pathologists
- 1965** - school board offices moved to the site of the Municipal Hall at #10 Highway and 144 Street
- 1969** - Learning and Working Conditions contract signed
- 1969** - district-wide screening of grade one students (Slingerland tests) to identify those with learning difficulties

## 1970s

- 1970s** - half-day kindergarten classes now part of the Surrey school system
- 1970s (early)** - district's first two ESL classes offered at Green Timbers and Cedar Hills Elementary - children bused
- 1970s (early)** - district's first elementary schools track meets held
- 1970s (mid)** - classes for gifted education for elementary introduced in satellite schools, gradually become school enrichment programs
- 1970s** - elementary science fairs introduced and expanded
- 1970s (mid)** - Core Music Program began at Mary Jane Shannon Elementary, program expanded to the district
- 1970s** - first Helping Teachers hired for core subject areas;
- 1970s** - French immersion classes implemented
- 1971** - provincial strike; teachers withdraw services over pensions
- 1974** - class size dispute; Surrey teacher walk-out and protest march on Victoria; resulted in a reduction of class sizes
- 1977** - CARE program introduced to address the problem of child abuse
- 1978** - 79 schools
- 1978** - District #36 Parent Advisory Council was established; school PTAs (Parent Teacher Associations) became PACs with a strong voice in school and district decisions
- 1970s** - Educator Leadership Programs began; expanded in the late 1980s
- 1970s** - Family Life, sex education program piloted; controversial
- 1970s (late)** - district PE department expanded with dance and other options provided
- 1970s (late)** - Core Primary Music and band programs in all elementary schools
- 1970s** - local curriculum development projects involving teams of elementary teachers; learning resources created and shared throughout district, province and beyond

## 1980s

**1980** - daily P.E. mandated by the School Board; still practiced in many Surrey schools today

**1980** - International Baccalaureate (IB) Program began at Semiahmoo Secondary

**1980** - Secondary Enrichment expanded with teachers of advanced placement courses, performing arts and artist programs

**1980** - class sizes regulated for the first time; Kindergarten classes not to exceed 20 pupils

**1980s** - district reading program evolved into Learning Assistance for reading, writing, math and ESL

**1980s (early)** - smoking banned in schools and eventually on school grounds

**1983** - 32,000 students

**1983** - Solidarity Coalition and Operation Solidarity formed in protest over stripped contracts

**1984** - Research and Evaluation Department began; "research for and by teachers" with the regular publication of the journal, "Research Forum"

**1984** - Surrey Teachers' Association became a local of the BC Teachers' Federation

**1985** - BCTF launched challenge against government violation of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms

**1980s (mid)** - computers arrived; secondary schools began computer laboratories and elementary schools used district sets of machines

**1987** - Bills 19 & 20 gave teachers bargaining rights; right to strike; mandatory membership in the BCTF removed; principals and vice-principals leave BCTF; College of Teachers established

**1988 (Jan.)** - BC Principals' and Vice Principals' Association formed and Surrey Branch began

**1988** - first full scope local bargaining led to 32 strikes, 3 lockouts; Surrey and Vancouver ordered back to work

**1980s** - leadership and enrichment programs accelerated; Anniedale Heritage School; speech meets; student councils; multicultural days; music and dance festivals; student safety fairs

**1988** - Sullivan Report set in motion years of change with a learner-centred approach to teaching; a brief period of dual-entry for kindergarten and decades of change with the "Year 2000: Framework for Learning"

**1989** - 40,300 students; 297 portables

## 1990s

**1990** - Surrey Retired Teachers' Association formed after ending initial union in 1982 with Delta, and Langley; SRTA Bursary Foundation established

**1990s** - Surrey District Gymnastics Team provincial champions 1989, 1991, 1992

**1990s** - massive school-wide instructional changes with the implementation of Year 2000, first with primary, then intermediate grades

**1990s** - secondary schools restructured; junior secondary schools became full secondaries and enrolled grades 8 to 12

**1990s** - Task Force meetings held involving hundreds of Surrey educators to assist in better communication with the Minister and neighbouring districts as well as to assist with the implementation of programs

**1990-92** - Program of Choice - French Immersion program expanded widely; different language instruction offered, e.g. Punjabi

**1990s** - Distance Education started; computer instruction expanded

**1990s** - grants from the Ministry allowed expansion of initiatives in many subject areas; specialized teachers hired and in-depth inservice for teachers offered

**1994** - continuation of contract terms and conditions negotiated locally; numerous school districts amalgamated; improvements in class size for primary and staffing ratios for nonenrolling teachers

**1999** - 56,312 students including 11,000 ESL; 388 portables; Surrey student population exceeded Vancouver School District

## 2000 to 2021

**2001** - bargaining rights reduced; first province-wide strike vote; limited job action

**2002** - collective agreement stripped; teachers withdrew from voluntary activities; one day province walkout

**2004** - BC Supreme Court ruled process used by government to strip provisions invalid; new legislation removed all collective agreement provisions

**2005** - Phase 1 of job action; Bill 12 imposed a collective agreement; vote for province-wide strike and teachers defied return to work order; strike fund frozen; Vince Ready mediated; teachers reluctantly returned to work

**2004-05** - twenty-four teacher teams conducted self-designed, district-funded action research projects - an innovative investigative approach to improve learning and instruction

**2005-06** - operating budget for the district was 437 million dollars; the largest employer in Surrey with 7,100 employees including 4,300 teachers

**2006** - teachers voted for province-wide strike to back demand for fair salary increase; agreement reached with 19% salary increase over five years and \$4000 signing bonus

**2011** - Supreme Court of BC found Bills 27 & 28 violated teachers' charter rights; unconstitutional

**2012** - teachers strike for three days after limited job action and no bargaining progress

**2012** - 70,207 students; 288 portables; Surrey, the largest school district in the province

**2014** - government failed to fix constitutional violations; province-wide rotating strikes; BCPSEA initiated partial lockout; full-scale strike and BCPSEA imposed full-scale lockout for 26 working days

**2014 (September)** - six-year contract deal reached

**2015-16** - Surrey won the International Society for Technology in Education Award for the most innovative school district in North America - a Canadian first

**2016** - A landmark decision: The Supreme Court of Canada upheld the 2011 ruling that BC Liberals repeatedly violated teachers' charter rights when they passed unconstitutional legislation that stripped provisions on class size, class composition, specialist-teacher ratios, and guaranteed support for students with special needs

**2016** - school board offices moved to District Education Centre (DEC) at 14033 92nd Avenue

**2017** - full-day kindergarten began; many teachers hired

**2020** - 74,263 students; 400 portables; 11,760 employees including 6,394 teachers

**2019-2021** - COVID impacts the district including how instruction was delivered to students



# SOME OF SURREY'S EARLY SCHOOLS

## DISTRICT #36... THE BEGINNINGS

Soon after moving into the Clover Valley area, H.T. Thrift organized a group of settlers to petition the government in Victoria for a school. Word came back that enrolment numbers did not meet the requirements for a school building, but a teacher would be provided. A school board had to be formed and its first meeting was held on an old cedar log near what is now the corner of #10 Highway and 176th. Street. Three school trustees were elected and they got to work immediately. An old shack near the SW corner of 60th. Avenue and 176th. Street was repaired and furnished. Surrey's first school opened in 1882 with twelve students and Miss Martha Jane Norris as teacher. Enrolment in the Clover Valley area grew and, in the fall of 1883, the first government-funded school was approved. It was built farther east, near what is now the corner of 60th. Avenue and 180th. Street.

As the Surrey area attracted more settlers, more schools were needed. Each school was its own "district" and had three trustees. Most of the early schools were provided by or built by parents. Many of Surrey's pioneer children attended classes in old shacks, log cabins or in private homes until enrolment numbers met the government's requirements for funding for a school building.

In 1906, all the schools in the municipality joined together to form the Surrey School District. Five trustees were elected to the first Surrey School Board. At the time there were 11 schools, 11 teachers and 300 students. Today, there are 123 schools and 5 student learning centres, 6,300 teachers and more than 74,000 students.



The photo is of a cairn which commemorates Surrey's first school. It is located near Cloverdale Seniors' Centre. ↓

←  
The planning for a school begins... This article is from the British Columbian Newspaper. January 3, 1883.



Photos courtesy of Surrey Archives

The years these buildings were used as classrooms, as well as where the schools were located - with addresses in "current form" - are noted. Information about the history of Surrey's schools can be found at [www.surreyschools.ca](http://www.surreyschools.ca)



**MUD BAY SCHOOL**  
-1883-1920  
-King George Blvd. and 44th. Ave.  
-still in use as a residence

Photo courtesy of Surrey Historical Society



**HALL'S PRAIRIE ANNEX**  
-1892-1948  
-18035 - 8th. Ave.  
-moved to Hazelmere United Church  
- still used as the church hall

Photo courtesy of Surrey Historical Society

**EAST KENSINGTON**  
-1889-1923  
-2795 - 184th. St.

Photo courtesy of Surrey Historical Society



**ANNIEDALE (original one-room school)**  
-1891-1954  
-built on 96th. Ave. at 182nd. St.  
-1954: moved to 9744 - 176th. St. - used as a "living museum" mid 1970s-mid 1980s  
-2018: moved to Surrey Museum's "heritage campus"  
\*Anniedale has been closed twice due to pandemics. It closed for 2 months during the Spanish Flu outbreak, and it was closed to tours and visitors during the Covid 19 pandemic in the early 2020s.

Photo courtesy of Surrey Archives



**BROWNSVILLE**  
-1891-1904  
-10845 - 128th. St.

Photo courtesy of Surrey Archives



**JOHNSTON ROAD**  
-1906-1950  
-6816 - 152nd. St.

Photo courtesy of Surrey Archives



**WHITE ROCK**  
-1911-1914  
-14857 Buena Vista Ave.

Photo courtesy of Surrey Archives



Newspaper article from the British Columbian Newspaper. January 3, 1883. Courtesy of the Surrey Archives.



### CRESCENT SCHOOL

-1918-1994: reopened in 1996 and still in use as "Crescent Park Annex"  
-124th. St. and 24th. Ave.

\*One of two of Surrey's one-room schools that is on the original site.

*Photo courtesy of Surrey Historical Society*



**GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS**  
-1922-2006  
-17561 - 20th. Ave.

\*One of two of Surrey's one-room schools that is on the original site.

*Photo courtesy of Surrey Archives*

### WOODWARD'S HILL

-1924-1951

-Hwy. #10 and 146th. St.

*Photo courtesy of Surrey Archives*



## HERITAGE SCHOOLS

*There are 14 schools on the city of Surrey's "Heritage Register and Protected Sites". The names of the schools, and the year each was built, are listed below. All but Hall's Prairie Elementary School's south building are also on the "Canadian Register of Historic Places".*

- Clayton Elementary - 1921
- Cloverdale Elementary - 1921 (now Cloverdale Traditional School)
- Crescent Park Annex - 1918
- East Kensington - 1924
- Elgin School - 1921
- Grandview Heights Annex - 1922
- Hall's Prairie Elementary School (south building) - 1927
- Hazelmere United Church Hall (originally the Hall's Prairie School Annex) - 1898 (In 1948, it was sold and moved to the church grounds where it is still used as the church hall.)
- Kensington Prairie - 1914
- Mud Bay School House - 1883
- Old Anniedale School - 1891
- Port Kells Elementary School - 1907
- South Westminster School - 1914
- Tynehead Elementary School (west wing) - 1908

## "LOST" SCHOOLS

**Population growth or decline, increased traffic, aging facilities, fires... all have led to schools being closed, demolished, rebuilt or sold. Here are Surrey's "Lost" Schools:**

### Schools that "are no more":

- Bose Road
- Brownsville
- Clover Valley
- Fleetwood Elementary
- Grosvenor Road Elementary
- Johnston Road
- Margaret V. McKee School (Barnston Island)
- Scott Road Public School
- Surrey High School
- Surrey School
- West Whalley Junior High
- White Rock Junior High

### Schools that have been sold:

- Anniedale Elementary - now a private school
- Elgin (one-room) - now a pre-school
- General Montgomery - demolished/private school built on the site
- Hall's Prairie Annex - now a church hall
- Kensington Prairie - now a community centre
- Mud Bay School - now a private residence
- Port Mann - now a private school
- South Westminster - now a church
- Tynehead - now a private school
- Woodward's Hill - moved to Unwin Park/used as a hall for a number of years

### Schools that have been replaced (on original or different sites):

- Bridgeview
- Clayton
- Colebrook
- Earl Marriott
- Green Timbers (one-room)
- Harold Bishop

- Latimer Road
- Lord Tweedsmuir
- Newton Elementary
- North Surrey
- Princess Margaret
- Queen Elizabeth
- Semiahmoo
- Simon Cunningham
- Strawberry Hill
- Sunnyside
- Surrey Centre
- White Rock Elem.
- Wm. F. Davidson

### Schools that have been rebuilt and/or repurposed:

- Anniedale (One-room) Pioneer School - now part of Surrey Museum's "Heritage Campus"
- Cloverdale Junior High - now Martha Curie Elementary
- David Brankin - now Invergarry Adult Education Centre
- Johnston Heights Junior High - rebuilt/now Johnston Heights Secondary
- L.A. Matheson Junior High - now L.A. Matheson Secondary
- Len Shepherd Junior High - now Surrey Traditional School
- Mary Jane Shannon Junior High - renamed Guildford Park Secondary in 1977 to avoid clerical mix-ups with MJS Elem. which was next door / rebuilt as a Gr. 8-12 school in 1984
- Newton Junior High - rebuilt/now Panorama Ridge Secondary
- William Beagle Junior High - now David Brankin Elementary

### School buildings not in use:

- Grandview Heights
- Hall's Prairie



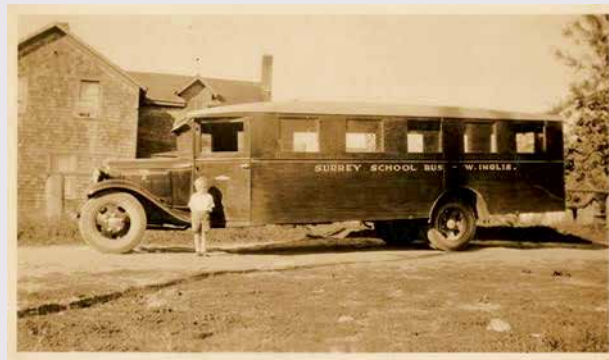
## Getting to School: The First Buses

During the 1920s and 30s, students from White Rock journeyed to Cloverdale to attend Surrey High School, today's Cloverdale Elementary. Initially, touring cars such as Studebakers and Buicks were used to transport students. One former student recalls being crowded into these vehicles with not much concern about safety.

Eventually, the first school bus appeared. It was constructed by affixing a wooden bus frame to a one-ton Chevy truck chassis. Students sat closely packed together on wooden benches which faced each other for the jostling, bumpy ride to and from school. As the student population grew, the school bus service was expanded. Some students used public transit which was available on a limited basis and for a nominal fee.



An early school bus in front of Surrey High School  
Photo courtesy of Surrey Archives



School bus service was provided by contract and a tendering process.  
Photo courtesy of Surrey Archives

## Teacher Education in the Early Days

Sam McDowell recalls attending Vancouver's Normal School from 1950 to 1951. That year, there were ten classes - three composed of men and seven of woman. Other Surrey educators who attended Normal School were Claude Burnell, Pete Kinvig, Don Murray, Dee Sihota and Eric Tongue. Often after high school graduation, prospective educators took senior matriculation (grade 13) and then one year of Normal School. They were then qualified to teach with an EB (Elementary Basic) Certificate. Years of night and summer school usually followed in order for them to achieve permanent status. Vancouver's Normal School remained in operation until 1956 when UBC became the centre for teacher education. Like many Surrey educators, Ruth Chelsom completed her teacher training year at UBC. In 1959, at the age of 18, she began her teaching career at A.H.P. Matthew Elementary. Many of Surrey's teachers and administrators travelled these career paths and were known for their dedication, skill and contributions to their students and their profession.



Photo courtesy of the City of Vancouver Archives

## SURREY'S FIRST INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS

In the early days of the school district, inspectors from Victoria were sent to gauge the quality of education in Surrey schools. By the 1940s, Surrey's student population had grown and a district-based administrator was required. In 1942, the school board announced they were creating such a position and the following year, K.B. Woodward became the first Inspector Of Schools for the Surrey School District. Since he was the



K.B. Woodward, Surrey's first Inspector Of Schools, 1956  
Photo courtesy of Surrey School District

lone administrator, his duties varied and included conducting inspections and writing reports, hiring teachers and appointing principals, doing demonstration lessons and even measuring shelving and washroom doors. K.B. Woodward believed in promoting writing and expected all intermediate teachers to assign weekly paragraph assignments and conduct regular spelling tests. Assistance for the inspector came in 1954 with the appointment of a District Supervisor. An elementary school was named in honour of K.B. Woodward, Surrey's pioneer school inspector.

## BETTY HUFF: AN HONOURED SURREY EDUCATOR

Betty Huff was a well-known educator who has been described as a legend in the Surrey School District. In 1922, she was among the first students to attend Grandview Heights one-room school. She returned to the same school in 1936 to begin her teaching career. Betty taught in a number of Surrey schools and eventually became Primary Supervisor. She served for many years in that role and was very highly regarded in Surrey and elsewhere. One of her major achievements was the introduction of kindergarten classes in Surrey schools. Betty wrote educational materials, volunteered her time and supported many organizations that promoted education, equality of opportunity, and improved health conditions throughout the world. After her retirement in 1974, her contributions to the district were recognized when an elementary school was named in her honour. Betty Huff Elementary remained a focus of her interest and support until her death in 2003.

-Adapted from Surrey-North Delta Leader and Vancouver Sun

Betty Huff (right) at a teachers' convention, North Surrey Secondary (1954)  
Photo courtesy of Surrey Archives



Betty Huff was a strong supporter of the school district and community endeavours.  
Photo courtesy of [www.surreyhistory.ca](http://www.surreyhistory.ca)





## WOMEN IN SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION... SOME FIRSTS

### Elementary:

The first female elementary principal and first Black educator in Surrey is thought to be Ruhamah Utendale. She started her teaching career in 1945 and became the principal of Port Mann Elementary. While at Port Mann, she recalled riding in a train engine during the flood of 1948 and hitching rides on a bread truck because there was no public transit to the school. She taught at Bridgeview, West Whalley, Anniedale, Senator Reid and General Montgomery and served as an administrator for 16 years. Ruhamah retired in 1975.

*Ruhamah Utendale at her retirement  
Photo courtesy of Surrey Archives*



*Photo of Beth Scott  
Photo and article courtesy  
of Maureen MacDonald*



### Secondary:

Beth Scott (formerly Leullier) has been identified as the first full-time female secondary principal in the Surrey School District. It is also believed that she was the first female secondary principal in the province. Beth began her career as a primary teacher and later taught at the secondary level as well. In 1975, she became principal of an elementary school and three years later, she was appointed principal of L.A. Matheson Junior Secondary. Following her principalships, Beth became Supervisor of the Arts and later, Supervisor of Secondary Education. She retired in 1986 and pursued a Doctorate in Education at UBC. Shortly after receiving her degree, Beth married George Scott. Together, they founded ACCES, "The African Canadian Continuing Education Society". ACCES continues to flourish, providing scholarships to underprivileged post-secondary Kenyan students. Over 3,000 post secondary students have graduated with ACCES scholarships and seven elementary schools have been constructed in Kakamaga, Kenya. In addition to managing ACCES, Beth published her inspiring memoir entitled, "Pinch Me" in 2009.

## Programs & Events

### **CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES CENTRE (CISC)**



In the late 1970s Bev Myers, Supervisor of Instruction, attended a conference in the U.S. and returned with the idea of opening a teachers' learning and work centre - "The Curriculum and Instructional Services Centre" (CISC). Bonnie Mackwood played an integral role in the establishment of CISC.

At various times, CISC was located at T. E. Scott, J. T. Brown and W. F. Davidson. These

centres housed the Helping Teachers and had some materials that could be borrowed. There was no space for large group meetings, so in-school demo-lessons for teachers were emphasized. Presentations were with Letraset and hand-made coloured overheads... no Powerpoint or computers!

In January 1982, CISC was moved to a warehouse at 7532-134A Street. This new location was large enough to house the Helping Teachers and support staff, and to host workshops and school Pro-D days. Teachers now had access to the pamphlet service, Science kits, novel sets, reference books, math materials, computers and a laminating machine. The Helping Teachers had responsibilities in all elementary curriculum areas, doing demo lessons and presenting workshops. At first, secondary teachers were not included as it was felt that they were subject specialists and had support from Department Heads. Eventually, services were expanded to include K to 12. CISC was closed around 1995 and resources were distributed to schools.

*CISC staff (1980s) Photo courtesy of Maureen MacDonald*

### **PRIMARY IDEAS FACTORY (PIF)**

Primary Supervisor, Vivian Weldon established PIF in the early 1980s as a place for Kindergarten and Grade 1 teachers to prepare and borrow materials. It was a friendly place to exchange ideas, have a cookie and coffee, and complete a "Make & Take". The big attraction was the laminator as few schools had the luxury of owning their own. PIF was housed in several different schools - including Old Yale Road, East Kensington, Strawberry Hill Annex and Newton Jr. Sec. - before being permanently housed at CISC.



## THE CORE MUSIC PROGRAM

The development of Surrey School District's Core Music program can be attributed to administrators, especially Supervisor of the Arts Beth Scott (Leullier), and a group of teachers who had a passion for music and wished to see a quality music program in elementary schools. Sandra Davies, a teacher at M.J. Shannon Elementary, spearheaded the development of the new program and was one of the first Core Music teachers along with Angus Stewart, Joyce Cherry and Gwen Murray. Through creative timetabling, preparation time was made available to teachers whose students received Core Music instruction. This program grew as funds were provided by the district and many qualified music teachers were hired. Instruction was offered in the Orff and Kodaly programs. In time, a Surrey Core Music curriculum was developed by a committee of teachers under the guidance of Music Helping Teacher, Gwen Murray. In-service was offered on a regular basis. School choirs flourished and music festivals evolved. From modest beginnings, the Core Music program grew and provided excellent music instruction. Today, music educators continue to provide quality music programs in Surrey's elementary schools.

-Submitted by Gwen Murray & Sandra Davies



The Betty Huff School Choir  
Photo courtesy of Surrey School District

## THE BAND PROGRAM

With the appointment of Pete Kinvig as the first Music Supervisor for the District in 1959, the development of music programs in secondary schools became a priority. That year, Don Murray was hired to start a concert band program at Johnston Heights Junior Secondary. He was the first band teacher in Surrey. Initially, he taught general music to the entire school and the band program was an extracurricular activity. Later, Band was incorporated into the school timetable. Don Murray also created the Surrey Schools' Concert Band formed with students from several high schools.



Johnston Heights Jr. Sec. Band - 1967

In 1967, the band program was extended to North Surrey Senior Secondary. Under Don Murray's direction, the program grew tremendously and involved one-third of the school. His concert band won many awards, both in Canada and internationally. In time, the band program expanded into other Surrey high schools. In addition to concert band, jazz band programs became very popular. In 1986, David Proznick became director of the music program at Semiahmoo Secondary and he built an award-winning jazz band program.



North Surrey Sr. Sec. Band in Innsbruck, Austria.

Today, band programs are part of the curriculum in all Surrey secondary schools and in Grade 7. They are taught by experienced and accomplished teachers following in the footsteps of early band directors Don Murray, Bob Labonte, Bob and Lorna Graham, Ted Gergley, Doug Doddington and Mike Griner.

-Submitted by Gwen Murray

Photos courtesy of Don Murray

## ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL)

Ralfe Sanchez, former Helping Teacher, spoke of the early days of ESL in the district...

Initially, ESL was under the umbrella of Special Education led by supervisor, George Greenaway, and later Elaine Friesen. Ralfe recalls that the first two classes were established in schools in the north end of the district in the 1970s and the ESL students were bused to those schools. As the ESL population grew, permanent ESL teachers were assigned to the high schools and four or five itinerant ESL teachers worked at the elementary level.

By the 1980s, continued rapid growth in the immigrant population and funding from the provincial and federal governments, led to the hiring of more Helping Teachers and the expanding of ESL services to schools. ESL became the responsibility of a District Principal in the Curriculum Department at CISC.

Due to the expanding demand for service, the ESL program continually evolved to meet the students' needs. Collaborative work with neighbouring school districts led to many innovative and instructional changes that impacted ESL programs not only in Surrey, but also in the province and elsewhere. Due to funding changes, by the 1990s, ESL and Learning Assistance programs were amalgamated and students in these programs were serviced by Learning Support Teams. This proved to be a controversial change but with time, English language instruction adapted and again evolved into a new partnership and service.

## PUBLIC SPEAKING - STUDENTS SPEAK OUT

In the early 1980s public speaking surged in elementary classrooms. With new skills and confidence, youngsters organized student councils, led assemblies, gave PA announcements, became peer leaders, and the list goes on. Dedicated teachers coached students to avoid the ho-hum oral report. Rather, they aimed to hook audiences with riveting openings and memorable endings. Young and old listeners gained from humorous, personal and persuasive presentations. In 1982, Tynehead Elementary students amazed television host and judge, Tony Parsons, with their captivating use of language. The range of topics included: The Brain, Ukraine, Capital Punishment, Drugs, Hockey, Smoking, Recycling, and one student closed an inspiring talk about Terry Fox with his words, "Anything is possible if you try, dreams are made possible if you try".

-Submitted by Maureen MacDonald



Tynehead Elementary (1982). TV host, Tony Parsons, signs speech certificate.

Photos courtesy of Maureen MacDonald



Drawing by Laronde student, Whitney Friesen. (1986)



## DISTRICT TRACK MEETS

Records show that unofficial elementary school track meets began in Surrey in 1969, organized by P.E. Helping Teacher Barry Morley. The first official elementary track meets began in the early 1970s. They were held after school hours over a few days in late May or early June. Barry Morley and Richard Manery co-ordinated the meets, Bruce Rutherford was the head timer and Graham Cooper served as starter. K.B. Woodward Elementary won the first meet.



*From humble beginnings in the 1960s, Surrey's district track meets have grown to some of the largest in Canada. Photo courtesy of Surrey Archives*

By 1974, there were separate track meets for large and small schools. Each was held over two afternoons and, that year involved thirty-four schools. A meet for medium-sized schools was soon added. In 1977, Barry Morley's wife, Diane, became head recorder and she continued in this role for over twenty-five years. After Barry's untimely death in 1995, Ross Davidson and Jim Bennest coordinated the track meets, assisted by volunteer teachers - both active and retired.

The Surrey School District's elementary track events are among the largest in Canada, involving about 5500 students from 97 elementary schools. An additional 1000 to 2000 students typically attend the practice mini-meets in the lead-up to the six official meets. The track meets are a legacy promoting skill development, fitness and healthy competitive spirit.

*-Adapted from information received from Ross Davidson*

## Secondary Gymnastics (1984-1994)

The teaching of gymnastics as an integral program for Physical Education at all levels had been the dream of Physical Education Supervisor, Norm Barton. This dream was realized when gymnastics became part of the curriculum for all Surrey schools. Because of Norm's leadership, Surrey's schools were well-supplied with gymnastics equipment. Donna VanSant, PE Helping Teacher, and the secondary PE department heads directed funding and support for gymnastics instruction. Through district transportation funding, secondary coaches and gymnasts were able to gather weekly at the Surrey Gymnastic Centre at Frank Hurt Secondary. Experienced coaches taught and trained other coaches, and stronger student gymnasts demonstrated and spotted younger aspiring gymnastics students. Instruction and performance improved greatly, translating into stronger gymnastics instruction for the rest of the district's PE teachers and students.

Coaches reported that they continued the weekly practice of meeting at Frank Hurt for many years and invited other interested teachers and students to participate. They offered coaching level training and teaching clinics. The program's success was demonstrated when the Surrey District Gymnastics Team won the Provincial Championships in 1989, 1991 and 1992.

Remembered coaches include: Rob Bourne, Anne-Marie Bourne, Brian Palmer, Val Beaupre, Diane MacDonald, Donna Cyr, Shirley Clements, Wendy Mackenzie, Diana Walker and Tomas Langar.

*-Adapted from information received from Robert Bourne*



*Frank Hurt Boys' Gymnastics Team - BC champions Photo courtesy of Robert Bourne*

## THE COUNSELLING PROGRAM IN SURREY... BEGINNINGS

Jung Lee, a former head of Student Services, joined the Surrey School District in 1967. He recalls that at the time, there were some student counselling services at the secondary level which were being provided mainly by P.E. teachers. However, there was no support in the elementary schools. To meet this need, in 1970 a training program was initiated for teachers and the first counsellor - Elaine Friesen - was hired. Teachers who were interested in counselling attended group sessions and were encouraged to pursue graduate studies in that area. Among these educators were Lyn Hagglund, Lorrie Geary, Dave Carmichael, Sandra Foley, Ruth Chelsom and Karyn Ruddick. After spending several years in the counselling department, Elaine moved into special education and eventually she became the director of that department. Over time, counselling services expanded and itinerant and permanent counsellors were assigned to all schools based on enrolment.



*Elaine Friesen, the first designated counsellor in the district. Photo courtesy of Vancouver Sun/Province*

## DISTRICT INITIATIVES

Surrey School District administration and teaching staff were encouraged to develop and implement programs to enhance and/or improve communication, academic achievement and social responsibility.

One of those initiatives was "Student Leadership" (2001). When discussions started, the possibility of having student leadership programs at every elementary school in the district seemed like a big dream. A committee was struck and after much planning, about 45 students from seven schools were invited to a training day at the conference centre. Sessions were led by committee members. A guest speaker from the Franklin Covey Leadership organization, along with students from the Richmond School District, spoke about their program. Surrey's student-delegates were excited about returning to their schools and implementing the new ideas and action plans. It was the beginning of something BIG.



Other district initiatives over the years included "Action Research", "Assessment Consortium", "Developing Readers", "Learning Commons: The Role of the Teacher-Librarian", "The Numeracy Project" and "The Role of the Helping Teacher".

*-Adapted from information received from Dr. Donna VanSant.*

*Student Leadership Training. -Photo courtesy of Donna VanSant*



## THE INTER-A PROGRAM

The Inter-A Program was developed at Len Shepherd Junior Secondary in 1982-1983 and was moved to Kwantlen Park Secondary in 2002. It was based on the ideas and philosophy of Dr. William Glasser and embodied the following basic tenets:

- 1) Cross-graded family groupings, ideally in groups of five.
  - 2) Team teaching - one lead and at least one support teacher.
  - 3) An emphasis on blending diverse subject areas.
  - 4) Community Service and Leadership Components
  - 5) Direct involvement of parents in the educational process, plus partnerships with community organizations, and businesses.
- Two major examples were The Fraser Valley Credit Union and The Canadian Coast Guard.

Inter-A was considered a district program and was expanded to include grades 7, 11 and 12. Recruiting was done by a group of cross-graded students who provided presentations to grade 7 classes. These students conducted the sessions and answered questions. Teachers were there only as drivers, and rarely were active participants. Trips, from fourteen-day leadership development on sailing vessels and yearly trips to Europe, as well as student drama productions, were integral parts of the program. Marks were posted regularly on spreadsheets and the use of computers was pioneered in the complex evaluation system. The Program had a ninety plus percent graduation rate and the students consistently scored above the Provincial average in all subject areas.

*-Adapted from information received from John Harper*

INTER-A students at work  
Photo courtesy of John Harper



## DISTRICT #36 (SURREY) PUBLISHING

In the 1970s and early 1980s some subject areas such as elementary Social Studies lacked suitable instructional materials. Carol Langford, Social Studies Helping Teacher, was tasked with leading teacher teams in designing classroom materials. Grade level teacher teams used their ingenuity and instructional knowledge to create units which they shared through districtwide inservice. Topics included Communities, The Haida, History of Canada, Pioneers, and Multiculturalism. Soon, learning resources were created for other subject areas such as Language Arts, French, Math and Science. Materials were distributed to schools and made available at the pamphlet service at CISC. They were shared throughout the province, including through the BCTF's Lesson Aids Service, and some across Canada. These resources were invaluable to busy classroom teachers who could modify lessons to meet the unique needs of their students.

A number of Surrey's curriculum designers became administrators, instructional leaders in their schools and/or professional writers of educational materials. Carol Langford eventually became general editor at Douglas & McIntyre Publishing Company where she oversaw the development of "Explorations", which became one of the prescribed elementary Social Studies series in B.C.

Courtesy of Alice Tiles



## CENTRAL LIBRARY

Central Library was likely opened not long after Mary Coggin became Supervisor of Library Services. Mary had advocated for the establishment of school libraries early in her career and, at her urging, they became district-wide. Under her guidance, Surrey's library program won the Encyclopaedia Britannica Foundation's Award of Excellence.

By 1970, Central Library was operating out of the old School District offices on #10 Highway. In the early 1980s, it was relocated to a building across the parking lot from CISC at 7542-134A Street.

Central Library housed materials that augmented school-based library collections. Resources supported curriculum areas and included books (eg. picture, fiction, non-fiction and teacher reference), filmstrips, records, films, and more. A film library delivery service was established and some AV equipment was available for short-term loans.



Any teacher in the district could borrow materials, but the most frequent users were Teacher-Librarians who visited regularly armed with requests from their staff members. An incidental perk was the chance meeting of other Teacher-Librarians, with brief exchanges of information and helpful tips.

Central Library was particularly useful for elementary schools - especially small elementary schools. Library budgets were allocated on a per pupil basis and, even with a small top-up for small schools, the budget couldn't begin to provide for the number and variety of materials needed.

Clerical staff, most notably Heather McLean, operated Central Library under the Supervisor of Libraries. The Library Helping Teacher's office was at Central Library. As programs and services changed, some due to budget cuts, the role of Library Helping Teacher was eliminated, Central Library was closed and its materials were distributed to schools.

*-Adapted from information received from Barbara Cooper, former Library Helping Teacher*

## FORESTRY PROGRAM

The Green Timbers Forestry Sciences program was going strong by 1981, but little is known about its origin. Some of the activities were identifying trees and plants and learning about the importance of the forest floor. The program was for Grade 7 students. Small schools sent students every other year and large



schools sent half of their students each year. As the district grew, and budgets shrank, the program was cut.

*-Adapted from information received from Burt Deeter*

ABOVE: A lesson in silviculture from teacher, Chris Zimich.  
LEFT: A class learns about protecting our forests from teacher, Wolf Laberge. Photos courtesy of Burt Deeter





## MONOLINGUALISM CAN BE CURED

Learning a second language (L2) has been a part of the Secondary School curriculum for a long time. The Bilingual and Bicultural Commission (1963-1969) and the Official Languages Act (1969) changed L2 education across Canada. French Immersion and Core French were the two curriculum models.

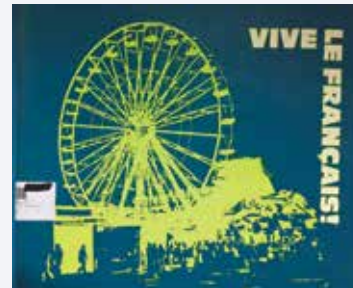
The Surrey French Department was created with partial funding from the federal government. Under the direction of Ann Golinsiky, and later Barbara Newman, after-school workshops and occasional weekend immersions were organized. Teachers could apply for funding to learn French at a Quebec university in the summer. "Hardware" (tape recorder, projector and screen) was offered to schools in exchange for their commitment to implement the voluntary EFSL program. The Vive le français! Program came with easy-to-follow teaching scripts and a language model on tape, so teachers didn't need to be fluent in French.

The National Core French Study (1990) established a new approach. The goal was no longer the mastery of grammar and vocabulary, but the teaching of language and culture. Assessment would be performative and holistic. The District French Department - a team of six Helping Teachers under the supervision of District Principal, Barbara Fudge - was established at the Curriculum and Instructional Services Centre (CISC). Core French and Immersion French resources were combined. The district mandated that EFSL would begin in grade five. Resources would be drawn from existing classroom materials, and teachers were supported with a series of instructional release days to attend workshops which focused on teaching the program. Workshops were scheduled every six weeks and went over the actual lessons to be taught in that period, thereby providing the non-specialist classroom teacher with the support needed to "stand alone".

*-Adapted from information received from Graham Mulligan*



**ABOVE:** Barbara Fudge, District Principal. Photo courtesy of Vancouver Sun/Province  
**BELOW:** French language teaching material. Photo courtesy of Surrey School District



*"The Solar System"*  
Photo courtesy of Surrey Archives



The District Science Fair began around 1967. It's unknown who started it, but perhaps it was Bev Myers. Prior to that schools likely were having their own Science Fairs. By 1975, the Science Fair Committee consisted of five members led by Bev Myers and Tom Ayres. Each committee member was responsible for one science category which meant meeting the participants, helping them to set up, fielding questions, etc. Committee members guided the judges around to ensure that no project was missed. Judges were tasked with selecting gold, silver and bronze winners for each category.

The committee later moved from this winner/loser system to a standards-based system... if a project merited a gold ribbon, it got a gold ribbon. By 1986, 95% of the elementary schools were sending one or more students to the District Science Fair which was held annually at Guildford Town Centre. It was the largest Science Fair for elementary students in Western Canada and probably in all of Canada. Slowly, the District Science Fair lost some of its momentum as schools tried other types of activities and Guildford Town Centre discontinued its sponsorship of the event.

*"How Does Your Heart Work?"*  
Photo courtesy of Burt Deeter



## MAINSTREAMING

The 1970s saw the beginning of mainstreaming, also called integration, where regular and special needs children were schooled together. Simon Cunningham on King George Blvd. (the Annex), George Greenaway, and Green Timbers were among the first schools to have special classes. The new Simon Cunningham on 140th. St. was opened in 1969 and housed the K-7 students from the catchment area as well as visual, hearing, physical, cognitive, and emotional/ behaviourally challenged students. It was likely the first school of its kind in western Canada.

The special classes were small with one or more assistants. Regular classes, often large, became even larger with the addition of mainstreamed students. There was a woodworking shop and a kitchen for teaching life skills. Many students were mainstreamed where and when appropriate. Mary Johnson taught the first mainstreamed physically-challenged kindergarten class in Surrey in 1980.

The older students remained at the Annex but it was not built to accommodate students with special needs. There is a rumour that some of the mature students were smoking and set the place on fire. It was decided to move the older students to Frank Hurt where a special mainstreaming program was developed by Morley Johnson. Younger students were relocated to the new Simon Cunningham.



*Students from Simon Cunningham participate in "Operation Track Shoes". Photos courtesy of Burt Deeter*

Students from many other school districts were bused to the Annex and Simon Cunningham. "The Variety Treatment Centre" next door provided physical therapy. The highlight of the year was the journey to the University of Victoria to participate in various sports at "Operation Track Shoes", an annual sports festival for British Columbia residents with developmental disabilities. Mainstreaming taught the students a great deal about equality and compassion.

*-Adapted from information received from Morley Johnson, Mary Johnson and Anne Simonson*





## COLLECTIVE BARGAINING - HIGHLIGHTS

*The Surrey Teachers' Association has always had union negotiators and presidents who inspired and guided us through many labour disputes. As you read through the following timeline think back to a few of them...Margie Willers, Moira MacKenzie, Peter Thompson, Brian Porter (negotiated Working and Learning agreement for Surrey, the first in BC), Kerry Gibbs, Karen Kilbride, Steward Schon, Lloyd Edwards, Ralph Sebastian, Lorraine Walsh, Peter Ellis, John Wadge, Kelly Shields, Wes Janzen, Bob Rosen and his guitar, Alice Zilber, David Chudnovsky... and so many others.*



Dec. 4, 1980. Surrey teachers march on Victoria. Photo courtesy of BCTF

- 1917** BCTF formed
- 1919** Victoria teachers strike over salaries
- 1969** Learning and Working Conditions contract signed
- 1971** Provincial teachers withdraw services over pensions
- 1974** Surrey teachers march on Victoria to protest class size
- 1983** Solidarity Coalition and Operation Solidarity formed in protest over stripped contracts.

**1985** BCTF launches challenge against government violation of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms

**1987** Bills 19 & 20 give teachers bargaining rights and right to strike; remove mandatory membership in the BCTF; remove principals and vice-principals from BCTF; College of Teachers established

**1988** First full scope local bargaining leads to 32 strikes, 3 lockouts; Surrey and Vancouver ordered back to work

**1994** Continuation of the terms and conditions negotiated locally; numerous school district amalgamated; improvements in class size for primary; staffing ratios for nonenrolling teachers

**2001** Bargaining rights reduced; first ever province-wide strike vote; limited job action begins

**2002** Collective agreement stripped; teachers withdraw voluntary activities; one day provincial walkout

**2004** BC Supreme Court rules process used by government to strip provisions invalid;

new legislation removes all collective agreement provisions

**2005** Phase 1 of job action; Bill 12 imposes a collective agreement; vote for province-wide strike and teachers defy return to work order; strike fund frozen; Vince Ready mediates; teachers reluctantly return to work

**2006** Teachers vote for province-wide strike to back demand for fair salary increase; 5-year agreement reached with 19% salary increase and \$4000 signing bonus

**2011** Supreme Court of BC finds Bills 27 & 28 unconstitutional

**2012** Teachers strike for three days after limited job action and no bargaining progress

**2014** Government has failed to fix constitutional violations; province-wide rotating strikes begin; BCPSEA initiates partial lock-out; full-scale strike begins and BCPSEA imposes full scale lock-out for 26 working days; September, 2014 six-year deal reached

**2016** In a landmark decision, the Supreme Court of Canada upholds a 2011 ruling that BC

Liberals repeatedly violated teachers' charter rights when they passed unconstitutional legislation that stripped provisions on class size, class competition, specialist-teacher ratios, and guaranteed support for students with special needs.



1983. Dan Blake (2nd. from right) at "Operation Solidarity" Photo courtesy of BCTF



1980. Bob Rosen (in blue jacket) in Victoria. Photo courtesy of BCTF

**N.B.** For detailed information of strikes, bargaining, collective agreements, photos, the Charter Challenge, Bills 19 & 20, the BC Supreme Court ruling, the BC Court of Appeal ruling, and the Supreme Court of Canada ruling go to:  
<https://bctf.ca/history/>  
<https://bctf.ca/history/rooms/bargaining.aspx>  
<https://www.surreyhistory.ca/schoolsto1900.html>  
<https://www.labourheritagecentre.ca/lloyd-edwards-leads-surrey-teachers-to-take-action-onclass-sizes-in-1974/>



# Memories



August 10, 1983, crowd of 30,000 unionized workers book off their jobs for the Operation Solidarity rally at Empire Stadium.

## OPERATION SOLIDARITY (1983)

In the summer of 1983, the newly-elected Social Credit Government under Bill Bennet introduced legislation that cut funding for core programs, cancelled many workers' rights and undermined the structure of school management. Many unions throughout the province, including the BCTF, joined forces under the banner of "Operation Solidarity".

In August, we gathered at a mass rally at Vancouver's Empire Stadium. It was a huge and impressive crowd - we were convinced we were going to make a difference! Outside in the crowd, I got talking with a fisherman standing nearby. We bemoaned the situation that brought us out, while celebrating that same situation for bringing us all together in such an impressive show of solidarity. And here is when (for me) the Strike's most memorable statement was expressed: "Yeah," he said. "You can't teach or fish with a bayonet up your ass."



The crowd was enthusiastic, united and responsive. We had high hopes that day, but the "settlement" of the strike engineered by Premier Bill Bennet and labour leader Jack Munro, left us feeling duped. The two of them closed a deal we had no say in, and the strike was over.

Although disappointed, I believe the strike was significant because we all worked together for the common good. Whether teaching or fishing, we need the right conditions to do our best work.

-Adapted from information received from Helen McFadden  
Photos courtesy of Henri Robideau (top) and BC Labour Heritage Centre

## MEMORIES OF THE ANNIEDALE PIONEER SCHOOL

One of my fondest memories as Helping Teacher is of the Anniedale Pioneer School. In the late 1970s the principal of Anniedale Elementary, Ken Fletcher, invited me to see the 1890s school that had recently been moved to his school site. I thought it would be a wonderful resource for Surrey students and with the help of Ken, George Hoffman (head of the parent group) and funding from the school district, the initiative was underway. Desks were collected and refurbished and supplies such as inkwells, straight pens, slate boards and pioneer readers were obtained. When the school was "program-ready", a celebration was held.



The exterior of the pioneer school as it appeared when used by Surrey students as an operating museum.



A mural based on the interior of the Anniedale Pioneer School painted by students of Sullivan Heights Secondary School.

The Pioneer School programs supported the Social Studies curriculum. Teachers and students from the district's grade 3 and 5 classes could spend half a day in the school "being pioneers". Most of the children came dressed as pioneers and, under direction of their teachers, experienced lessons that might have been taught at the turn of the century - penmanship, recitation, mental math and civics. "Pioneer Christmas" was an especially popular program. For about 10 years, many classes visited the school and 1000s of children participated.

Anniedale Elementary was decommissioned and interest in the pioneer school program decreased. Fortunately, the building had been declared a heritage site. The Surrey Historical Society and the City of Surrey raised the necessary funds to move the building to the Cloverdale museum site, where it will once again welcome Surrey students and the community.

-Submitted by Alice Tiles • Photos courtesy of Alice Tiles

## A VISIT TO THE PIONEER SCHOOL

The students and their teacher were encouraged to dress in pioneer clothes for their visit to the school. During their half-day in the class, students played with old-fashioned toys, wrote with slate pencils on little slate boards, practised cursive writing with ink and nibbed pens, and made paper crafts. There was a wood stove at the back of the class which was lit for use in the morning. We made hot chocolate on top of the stove, heating the milk in a kettle. Spending time in the pioneer school was such a memorable experience for students and teachers alike.



← Grades 3/4 from Dr. F.D. Sinclair attend Anniedale Pioneer School (about 1987).



→ This student was a really good sport to pose in a dunce cap for this photo.

-Adapted from information received from Lynn Swanson  
Photos courtesy of Lynn Swanson



## THE LONG WAY HOME!

*-Adapted from information received from Clara Penner*

General Montgomery was my first school after I moved with my family from Saskatchewan to Surrey. We lived near the Fraser River. It was a long walk up and down the hill to and from school, so the kids on Port Mann Road walked together. After school one day, the others were nowhere to be seen in the schoolyard. I was in grade two and, being new to the school, my teacher Miss Phister was concerned. She told me to go with Bobby Baker whom I didn't know. She assured me that he would go down the hill to where I lived. I followed Bobby and he led me and a few boys up the hill to what they called the "Mystery Trail" which went through Strawberry Hill and toward the Pattullo Bridge. The boys dawdled and had great fun playing with sticks and stones. I just made sure I kept them in sight. Finally, we got down the hill and there was a woman from Port Mann Road searching for me as she knew the area better than my mom. She took me home to my anxious family. That was an adventure I've never forgotten

*Young Clara  
Photo courtesy of  
Clara Penner*



*General  
Montgomery  
School  
Photo courtesy  
of Surrey  
Archives*



## ELSIE'S MEMORY OF GENERAL MONTGOMERY SCHOOL



*Elsie Scully's grade 3 and 4 class (1959)  
Photo courtesy of Elsie Scully*

I started my career teaching a grade 3/4 class at General Montgomery in 1958 after one year at UBC. Surrey had just come off the blacklist and needed teachers. I was not quite 18 years old!

Bas Thornthwaite, the principal, was great... always friendly and laughing. Kay Crook, the Intermediate Supervisor, visited twice a year. I credit her high standards for putting me on the right track to enjoying a long teaching career.

The school didn't have a gym nor a library. On rainy days kids gathered in the two basement areas - one for girls and one for

boys. The road to the school would flood a couple of times a year and teachers had to park on the hill by St. Helen's Church and walk down through the water. Some kids rowed to school in boats.

I remember a Christmas concert which we held in the community hall a half a block away. It was quite a production getting the classes and equipment there. I'm sure that everyone in the community turned up. It was a great success!

I don't remember a parent ever complaining about anything. They were very supportive of the school and seemed to stand behind the teachers. Guess it was like "Little House on the Prairie". I have fond memories of those years.

*-Adapted from information received from Elsie Scully*

## SOUTH WESTMINSTER SCHOOL... A MEMORY

I attended South Westminster Elementary School from 1945 to 1951. It was located on Hjorth Road (104th. Ave.) just west of Sandell Road (128th. St.).

There was no running water, therefore, an outhouse outside. There was a well on the property with a pump. Water was carried to classrooms.

My grade 1 teacher was Ms. Margaret Shepherd. At that time the school was divided into 4 buildings. Our classroom - a one-room schoolhouse - had a fir wood floor and a pot-belly wood stove. Grades 2 and 3 were in another building close to Hjorth Rd. and the Grade 4 classroom was a separate building beside that. There were coat rooms as you entered. Grades 5 & 6 were in 2 separate classrooms in a big building beside the railway track. This building had a basement where we played on rainy days or came in to keep warm.

Students played dodge ball in the basement or baseball on 2 separate ball fields on the grounds. There were no organized sports.

*-Adapted from information received from Lynda (Foley) Morris*



## REBELLION

My first day of school arrived on a warm September morning and I set off with two of my neighbours to walk the mile up the very steep Hjorth Road hill to South Westminster School. Dressed in our finest, we proudly carried our brand new tin lunch buckets. It never occurred to our parents to accompany us.

The grade one classroom had a big black stove in the centre of the room and the wonderful smell of the oiled floors. The day went smoothly until it was time for the teacher to assign end of day "chores". To complicate matters my sister was the teacher, and I was required to call her "Miss Shepherd". Whichever job she assigned me I wanted the "other one". Frustrated, I had a total meltdown and headed for home. As I sobbed out my tale of betrayal and disappointment to Mom she calmly asked, "So you didn't do as your teacher asked? Well, I guess that will have to go on your report card."

"Wait! That can't be! Not on the report card... Really?"

"Well, disobedience goes on your report card." That ended the rebellion. No more issues arose.

*-Submitted by Barbara (Shepherd) Andreassen*



*South Westminster School and Annex  
Photo courtesy of Surrey Archives*



*Barbara (second from the right) on  
her first day of school (1947-1948)*



*Barbara's grade 1 class: She is 3rd. from the left in the  
middle row. Her sister, Margie Shepherd, is the teacher.  
Photos courtesy of Barbara (Shepherd) Andreassen*



## ADVENTURES AT JAMES ARDIEL

When I taught at James Ardiel in the late 1960s it became a habit for a few of the Intermediate teachers to gather in one of classrooms after school. One afternoon the teacher who occupied the room, a bit of a wit, laughed and asked if we noticed anything odd in his room. We looked around but saw nothing amiss. Finally, he suggested we look at the picture of the Queen. (In those days, every classroom had a picture of the reigning monarch.) Her Majesty was sporting a huge, black moustache. How could we never have noticed! The students had noticed right away. When the principal announced that the Superintendent would be visiting, the moustache disappeared.

Again in the 1960s, myself and three other teachers accepted the challenge of establishing a new approach to teaching called "Open Area". Four classes of

Intermediate students were in a wide open area the size of five classrooms. Many visitors came to see this experiment in action, including various Surrey administrators. I taught Art along with other subjects and was tasked with enhancing the huge space



with colourful artwork. Being a bit of a fashion maven, I had started to wear the latest style called a pant suit. One of the Superintendents arrived for a tour and there I was at the top of the ladder in my pant suit. He told the principal that he didn't approve of women wearing pants and wanted me to change. My principal told the Superintendent that, as the Art teacher, I was always on the ladder hanging art and would be embarrassed with students looking up my skirt. I wore pants from then on as did every other female colleague! How times have changed.

-Submitted by Karen Susheski

### A COUPLE OF "MAINSTREAMING STORIES" FROM SIMON CUNNINGHAM

Students at Simon Cunningham developed a great deal of empathy for the special needs students and there was little teasing or name-calling. On one outing to an ice cream shop, the owner offered the child in a wheelchair an extra-large ice cream cone saying, "Oh, you poor thing". A regular class student piped up and commented that the student shouldn't get a larger cone just because she was in a wheelchair. Another student politely added that the lady didn't have to yell at the wheelchair student as she wasn't deaf, she just couldn't walk.

Everyone got a larger cone!

On another occasion, one of our students wheeled past a visiting Superintendent and purposely ran over his foot. The Superintendent was at a loss for words as she yelled at him, "Watch the f where you're going!" She was a perseverator and she yelled the "f word" all the way down the hall. The principal chuckled as he explained her behaviour to the Super. When we saw the Super later, we all teased him about the incident.

-Submitted by Karen Susheski

## A HUMOUROUS STORY FROM MUD BAY SCHOOL DAYS...

"Almost one hundred years ago a well dressed man was standing in the Mud Bay school yard hollering his head off. He was surrounded by a pack of savage dogs. The teacher ran out to see what all the fuss was about and saw to her horror that the man was the Government School Inspector from Victoria, who had arrived to make an inspection. She was not afraid of the savage hounds because they were the children's guard dogs and she knew them all and soon restored order, but just a minute, how come guard dogs were needed a hundred years ago?"

Well, most of the children came from heavily forested areas and it was easy enough for them to follow a forest trail to school. They preferred of course to come on horseback but there were bears and cougars in the forest and horses would bolt at the smell of a bear, so the kids walked to school along the trails and brought their dogs for protection."



British Library Archive

-From "A History of Schools in the Surrey Area" by Bill Hastings

## FIRE AT QUEEN ELIZABETH SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL... AND AT PRINCESS MARGARET, TOO!

It was July of 1967. I was enjoying the beginning of summer holidays and looking forward to starting high school at Q.E. in September. On July 8th., word quickly spread that there was a fire at Q.E. By the time it was extinguished, the fire had completely destroyed the Science wing, and damage to the main building was so severe that it had to be demolished. The south and industrial wings, as well as the two gymnasiums, survived.



Q.E. students and staff were on shift at Princess Margaret or North Surrey for the 1967-1968 school year. I was on the morning shift at Princess Margaret and, on November 26th., a fire there damaged the administration offices and caused smoke damage in much of the rest of the school. Classes were cancelled for four days. I remember that the books in my locker - in particular, the expensive Biology Lab book - smelled of smoke for the rest of the year.

In September of 1968, with reconstruction almost complete, classes were able to resume at the "new Q.E.". It was great not to be on shift for graduation year!

-Submitted by Karen Bentzen

Photos by Murray Lundberg. Courtesy of Surrey Archives





# THE PHANTASM PLAYERS...

## A MEMORY ABOUT A TEACHER'S IMPACT BEYOND SCHOOL

At the end of the 1992-93 school year, students were saying that they were really going to miss Drama class and performing in plays. I mused that maybe we needed to copy athletic grads, who came back to QE to play a variety of sports, and perhaps create an alumni group. It was one of those throw away year-end comments that many teachers make to departing students.

That fall, one of those students arrived at the door of the Drama class and said she was ready to form a group. She called dozens of grads and, within a few months, "Phantasm Players" was formed. Their first performance was in the spring of 1994 and, over the next ten years, the group performed at Queen Elizabeth and Fraser Heights Secondary schools, as well as at the Havana Café on Commercial Drive and at a festival in Prince Rupert.

I left BC for the Northwest Territories in 2002 and the group eventually disbanded in 2004. In its decade of existence, "Phantasm Players" raised thousands of dollars for the two schools' theatre programs and, more importantly, created a community of theatre-loving individuals - both current and former students - and gave them an outlet for their creativity. Many have continued to volunteer in community theatre throughout BC. All would agree that their experience with Phantasm has given them a sense of respect for what a group can achieve in a community when given the opportunity.

*-Adapted from information received from Robert Jacques*

## MISS OLSEN'S CLASS AND THE SAMSON (1960s)



*Ellen (Olsen) Edwards' grades 3 & 4 class in 1961-62, her second year of teaching.  
Photo courtesy of Surrey Historical Society*

Ellen Edwards recalls... Port Mann Elementary was my first school as a teacher in 1960 after having taken Grade 13 and a year of teacher training at UBC. There were 38 children crammed into our small classroom which had been adapted from an inside playroom. There were the usual teacher challenges involved in keeping up to all levels of intelligence and behaviour... a lot of responsibility for a girl of 19!

What I remember most is not math nor spelling, but the building of the Port Mann Bridge and the Samson - a sternwheeler which was used for dredging the Fraser River for ships using the

ports. At first I said no to the disruption of the students standing up to watch the boat go by but I soon realized that this was very special. When the boat appeared, I stopped the lesson and allowed the children to get up and watch the Samson as it slowly passed up or down the river. The children had promised to sit as soon as it passed and focus again on their schoolwork, and they did! It gave us all happy memories.

*-Adapted from information received from Ellen Edwards and  
www.surreyhistory.ca by Jack Brown*



*The Samson on the Fraser River (1937-80) is now a museum at the New Westminster Quay.  
Photo courtesy of New Westminster Record (July 26, 2017)*

## THE BEGINNINGS OF ESL AT GREEN TIMBERS ELEMENTARY... A MEMORY

One of the first ESL classes in the district was at Green Timbers Elementary. It began during the 1973-1974 school year and Roseline Edward taught this class.



*Jack Evans, Superintendent of Schools, and Ed Carroll, principal of Green Timbers, at the International Luncheon. (June 1977)  
Photo courtesy of Ed Carroll*

The children were all newly-arrived in Canada and came from many countries including China, India, Sweden and Germany. Most spoke very little English. The students came to Green Timbers School from around the district via school bus. They were enrolled in our regular classrooms according to their ages, but spent a large block of time each day in the ESL classroom.

At the end of every school year, Mrs. Edward and her students hosted a very special event - "The International Luncheon". School District Administration and Trustees were among those invited to attend. After a short program, which included the recitation of a humorous poem pointing out many of the idiosyncrasies of the English language, there was a buffet luncheon. The delicious foods represented the students' cultures, and were provided by the parents and Mrs. Edward.

Students who attended this class learned their new language very quickly. Mrs. Edward also did a lot to help the families start their new lives in Canada.

*-Submitted by Karen Bentzen*

## A CUSTODIAN'S MEMORIES OF ANNIEDALE ELEMENTARY

I was the custodian at Anniedale Elementary for many years and sometimes became involved in school events. One was chick-hatching in Lois Clements' class. Eggs in the incubator had to be turned three times a day and, since I was at the school in the evenings, I was tasked with the third turn. I helped set up the brooding box, kept an eye on the chicks at night, and when they were ready, I took them home to raise.

I recall arriving for work one day to see a tipi being dismantled on the school grounds. The staff, students and Katzie parents had hosted a potlatch to celebrate the culture of the school's Indigenous children. In the staffroom waiting for me was a meal of barbecued salmon and bannock, and a handmade toque. I was deeply touched that they had thought of me.

I remember that Joan Thomlinson was deeply interested in the pioneer school located on the school grounds. She involved her grade three students and their parents in special lessons. Mothers made pioneer costumes. Joan and her students prepared Johnny Cakes and other pioneer foods. There were many interesting projects in Joan's classroom and cleanup was sometimes more time-consuming, but I didn't mind because her students were so excited about learning. Joan and I are good friends to this day.

*-Adapted from information received from Ursula Kernig*

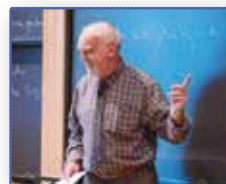


*My potlatch toque.  
Photo courtesy of Ursula Kernig*



## NOTABLE ALUMNI FROM SOME SURREY SECONDARY SCHOOLS

**Jazzy B** - (Jaswinder Singh Bains) - Punjabi singer  
**Tal Bachman** - singer-songwriter, musician, winner of 2 Juno awards  
**Neeru Bajwa** - actress  
**Bryn Baxter** - tenor saxophonist, guitarist  
**Jim Black** - guitarist, The Star Captains  
**Lisa Brokop** - country singer and actress  
**Laurent Brossoit** - NHL goalie, Winnipeg Jets  
**Ashley Burr** - reporter, CityNews Vancouver & Breakfast Television  
**Paul Campbell** - actor, Battlestar Galactica  
**JP Carter** - jazz trumpet performer, composer  
**Derek Clarke** - Juno and ECMA Award-winning composer, flutist  
**Brenden Dillon** - NHL defenceman, Washington Capitals  
**G.NA** (Gina Jane Choi) - Korean pop singer  
**Colin Fraser** - retired NHL centerman  
**Colton Gillies** - left winger for Dinamo Riga (Kontinental Hockey League)  
**Gigi Guerrero** - horror-movie director  
**Rob Hamilton** - freelance jazz guitarist  
**Andrew Hammond** - NHL goalie, Minnesota Wild  
**Scott Hannan** - retired NHL defenceman  
**Ardo Hansson** - World Bank economist, Governor of the Bank of Estonia  
**Ben Henriques** - Jazz saxophonist, band leader, recording engineer  
**Gordie Hogg** - politician  
**Jacob Hoggard** - singer and songwriter for Hedley  
**Linna Huynh** - actress based in Hong Kong  
**Matthew Jarvis** - poker player, won his first World Series of Poker bracelet in 2011  
**Jujhar Khaira** - NHL player, Edmonton Oilers  
**Dustin Kiselbach** - jazz bassist  
**Robert Langlands** - mathematician, founder of the "Langlands Program"  
**Grant Lawrence** - CBC Radio 3 host  
**Brad Lazarowich** - NHL Linesman  
**Jillian Lebeck** - jazz pianist, composer, vocalist



**Sydney Leroux** - professional soccer player, US Women's National Soccer Team player  
**Elicia MacKenzie** - winner of the 2006 reality show, "How Do You Solve a Problem Like Maria?"  
**Laine MacNeil** - actress, "Diary of a Wimpy Kid"  
**Brandon Jay McLaren** - actor  
**Gabrielle Miller** - actress, "Corner Gas" and "Robson Arms"  
**Cameron Milligan** - tenor saxophonist, guitarist, band leader  
**Jim Mullin** - Canadian sports broadcaster and producer  
**Rob Phillips** - percussionist, drummer  
**Jodi Proznick** - bassist, Juno-nominated  
**Kelly Proznick** - vocalist  
**Tom "Boom Bap" Proznick** - professional drummer, percussionist, songwriter  
**John Ruskin (better known as Nardwuar the Human Serviette)** - journalist and musician  
**Chani Nattan** - Punjabi singer and songwriter  
**Christabel Nettey** - Canadian Olympic Team Long Jumper  
**A.C. Newman** - songwriter, leader of The New Pornographers  
**Hannah Simone** - former fashion model, MuchMusic VJ, actress, "New Girl"  
**Chris Spidel** - bass trombonist, manager of Southwick Band  
**David Spidel** - jazz bassist  
**Adam Svensson** - professional golfer  
**Amanda Tosoff** - jazz pianist, composer  
**John Tenta** - professional wrestler  
**Colten Teubert** - retired NHL defenceman  
**Devin Townsend** - musician  
**Richard Weinberger** - swimmer and Olympic bronze medalist  
**Natasha Wodak** - long-distance runner and Olympian  
**Glenn Wool** - stand-up comedian  
**Sean Whyte** - CFL player (Edmonton Eskimos), Lew Hayman Trophy winner  
**Chris Williams** - vocalist, Best Latin Song winner at 2007 Orange Country Music Awards



## A message from the SRTA Heritage Committee...

We hope you've enjoyed our "Snapshots" of the Surrey School District. This publication was made possible by the contributors listed below who shared their stories through phone interviews, written submissions, visuals and website links.

Please contact us with any feedback, or if you have a story to share. We can be reached at the e-mail addresses below.

[srtakarenb@gmail.com](mailto:srtakarenb@gmail.com) or [srtaheritage@gmail.com](mailto:srtaheritage@gmail.com)

Warmest regards,  
**The SRTA Heritage Committee,**  
**Karen Bentzen, Karen Susheski and Alice Tiles**

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Additional sources of information:  
 -[www.historicplaces.ca](http://www.historicplaces.ca)  
 -[www.surrey.ca](http://www.surrey.ca)  
 -[www.surreyhistory.ca](http://www.surreyhistory.ca)  
 -Wikipages of Surrey Secondary Schools





S. R. T. A  
 Inaugural Meeting Sept. 17 1990

Auchko Helen	Howerton Elaine
Campbell Inghel	Wongler Sheila (Secretary)
Black Barry (see Holmes)	Wyers Bev & Larry (Treasurers)
Angulis Vickie	Patson Kay
Jucker Anora	Price Bessie
Greenway Rose	Price Edyl
Greenway Louise	Stafford Doris
Wynn Doris (President)	Yonopka Lenon
Hambard Ed (President)	Waterman Yvonne (Chairman)

