

*Drawn by Brian McMurdo (student - 1952-58)*

# SEXSMITH COMMUNITY SCHOOL

## 1912 – 1988

# SEXSMITH COMMUNITY SCHOOL



1912-1988

75TH REUNION



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

The 75th anniversary is a good occasion to recognize all those who have contributed to the rich history and positive reputation of Sexsmith Community School. Although this is my first year here I have been very impressed by the warm memories staff and students have of the school. This has been particularly evident during my discussions with former staff and students asking about the reunion, or people in the neighborhood touched by the school's community programs. I have been made to feel very welcome here which is part of the tradition of caring at Sexsmith.

First I would like to recognize all of our present and former students whose energy, kindness, and joy in discovery made this a positive place for learning. You are the life of the school and the reason we are proud of our school.

I thank the many dedicated teachers whose talents, energy and belief in students helped children become caring and productive adults. Your hours of devotion to students are the best long term investment our school has.

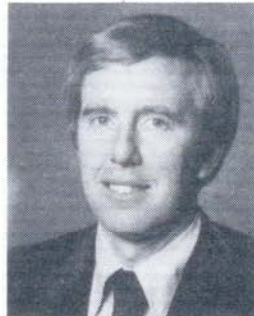
To all of the support staff – secretaries, nurses, counsellors, speech language specialists, staff assistants, supervision aides, police liason officers, psychologists, – your efforts although often “behind the scenes” are vital and much appreciated.

Our custodial staff have contributed to the comfort, cleanliness and safety of our students and staff. The often unappreciated “extras” have also added to the quality of school life at Sexsmith.

To our parents I say thank you for the years of active support of our school and for the cooperation with the teachers. Your long tradition of an active parent group, your hot lunch program, and your advocacy of the community school concept are ample testimony to your involvement.

The seventeen principals who preceded me are remembered with fondness and respect. It was your leadership, wisdom and support that nurtured a tradition of caring for others, of academic achievement, of service and of pride in accomplishment.

The past 75 years have been a proud record. We look forward to the challenges of the future confident that our tradition of making Sexsmith a special place for children will continue.

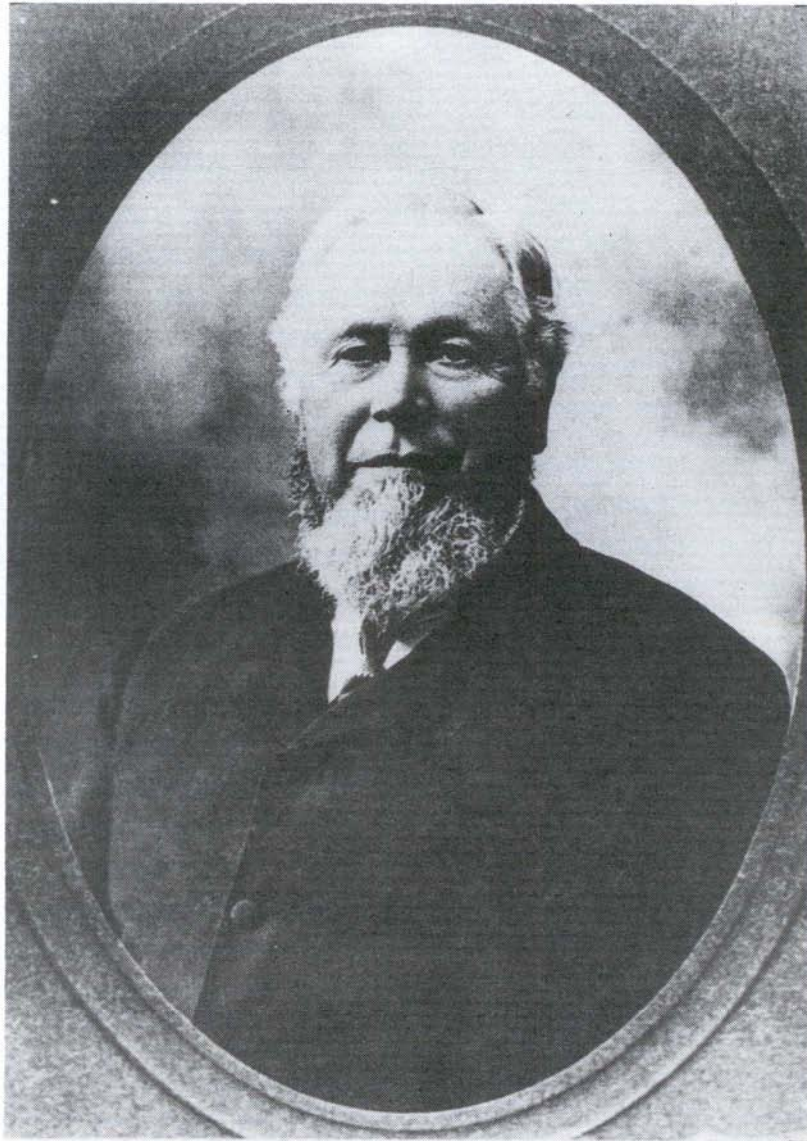


*Dave Deane, Principal  
1987 - Present*

## A LIST OF SCHOOL PRINCIPALS WITH THEIR DATES OF SERVICE

| <b>DATES</b>                   | <b>PRINCIPALS' NAMES</b>     | <b>DATES</b>                   | <b>PRINCIPALS' NAMES</b> |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| September 1913 to June 1915    | Mr. R.H. Wilson              | September 1936 to June 1942    | Mr. Frank P. Lightbody   |
| September 1915 to January 1916 | Mr. Edward S. Sims           | September 1942 to January 1945 | Mr. Cyril H. Shoemaker   |
| February 1916 to June 1917     | Mr. George S. Waite          | February 1945 to June 1945     | Mr. William M. Robson    |
| September 1917 to June 1918    | Mr. F.A. Armstrong           | September 1945 to June 1949    | Mr. Cyril H. Shoemaker   |
| September 1918 to January 1919 | Miss Pugh (acting principal) | September 1949 to June 1957    | Mr. William A. Wilander  |
| February 1919 to June 1919     | Mr. R.H. Wilson              | September 1957 to June 1967    | Mr. Herbert R. Libby     |
| September 1919 to June 1921    | Mr. F.A. Armstrong           | September 1967 to June 1974    | Mr. Earl W. Matheson     |
| September 1921 to June 1922    | Miss Henrietta R. Anderson   | September 1974 to June 1979    | Mr. Raymond N. Hollins   |
| September 1922 to October 1922 | Mr. F.A. Armstrong           | September 1979 to June 1982    | Mr. J. Blair Fulton      |
| November 1922 to June 1924     | Mr. John D. Godfrey          | September 1982 to June 1987    | Mr. Donald L. Cupit      |
| September 1924 to June 1936    | Mr. W.R. Johnson             | September 1987 - Present       | Mr. David R. Deane       |

## J. W. Sexsmith

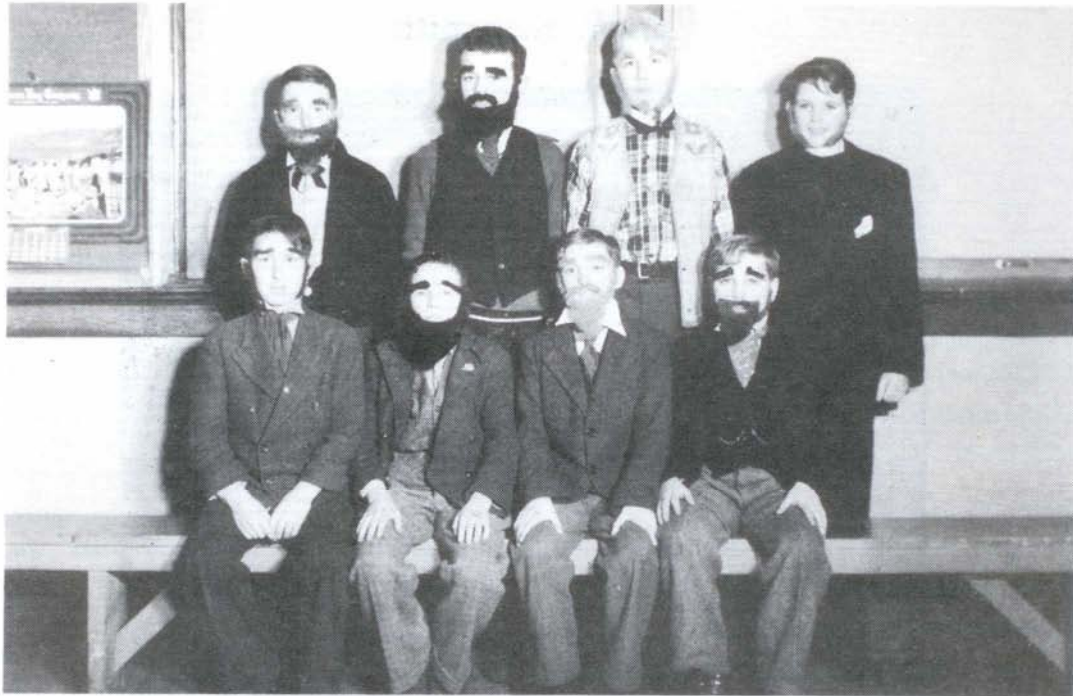


*The School was named after an early pioneer of the province, John Wesley Sexsmith*

### THE SCHOOL'S NAME

John Wesley Sexsmith was born in Richmond, County of Lennox, Ontario, on May 10, 1830. His education was obtained in the common schools of Ontario and after leaving school he entered the lumbering business and later became a general merchant and established a cheese factory. In middle life, like many others, he decided to try his fortune in the West. Accompanied by his family, he arrived in Moodyville on the Burrard Inlet in 1876. He wanted to establish a farm and crossing the Fraser River, he settled in an area now called Richmond. He proceeded to build a cheese factory from the materials at hand and extended his land holdings to some 1,900 acres in this area. Transportation being a difficulty, he next established a boat service on the North Fraser River to New Westminster. As settlement of this area increased, he became active in the organization of the district into the Municipality of Richmond, and was for a number of years its reeve. He at one time owned a salmon cannery on the Fraser and was a large shareholder in the Flour Mill which took its place. In the early years of the Richmond Municipality, he was largely responsible for the building of the first bridges connecting Marpole, Sea Island and Lulu Island. Mr. Sexsmith, after becoming established on his farm, took up the question of providing an education for his and surrounding families. Being familiar with the Ontario system of education, arrangements were made with financial assistance from Victoria to found the school at its present site. Sexsmith was one of the first of the strictly rural schools established on the mainland of British Columbia.





*Students of the 1930's who participated in a school play depicting the arrival of J.W. Sexsmith to Vancouver*

“Only the basement was available for large parent meetings or gym classes. Mr. Anderson, a lumber mill owner who had a child at the school, provided enough lumber to build a stage in the basement. The school plays took place on this basement stage until the gym was built. I vividly remember the play with the “messy chicken”. It really brought the house down . . .”

Frank Lightbody (Principal, 1936 - 1942)

## **THE EARLY YEARS – 1912 TO 1937**

### **School Neighbourhood – Early Years**

Sexsmith School was built near the southern extremity of the old municipality of South Vancouver. The school is located on the north-west corner of the intersection of Ontario Street and 59th Avenue. To the north of the school grounds lies the Langara Golf Course, which was opened on July 1, 1926, and also the Vancouver Community College Langara Campus which was opened in 1970. This area was for many years a logged-over bushland generally referred to as the C.P.R. Grounds, before the golf course was constructed.

The first road which helped open up this part of South Vancouver to settlement was east-west Marine Drive, formerly River Road, located six blocks south of the school. The first north-south road was Main Street, two blocks east of the school. The first settlements in these parts were along the Fraser River and then along these two main roads. Gradually other roads, such as Ontario Street and 59th Avenue were built as the population increased.

The school area is divided into two very distinct parts by Marine Drive. South of this road the area is almost completely industrialized, so that no Sexsmith School pupils have lived in that area for many years. In early years there were fishermen's shacks on the north bank of the North Arm of the Fraser River. The children living in these shacks attended J.W. Sexsmith School; however, the last of these shacks was torn down in the early 50's.

The school catchment area lying north of Marine Drive is largely a residential area. There are stores and other small businesses on both sides of Main Street from Marine Drive north to 49th Avenue, and on the east side of Cambie Street, but aside from these and three private hospitals, the area is almost entirely residential.

From the 1960's to the present the demographics of the Sexsmith neighbourhood have changed. From early pioneer family settlements of English and European background to a present multicultural community enriched with many Oriental and Asian cultures. This is reflected in our school enrollment and surrounding stores and businesses.

J.W. Sexsmith Community School is presently situated in Centre Area for School District #39 administration purposes.



64th Avenue East, formerly 66th Avenue Municipality of South Vancouver, May 1911. Looking in a westerly direction over the buildings on the northeast corner of Main street and River Road (Marine Drive) towards the Chinese market gardens on the fertile flats beyond. Photograph of Mrs. John F. Grimmett, her son Jack, and daughter Grace, standing on old 66th Ave, now 64th, about 100 yards east of Main Street, and looking towards their own large white residence, standing out boldly in the clearing littered with stumps, roots and boulders. Mr. Grimmett owned all this property; was offered \$90,000, but asked \$100,000. "Grimmett Post Office" was nearby. Stt. N. P.119 City Archives J.S.M.

"In the area of Yukon and Marine Drive there was a dairy, and the family who ran the dairy were the McBride family – the two children, Anna and Bob, attended Sexsmith. Most deliveries of milk at that time were done by horse-drawn wagons."

Edith Seddon (nee Watt) (Student - 1931-1939)

"My mom and dad bought a lot on West 62nd from Mrs. McBride in 1952. I was 2 years old. I can still remember finding 'lucky' horseshoes in our yard for many years to come. Mrs. McBride was a nice lady who used to let us pick blackberries in her yard."

Linda Nielsen (nee Parks) (Teacher - 1973-Present)

"There were two dairy farms called Marpole Dairy (the largest) and a smaller one, Mackies, on 64th Avenue. As the district started to develop, the dairies could not meet the standard and closed down."

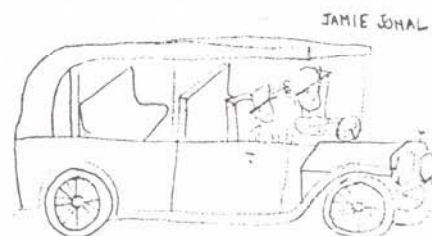
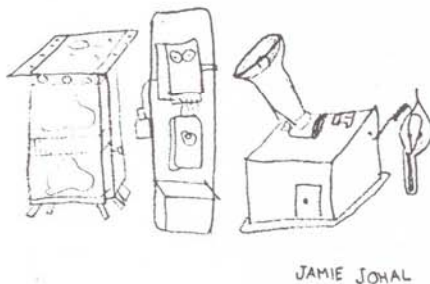
Donald Millar (Student - 1931-1933)

"Being poor wasn't an exception to the rule, and you had lots of friends and neighbours in the same boat, all helping each other – not trying to sink the boat, but to keep it afloat."

Wilfred (Bill) Vorley (Student - 1928-1936)

"I remember watching the "gardeners" jouncing their 10 gal. cans of "night soil" from McKenzies's dairy barn to the gardens – going over to Moberly Annex for Domestic Science and Manual Training, at Fraser and Marine – spending noon hour watching the blacksmith shoeing horses, and if you were lucky you got to turn the crank of the forge. I recall the clearing "next door" for Langara Golf Course around 1922, and the last of the steam donkeys and huge stump piles that cost \$7.00 each to burn."

Charles Tait (Student - 1918-1925)





"I recall 59th only went through to the Children's Hospital, and it was mostly bush behind the school - nearly to Oak Street. The only through roads were 49th and 63rd and Marine Drive. The Chinese Gardens used to flood and the Leongs had to move to the upper floor, and used a rowboat to get to Marine Drive."

Raymond Critchley (Student - 1930-1938)

"I can remember Mr. Mackie driving up Ontario Street in his horse and wagon. He'd come from his dairy farm with the milk bottles to deliver them right to the door. I can remember sleigh riding down Ontario Street - right from 59th across Marine and onto the Chinese Gardens. My dad used to stand on Marine and stop the cars as we slid across it at great speed, squealing with glee."

Thelma McMurdo (nee Milsted) (Student - 1927-1936)

"I often wonder what became of the big rock near Jean Kilgour's place. It was about 15 feet in diameter, and we never knew how it got there. We often played on it. I believe it was a block or so east of Main at about 65th Avenue."

Gordon Robson (Student - 1917-1925)

Page Two

## 1931 THE ECHO

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## School Building – Early Years



The original school was built in 1912 on the present site, facing Ontario Street. It was a wooden frame building consisting of two small classrooms.

In 1913 construction of a wooden framed brick-faced school building was completed. This structure originally consisted of eight classrooms, a staffroom, an office and full basement (Architect: Bowman & Cullen; Contractor: McPhalen Bros.).

“I remember Sexsmith was the first city school I’d ever taught in. My room was in the original wooden school, and I taught Grade 1.”

Margaret Gowe (nee Marshall) (Teacher - 1925-1934)

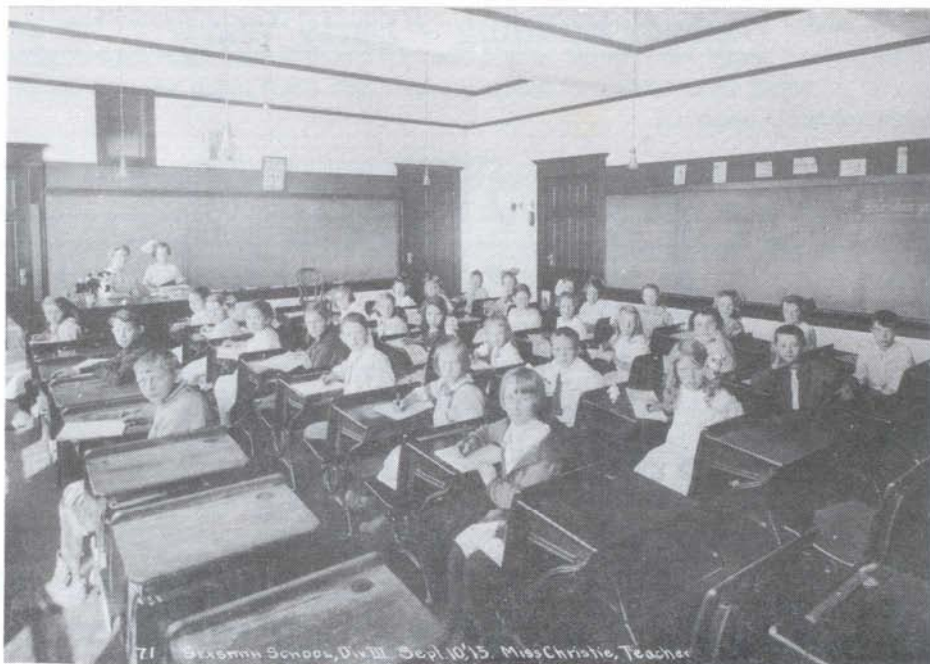


*Whole School Population 1913 with Mr. Ray Wilson (Principal),  
Miss Allen, Miss Carruthers, Miss Christie and Miss Mills*

“I can still remember Archie Robertson had the job of ringing the hand bell to bring the kids into school. If you look closely at this picture of the school population of 1913 (enrollment - 150), you can see him holding the bell.”

Lilian McLachlan (nee Ramsay) (Student - 1912-1920)





*Miss Christie with class, circa 1915*



*Principal, Mr. Armstrong with Class, circa 1919*

Classrooms had mixed grades, large class sizes, rigid wooden and iron desks, ink wells, black boards and wooden floors.



*Miss Allen with class, circa 1914*

"I can remember a girl named Kosgo Washington who was really frightened to death of school and she would cry, so Miss Allen would tell me to go and sit with her. She even let me go up to the board with her, and I'd hold her hand as she wrote on the blackboard."

Beatie Scott (nee Milsted) (Student - 1912-1920)

"I remember the old building was my Grade 1 room, and my teacher was Miss Allen. She was very nice and well liked. She was very understanding of the children's problems."

Lilian McLachlan (nee Ramsay) (Student - 1912-1920)



*Miss Andrews with class, circa 1924*

"At one time, around 1925, most fellows wore their long pants with black cuffs at their ankles, regardless of whatever colour their long pants were. This was a popular fad."

Gordon Robson (Student - 1917-1925)

"My favourite teacher was Mr. Eades in Grade 7 – he was friendly in and out of class – treated us as equals – participated in sports – basketball, baseball with us. We respected him."

"I believe our Principal was W.R. Johnson. He had a favourite saying, 'Whatever you do, do well, for there is so little competition.' His idea was that in doing our best we could so often be ahead – that not everyone is prepared to make a real effort. That's something I never forgot. The school and church were the dominating factors of our lives. It was a close neighbourhood with concern for each other. The teachers were special people who had a great influence on us. Classes were large – often 40 - 45 in a room, but somehow they kept order and did a job of teaching. A pleasant memory for me was lining up to march into school when the bell rang, and Alvin (Red) Bastedo and Arnie Walcroft played Col. Bogey on the piano. They loved to jazz it up."

Stella Powell (nee McCombie) (Student - 1922-1930)





School Staff, Mr. Johnson, Principal, circa 1924-25

"I can remember in Grade 1, Miss Denton cracking my knuckles with a pointer because I was left-handed, trying to make me use my right."

Raymond Critchley (Student - 1930-1938)

"My favourite teacher was Miss Marshall. I remember her reading books aloud to us."

Mildred Chuckney (nee McGhee) (Student - 1929-1937)

"I recall quite clearly the rule that female teachers could not marry. I had a friend that desperately wanted to get married but would have lost her job if she had wed. She even went to the School Board and asked if they could give her teaching job to her future husband. Of course, they said 'No.' . . ."

Margaret Gowe (nee Marshall) (Teacher - 1925-1934)

## The School Grounds – Early Years

In the early days of the school, a deep gully crossed the south-east corner of the grounds. A cool little stream flowed through it and small trees and shrubs wooded its sides. At noon the school children used to fish there for trout. The pupils entered the school grounds by crossing the gully on a small foot bridge. Later the stream was dammed and sluice gates were installed. The water was backed up and used for floating logs. The whole area surrounding the school was heavily wooded at that time. Also, in the early days the school grounds sloped quite steeply from north to south; however, in 1935 during the Great Depression the grounds were graded by relief workers.

"One of our favourite games was chestnuts, played with a roasted-hard chestnut with a hole cord through it. Each boy would try to hit another's chestnut, in turn, until it broke, thus proclaiming a winner. Marbles were popular, and I remember Harold Goodburn was the real expert in this."

Gordon Robson (Student 1917-1925)

"Skip rope, jacks and hopscotch were the games played in the late 20's and early 30's."

Margaret Thornley (nee Nelson) (Student - 1927-1934)

"I remember a stream next to Ontario Street that had a bridge to cross over to get to the school."

Lilian McLachlan (nee Ramsay) (Student - 1912-1920)

"Down by the river,  
Down by the sea,  
Johnny broke a milk bottle,  
and blamed it on me.  
I told Ma,  
Ma told Pa,  
Johnny got a licking,  
Ha, ha, ha."

Edith Seddon (Student - 1931-1939)



"Jacks was the most popular playground game. The cement slabs on either side of the doorway were the popular playing spots. I can remember leaving a sweater or coat in the morning on the cement to save them for recess, but when we'd come out at recess the coat would usually be in the dirt."

Theлма McMurdo (nee Milsted) (Student - 1927-1936)

Beatie Scott (nee Milsted) and Marjorie Ritchie (nee Miles) were talking on the phone March 2, 1988, and Marjorie informed Beatie she still has her jacks. She was an only child, and one of the few who could afford to own Jacks at that time.

## School Enrollment – Early Years

When the school opened in 1912 there were only two divisions. The main building opened a year later with four divisions and 150 pupils enrolled in Grades 1 to 8. The enrollment remained quite stable until 1919. The 1920's; however, was a decade of rapid expansion. In 1920 another division was opened, making a total of five, with 176 pupils enrolled. More divisions were added, and by 1936 the enrollment began to decrease. By 1939 there were eight divisions and 300 pupils.

In the early years before John Oliver High School was completed, Sexsmith School was used by the Commercial class of the South Vancouver High School, and this arrangement lasted from 1920 to 1923. These students had their classes on the second floor.

## Early Principals and the Great War

With the onset of the Great War (1914-1918) male teachers joined the colours, and with this event women teachers became acting principals. Mr. R.W. Wilson, the first principal of Sexsmith joined in 1915. Mr. E. Scott Sims, who took his place soon answered the call and joined the Forestry Corps. In April, 1916, Mr. George Waite became principal of Sexsmith but he too left to join the Royal Air Force. In 1917, Mr. Frank Armstrong followed, but he too left in 1918 to join the naval forces. Miss Pugh was made acting principal until the return of Mr. R.W. Wilson in 1919. Miss Henrietta R. Anderson, our only woman principal, was at the school from September, 1921, to June, 1922. Following 1922 more stability was evident in the assignment of principals and their length of service.

## School Activities – Early Years

"CASEY AT THE BAT –

Some of the students were in the bleachers on stage while the poem was recited. Jack Farmer had a chicken 'mascot' with a sheet tied to its leg. The students were horrified when the chicken pooped on the stage and because of the expressions on their faces the audience went into gales of laughter, which went on for a long time. I particularly remember it because my sister Dorothy and I had to sing a duet following this performance."

Mildred McBride (nee McCombie) (Student - 1929-1937)

"My most embarrassing experience was fainting as we were standing at the back of the class. The row of boys behind stood aside to let me fall on the floor. It really upset Miss Marshall, and she sent for my sister."

Betty Wallace (nee Nelson) (Student - 1930-1938)

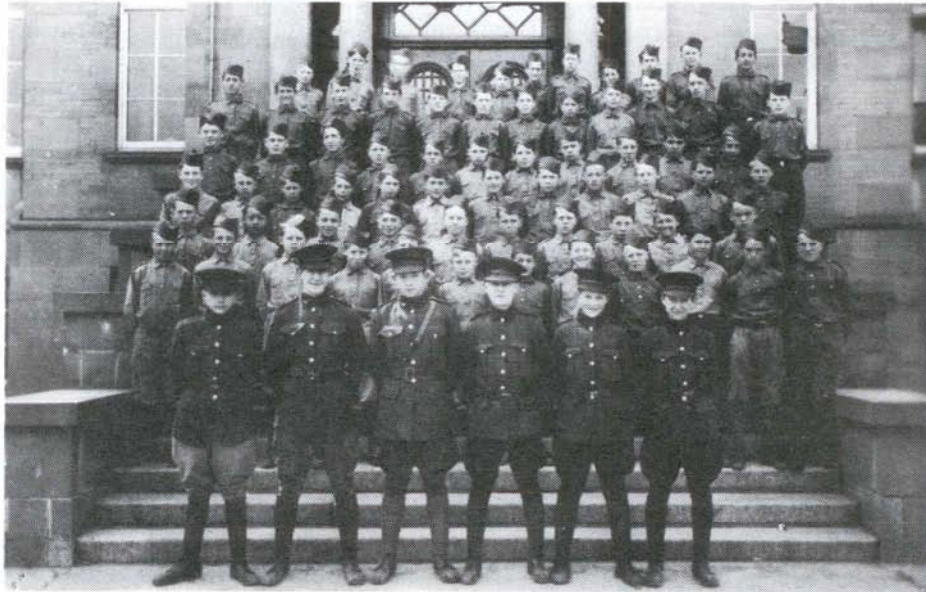
"We were all on the Midget Baseball Team and we won the Cup for Vancouver. The first cup the school had won in this division. We sure had a great team (1938)."

Frieda McKewan (nee Knull) (Student - 1931-1938)

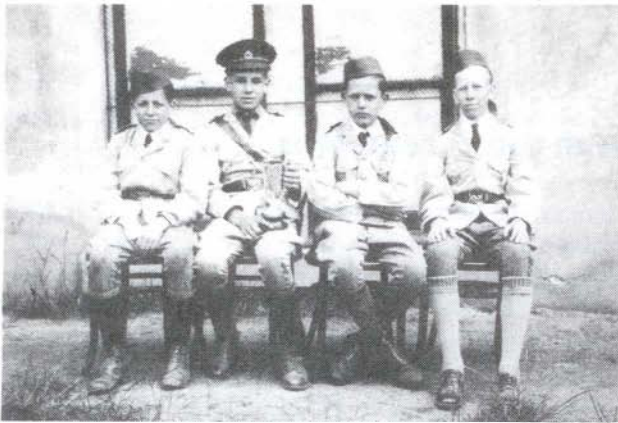
"My most memorable experience at Sexsmith was when the Grade 8 boys carried the coach of a visiting girls' baseball team off the school grounds because they thought he was favouring his team as referee at 1st base."

Margaret Thornley (nee Nelson) (Student - 1927-1934)

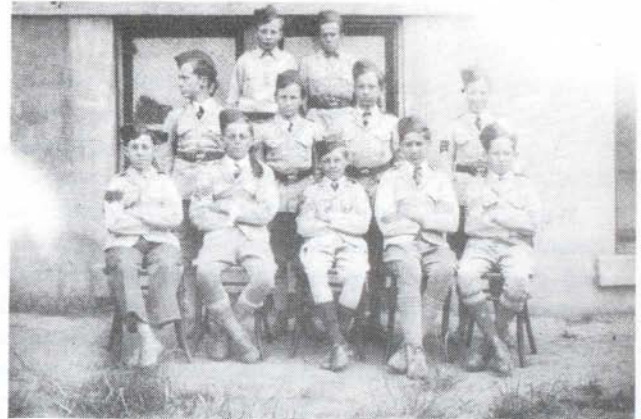




*Mr. Johnson's Troops, 1924 - 1936*



*Company Commander with World Cup won for shooting efficiency  
1924 - 1936*

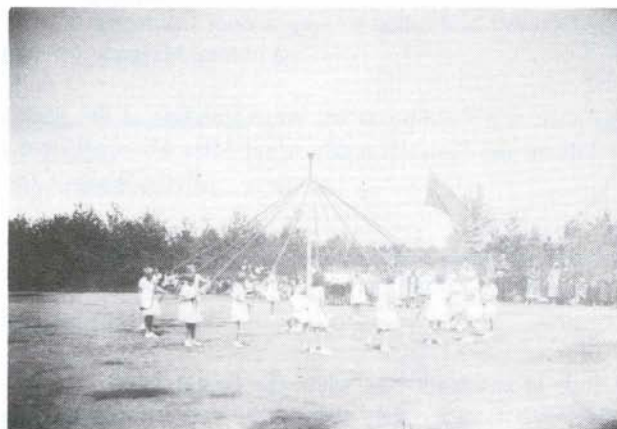


*1924 - 1936*

"The Principal at that time was Mr. Johnson (he had probably been in the 1st World War). He made a small army out of the Grade 7 and 8 boys, complete with khaki uniforms and leg puttees (I don't think it was compulsory). They practiced marching and drilling on the play fields – looked very smart!"

"Irene Troop and I played marches on the piano in the hall for students marching to their classes -- for a few years (1932-1934). We didn't change the marches too often – not until the groans got too loud."

Lenore Smith (nee Waddington) (Student - 1929-1937)



*Maypole Festival Winners, 1932*





Maypole Festival Winners, 1932



1935 Flag Bearers

"I was in the school choir. Miss Hardwick was our leader when we came second in the Vancouver Choir Festival. Miss Pugh taught us 3 part harmony in grade 4. Our baseball teams, Grade 5, boys and girls, were top of the league in the South and East Vancouver."

Lenore Smith (nee Waddington) (Student 1929-1937)

"In 1929 - Grade 3 - Miss Main and Miss Pugh had their first Maypole Dancing Group. I was in that group - the exhibition of dancing took place at Ceperly Playground. What a proud moment to dance around our Maypole with the gold and green ribbons - the colours of Sexsmith."

Dorothy Wright (nee McCombie) (Student - 1926-1934)

Vol I

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1931

## Local Band Gives Performance



### CONCERT BY SEXSMITH SCHOOL SILVER BAND

The Sexsmith School Silver Band with assisting pupils of the school is giving its third concert in the Ritz Hall at 43rd avenue and Fraser street, on Friday, February 13 at 8 p.m. The band which contains over 40 pieces is now one of the largest Juvenile Bands in the province, and is under the able leadership of conductor J. Olson, who, as a lover of music, gives his services free to the school; no charge being made for tuition.

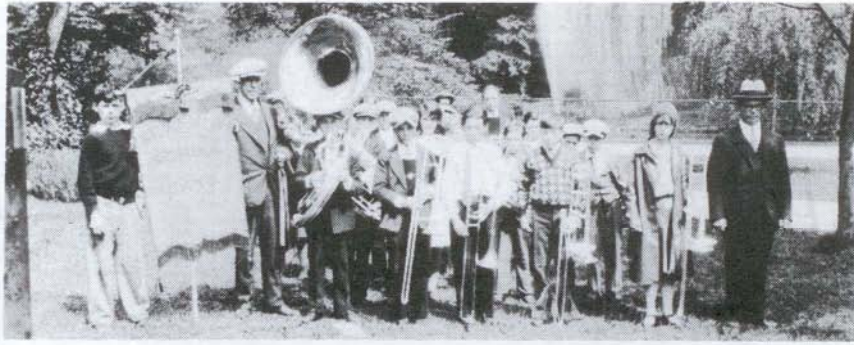
The organization of this band took place less than ten months ago by Mr. Johnson,

principal of the school.

The remarkable progress which it is credited is due to the excellent tuition of Mr. Olson and the whole-hearted interest shown by the pupils. The members of the band range in age from eight to fifteen years and a busy summer is being anticipated by the youthful members who are looking forward to many engagements. Any parents who would like to have their children learn an instrument, free of charge, would kindly get in touch with Mr. Johnson, principal, or the bandmaster.

Any child in South Vancouver will be welcome to join this band. The band will also cheerfully play at any time for charitable purposes. Everybody welcome to this concert, you will enjoy it.





*Sexsmith School Band, 1932, at planting of tree ceremony in Stanley Park*

## **THE MIDDLE YEARS – 1938-1963**



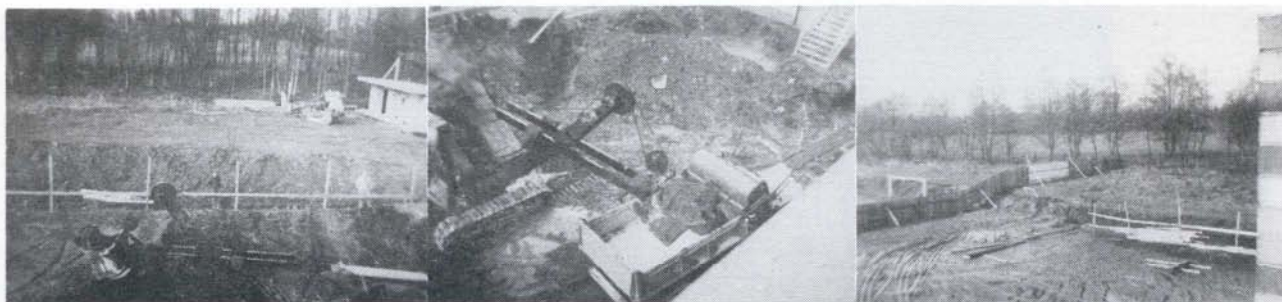
*Picture taken from the air, 1956 – Sexsmith School in the centre.*



## School Building – Middle Years

During the 1950's two concrete wings were opened, one at each end of the main building. The north wing containing a gymnasium-auditorium, two classrooms and a full basement was opened in April, 1951. The south wing containing six classrooms and a full basement was opened in October, 1955. In 1957 the Annex (original school building) was converted for use as a one-room Kindergarten. In 1962 three classrooms were built in the basement of the South wing, and a covered play area was constructed at the back (west side) of this wing.

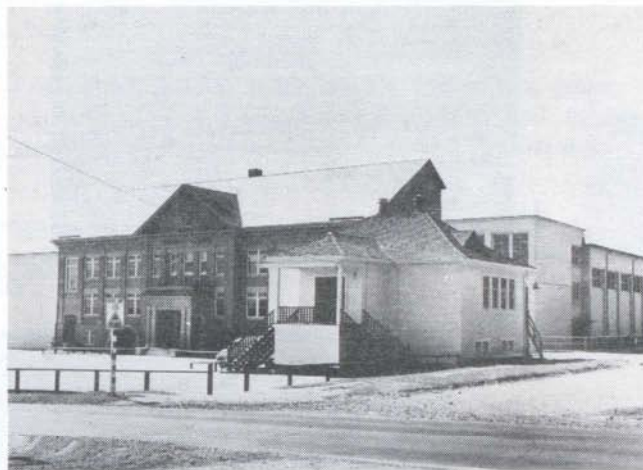
In the early years the office was a single large room with a short hallway leading to a washroom. During the middle years this room was partitioned off into two rooms, the principal's office and the general office. A mimeograph room was constructed from half of the cloakroom of Room 102. Space for a medical room was found in the upper section of the large centre stairwell (now room 202), and two large storage rooms were constructed in the basement area, which had been used as makeshift classrooms. Also during the middle years a fire sprinkler system and a number of fire doors had been installed. The floors were covered with linoleum, the stairs with rubber treads, and the ceilings with acoustic tiles. These improvements brought the Sexsmith School building up to acceptable modern standards for the 1960's.



*Construction of Gymnasium, 1950*



*Mrs. Delmage and Mr. Henderson at the dedication of the Sexsmith addition in Oct. 1955*



*Sexsmith School after the addition in 1960.*

"I remember trees being planted in front of the school – one for each grade."

Rita Bruin (nee Fetherston) (Student - 1937-1945)

"In 1938-39 bush extended from Langara Golf Course to Oak Street – no Cambie Street – bush West of school for blocks – lots of vacant lots in the area – open creek along Quebec Street at 53rd. . . . we went skinny dipping at 'the Wells' near Manitoba Street."

A. Ed Laidley (Student - 1938-1939)

"When I attended the school Winona Park was bush, Cambie Street was merely a ditch from 59th to Marine. Manitoba was a trail, and I was one of the very few who came from West of the school."

John M. Parks (Student - 1952-1958)



## Sexsmith School Fire

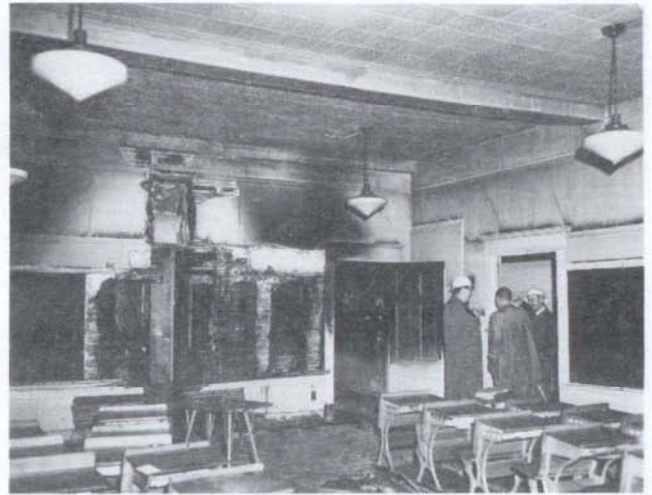
The school fire occurred on the night of December 31, 1962. Mr. Donald Byrne detected flames in the school attic at about eleven o'clock on New Year's Eve. The fire had been set in the cloakroom of Room 201, from where it spread upward to the attic and downward to Room 101 and the basement. The most extensive damage was done to the roof, which very nearly collapsed. Aside from this damage, and that in Rooms 101 and 201, there was little harm done to the rest of the school, and it was opened on schedule at the end of the Christmas vacation.

The fire had a lasting effect on the school building's silhouette. The pointed ridge of the roof running from north to south was removed, and the height of the roof lowered by ten feet. It is now surmounted by a flat decking at its highest point. Two large dormers on the back (westside) were also removed. The original slate shingles were replaced by a black asphalt variety.

The arsonist responsible for the fire also set a number of fires in neighbouring schools, which caused a total damage of half a million dollars. He was finally caught near Fleming School, which he had also set on fire prior to his apprehension.

"I remember a phone call New Year's morning (January 1, 1963) after the school fire, advising me that Sexsmith School had burned down – when I could see it still standing from my kitchen window!"

Gwen Beck (Staff - 1968-Present)



Room 201



School Fire, Dec. 31, 1962

“Rod Cheston was my best friend at Sexsmith. We were together when we saw the moose head in the ditch at the back of the school, and we were together in '62 when we watched the school roof burn.”

Bruce Maier (Student - 1960-1963)

“Late in the summer of the year in which the school was set on fire, my wife and I visited the renovated school. We were inside for a short time when my wife said, “What if they’ve installed an alarm system while we’ve been away?” Immediately we ran to the front door to be met by a policeman with the biggest police dog you’ve ever seen. He said, “Lucky you came out, because I was just going to send in the dog . . .”

Bert Libby (Principal - 1957-1967)

“My most embarrassing experience – lots of my friends kidded me about starting the school fire in '62. They knew I taught Science at Sexsmith and were sure one of my many ‘experiments’ had got out of control . . .”

Charles Siddall (Teacher - 1961-1963)

## Classrooms – Middle Years



*Miss Taylor with class, circa Early 1950's*

After World War II various classroom changes occurred – new desks relative to the size of the students, green boards, linoleum floors, wall maps, and posters. There were also larger class sizes and new teaching techniques. In the 1960's overcrowding resulted in split classes and children attending in shifts. The new additions, particularly the lunchroom, became a classroom.

During the fifties, air raid drills were performed in the schools (reaction to the threat of the atomic bomb). Children were instructed on safety procedures in the event of an attack – huddling under desks, covering their heads, avoiding windows and protecting themselves from ‘the flash’.



*Miss Robertson with class, circa 1947*





*Miss Partriquin with class, circa 1949*



*Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Wilander with class, circa 1952*

"I got the leather strap from Mr. Wilander in 1951 for putting Robert Puckett's cap on top of a street sign during lunch hour. I can still remember the sting, and can remember how petrified I was going into the principal's office (I was usually well behaved)."

Kenny Jones (Student - 1947-1952)



*Miss Taylor with class, circa 1956-57*



*Mrs. Lamont with class, circa 1958*

“In 1957-58 I started the first Kindergarten class at Sexsmith. That year there were 27 Kindergarten classes in Vancouver. In 1959 the Chant Report decided to close all the Kindergarten classes. There was such a public uproar from the parents that the decision was made to open public Kindergarten classes in every school all over B.C. I often wonder if Mr. Matheson still remembers that “lovely” green snake.”

Pat Lamont (Teacher - 1957-1976)



*Mr. Sara with class, circa 1962-63*

“My first year of teaching was in '62, and I can remember when Mr. Sara was disciplining his kids across the hallway, I'd quickly open my classroom to give the kids the benefit of a good lecture.”

George Siemens (Teacher - 1962-1967)

“One of my most embarrassing memories was when Mr. Sara always picked me to put up the maps, and they always ended up on the floor, as I was so short they would flip up and then fall off.”

Trudene Swanson (nee Hall) (Student - 1956-1963)



## School Enrollment – Middle Years

In 1941 Sexsmith School enrolled 277 pupils. During this decade the enrollment increased so that by 1949 the school held eleven divisions, enrolling 414 pupils.

In 1950 the 7th and 8th Grades were moved to John Oliver High School. However, more primary children registered at Sexsmith so that the enrollment increased to 385, with eleven divisions from one to six inclusive. During the 50's the enrollment continued to climb.

1952 – 426 students (13 divisions)

1953 – 469 students (15 divisions)

1954 – 482 students (16 divisions)

1957 – 561 students (15 divisions)

The 1960's recorded the highest enrollment, partly due to the return of Grade 7 to elementary schools in 1961. In 1962 Sexsmith enrolled 631 pupils in 19 divisions. This total included a second Kindergarten division that opened in Room 100.



*Staff, circa 1940's – Top row left to right: Mr. Godfrey, Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Waite, Mr. Johnson  
Second row left to right: Miss Main, Miss Trudgeon, Miss Bachelor, Miss Partriquin, Mr. Shoemaker*

“My favourite teacher was Miss Trudgeon – she was strict, but she really taught us well. I really loved her because she always read stories to us for the last 1/2 hour. I heard all the classics and became an avid literature fan because of her.”

“My most embarrassing experience was when the elastic broke in my undies in Grade 2. The teacher, Miss Startup, hauled me into the cloakroom of the Annex and ‘shored’ me up with safety pins – to my eternal gratefulness!”

Yvonne Galloway (nee Haffenden) (Student - 1946-1953)



*School Staff, circa 1958 – Mr. H.R. Libby, Principal*

"I was terrified of Mr. Sara when I was first put in his class, but now feel that he was the best teacher I've ever had in all my years of school."

Barb Smith (nee McMurdo) (Student - 1956-1963)

"In Grade 3, Mrs. Daniel, a delightful and inspiring teacher, had us all stand up at the window one day in October, 1957. We stared up at the sky, but couldn't see anything unusual. We were supposed to notice the Sputnik, launched by the Soviet Union that day."

Dave Bruce (Student - 1955-1962)

"My most embarrassing experience was being caught by Miss Batcheler for playing a version of desk top hockey with chalk and brushes, while on duty as a Library monitor. I will always cherish my years at Sexsmith School and be grateful to the teachers who helped me so much during these crucial learning years."

John M. Parks (Student - 1952-1958)

## Activities – Middle Years

During the period of 1938 to 1963, various sporting, cultural and social activities and events occurred that brought continued recognition to Sexsmith students, staff and parents.

"I'll never forget the year there were piles of stuffed animals around the house. My parents were in charge of the prizes for Carnival Night and we had them stored at our house for a few days."

Trudene Swanson (nee Hall) (Student - 1956-1963)

"Mr. Deagle took a group of us to sing over the radio – and was furious with us because when the music started, only one person began to sing . . ."

Norah Lowe (nee Yick) (Student - 1933-1941)

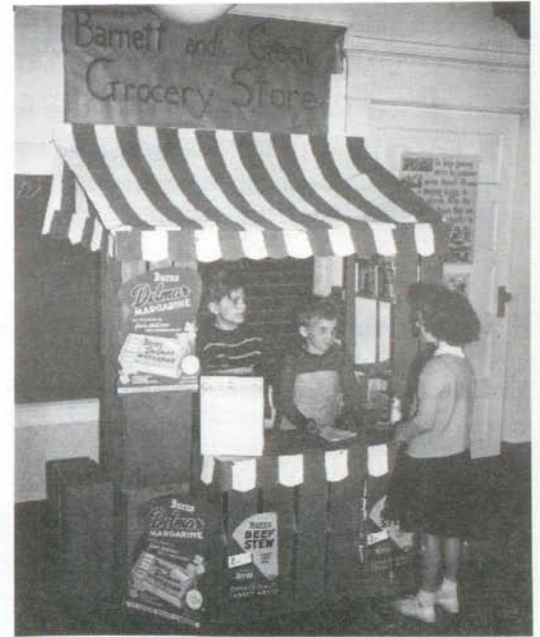


*Mother Goose Play, circa 1940's*





*Christmas Concert, Dec. 14, 1954*



*Classroom Store, circa 1950*

"In 1961 or '62 we put on a play – The Pied Piper. I wanted so bad to have the lead role; however, (remember, this was the early 60's) a GIRL got the lead role. I was devastated – a GIRL!!! Louise Fraser was an excellent student and she was an excellent Pied Piper, but, damn it, she was a girl! I played the part of the lame boy, and if Louise hadn't told me to slow down, I would have made it to the Land of Fun and Candy, but that wasn't in the script . . ."

Bruce Maier (Student - 1960-1963)

"I remember getting my first pair of squash heels after begging for months for them – and then that same night falling down the school steps on the way to the Christmas Concert."

Barb Smith (nee McMurdo) (Student - 1956-1963)

"Grade 7 was a great year with a young 1st-year teacher, Mr. Siemens. I remember the after-school sock hops in the gym, too. The kids danced to hits like, "It's my Party" and "Bobby's Girl" and we thought we were such 'cool' Grade 7's."

Linda Nielsen (nee Parks) (Teacher - 1973-Present)



*Choir, circa 1951*



"We played softball against other schools – Brock, Van Horne, Wolfe. We took the streetcar to the schools and sometimes we took the bag of bats, balls, etc. One day we hitched a ride coming back, and left the bag in the back of the truck. The driver brought it back the next day – we had a lot of explaining to do . . ."

Rita Bruin (nee Fetherston) (Student - 1937-1945)



*Softball Team with Trophy, circa 1939*



*Rhythmic Group, circa 1940*

"I can remember skipping to:

She can do the rhumba  
She can do the splits  
She can lift her dress up  
Higher than her hips

and we used to play:

Red Rover  
Red Rover  
Send Lyn over

out at the front of the school grounds."

Lyn Nielsen (nee White) (Student - 1953-1956)





*Sexsmith School Senior Girls Volleyball Team  
Winners of this Cup, circa 1948*



*Softball Team, circa 1957*

## **THE RECENT YEARS – 1964-1988**

### **School Building – Recent Years**

During the late 60's, and up to the present, the exterior of the school building has not been altered; however, there have been extensive renovations and modernization to the inside of the building.

In 1973 our present Library was constructed from two classrooms. This new Library included a small conference room where meetings, counselling sessions and a small parent information Library was located. This area has been used as a classroom, computer lab and storage area. With the modernization of the Library more shelves were constructed, carpeting was put down, study carrels and listening posts were made available, and a sink and cupboard area was installed.

In 1976 the Community Room was built. The area used was the north east corner of the boys' basement. Early carpeting and furnishings were provided by Wosk's.

The painting of the interior of the school, a new heating system, two portables and new office and staffroom facilities were completed and opened in 1978. The renovations on the main floor provided for a Principal's and Vice Principal's office, a secretary's office, copy room, nurse's office, counselling room, washroom and a Community School Programs office. This was constructed out of the old office and a classroom. On the second floor the staffroom was turned into a Learning Assistance Centre, and the classroom adjacent to it, made into the present staffroom.

Further renovations that occurred in the late 70's and early 80's included improved hall lighting, fire doors and an updated sprinkler system, a new gymnasium floor and stage curtains, and the removal of pillars from the main hall door entrance. In 1986, Vancouver's Centennial year, planters were constructed on both sides of this entrance area thanks to John Priest and Orest Minishka.



*This is the original office, shared by the Principal, Mr. Hollins, and the Vice Principal, Mr. Garside, 1976*

## School Grounds – Recent Years

Painted games on the blacktop, improvement in the drainage of the playing fields, the installation of a tether ball and pole, and basketball hoops added to the enhancement of the school grounds.

With the designation of Sexsmith School as a Community School more extensive use was made of the grounds all year round. To combat vandalism to the grounds and school building, outside lighting on 58th Avenue was added in 1975. Flood lights soon followed on the east side of the building.

In 1976, with the north west development of the Langara Golf Course into housing, a parcel of land at the south east corner adjacent to the school was designated as a park and playground. In 1981, a protest was sent concerning the state of the park's equipment and now, once again in 1988, we are looking at ways to have this playground upgraded for the benefit of the students and community.



*Adventure Playground, circa 1976*



## Classrooms – Recent Years

During the 70's and 80's there were many changes in the classroom setting. Classrooms became more visual (colourful) and less confining and structured. With large class sizes, and the need for more space for special programs, portables were used. This was a period in which rooms were designated, i.e. Art, Science, Computer, Music, Learning Centres. (ESL and Special Needs).

As the children in the Middle Years learned what to do when the Air Raid Siren sounded, children today are learning what to do in the event of an emergency situation eg. earthquakes, chemical spills. You may be interested to know that earthquake drills are very similar to the 1950's air raid drills. Also, safety programs are ongoing from K-7 including Traffic, Fire, Bicycle and recently a Sexual Abuse Prevention Program has been started. As well, a Dental Hygiene program involving the students taking Fluoride Tablets (with parental consent) has been in place for several years.

## District Programs That Have Been Added To Sexsmith

E.S.L. Class (English as a Second Language). This class is for Vancouver students who do not speak English well enough for a regular program. They are assigned to the class by the school board and must be at least nine years old in the year that they are assigned. The students remain in the class until they are able to cope with a regular program at which time they return to their home school.

E.L.A.C. (Extended Learning Assistance Class). These classes offer an elementary program emphasizing diagnostic and prescriptive teaching of students showing characteristics of severe learning disabilities. Students are referred by the Central Screening Committee of the school board and class sizes have a maximum of 15 pupils. The goal is to help students by developing learning strategies, social awareness and self-esteem. The students are included in age appropriate classes for physical education, art and music. They are integrated into academic subjects as they are able to cope successfully. We have an intermediate and a primary Extended Learning Assistance Class.

Our Learning Assistance Centre (L.A.C.) provides small group instruction several periods a week for children having difficulty in academic skill subjects.

Our English Language Centres (E.L.C.) provide assistance several periods a week for children learning English as a second language. We have a primary and an intermediate E.L.C.



*Mr. Upton with class, circa 1985*

“One of my most memorable experiences was with my class and our trip to Quebec. We (parents and students) worked really hard to raise \$15,000. In order to do this we raffled a car, and we had a lot of nervous parents until it was paid for. We had a great trip and everybody came back in one piece.”

Walter Upton (Teacher - 1970-Present)

“In Grade 4, I was in Mrs. McLean's classroom which was in the lunchroom. We had so many students at Sexsmith that year that four classes were downstairs. In Grade 7 – Mr. Brunker's class; once a month I had to get my dad to give me a piece of plywood for another salt and flour map. Every month we had to write an extensive report on a country we were studying. It was a lot of work but I sure learned how to write a report, which really helped me in High School. Camp Elphinstone was wonderful, I can remember how proud I was when I got to the top of Mt. Elphinstone.”

Debbie Kirk (nee Beck) (Student - 1964-1973)





Teachers Mrs. Kyle and Mrs. Vechter enjoying a birthday with Howard and his mom Mrs. Chang, along with the Kindergarten children



A Halloween activity for the Kindergarten children with Mr. Barr in the Library

## Enrollment - Recent Years

The late 60's saw a continued increase in the school's enrollment to approximately 700 students. In '67-'68 the lunchroom was closed so that Grades 3 and 4 could use the facility.

The enrollment started to decline during the 70's, and by September, 1975, we enrolled 575 students. With this decline came smaller class sizes. The decline continued and in 1983 we went below 400 in enrollment and lost the staff position of Vice Principal. As of September, 1987, there are 360 students, but the future looks to an increasing enrollment and class size.



Mrs. Kolotyluk with class, circa 1967-68

"I remember baking bread, eating whale meat, Rod's mystery powders, expert badges, raising rats, field trips on two dimes, Friday night floor hockey, skating, 'Stingiest Man in Town', puppets, projects, Appreciation Week, Sexsmith's 60th Reunion, and how we all worked together to create a wonderful feeling of community."

Frances Kolotyluk (Teacher - 1967-1976)

"I remember a day during the custodial strike when I had carefully locked up the school for the day around 5:00 p.m. Who should I see but Frances Kolotyluk leaving the school by the front door. I expected to hear police cars and sirens any minute. How she was able to miraculously get from her room to the front door without setting off any alarm is still a mystery to me."

Earl Matheson (Principal - 1967-1974)





*Mrs. Brown with Family Grouping class*

“When I was in Grade 2 in Mrs. Brown’s class I had seen a cartoon where they pulled the chair out from somebody. Mrs. Brown had been in an accident previously and was still in pain. I thought it would be funny to pull the chair out from under her. I guess it wasn’t. We both ended up in the cloakroom crying. Her from pain, and me from embarrassment.”

Michelle Nielsen (Student - 1971-1977)

“Sexsmith was a great place to start a career. I still have contact with many staff and ex-students. Camp Elphinstone holds many memories, one being the girls’ sneaking into the boys’ cabins, stealing all the shoes and throwing them up on the longhouse roof. (They got in big trouble for it.)

Bob Brownsword (Teacher - 1970-1975)



*Mr. Schuss with class, circa 1974-75*

“My years at Sexsmith were the most enjoyable of my teaching career. The students made it a place worth coming to in the morning . . . and they’re probably still all dogs.”

Terry Schuss (Teacher - 1973-1976)

“One of my favourite teachers was Mrs. Stark. I still remember her interesting science lessons and displays.”

Bridget Minishka (Student - 1972-1980)



*Mrs. Nielsen (nee Parks) with class, circa 1981-82*

“Mrs. Nielsen was my favourite teacher because she talked to us like adults and not like 2nd Graders! We always did the neatest projects and went to the neatest places. I also had her for 2 years in a row, so I got to know her very well.”

Lisa Simonski (Student - 1976-1983)

“I was honoured to be Grade 7 Valedictorian at Sexsmith, and worked really hard on my speech. I’d come a long way from pulling the fire alarm in Grade 1.”

Carlo Diano (Student - 1975-1982)



*Sexsmith Staff, circa 1964-65, Mr. Libby, Principal*

“The times they are a’changing . . . and to think we sent home Leonard Doucette because his hair was too long . . . and it wasn’t even long!”

George Siemens (Teacher - 1962-1967)





*School Staff, circa 1972-73, Mr. Matheson, Principal*

“I still laugh about George Gordon stocking the lunchroom fridge with cows’ eyeballs, much to the disgust of the lunchroom helpers. Dr. Chen, a very cooperative parent and a veterinarian by trade, provided ‘goodies’ for George Gordon’s science classes. Mrs. Scherk’s Hot Dog Day almost turned into a disaster.”

Earl Matheson (Principal - 1967-1974)



*School Staff, Mr. Hollins, Principal*

“I remember Sexsmith so well, and have many warm memories. I still have the old strap and school bell, and my plaque with ‘I don’t have to go to any more meetings’.”

Ray Hollins (Principal - 1974-1979)

“My favourite teacher was Mrs. O’Connor. She took us to visit Jericho School for the Deaf and taught us Sign Language.”

Alice Lo (Student - 1970-1978)



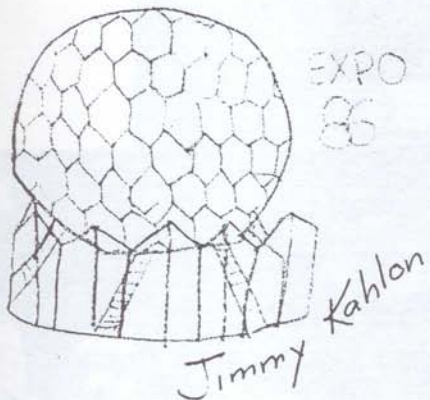


*School Staff, Mr. Cupit, Principal*

"I remember... restraint... staff and service reductions... political turmoil... but my first thoughts are overwhelmingly pleasant memories of a sense of history... memorable events echoing in the 75 year old halls, the affection the community has for the school and the presence of the many volunteers who have been involved in the school for decades."

"I recall so well the warmth and friendliness of the staff, students and the Community School's beautiful blending of the elderly and young learning together."

Donald L. Cupit (Principal 1982-87)



*Blair Fulton presenting first Special Student's Award, circa 1981*

Blair Fulton, upon retiring, started the Special Student's Award. He always had a friendly smile and a warm greeting for everyone. He enjoyed Art and always had student's work displayed in his office. We regret to inform you that he passed away in 1987.



## Activities – Recent Years

During the years of 1964-1988 various events have taken place at Sexsmith School. As you can see from these pictures below Sexsmith continues to be a school that promotes an active learning environment. This includes the tradition of a strong representation in inter-school sports where the school colours of yellow and green are still worn today. Drama presentations and choir festivals also continue to play a large part in the School's program. A walk through the School's hallways will provide a fascinating sample of the emphasis the school places on the visual arts at all grade levels. Fund raising events such as Christmas Carnivals, Spring Fairs, Spellathons and Food Sales have enabled the school to better develop its resources and purchase computers to enable our students a better future. The hard-working teachers spend many hours planning activities such as these shown.



*Our Town Play '84*



*Christmas Play '86*



*Mrs. Lacterman – Choir performing at Oakridge '87*



*Welcoming Rick Hansen '87*



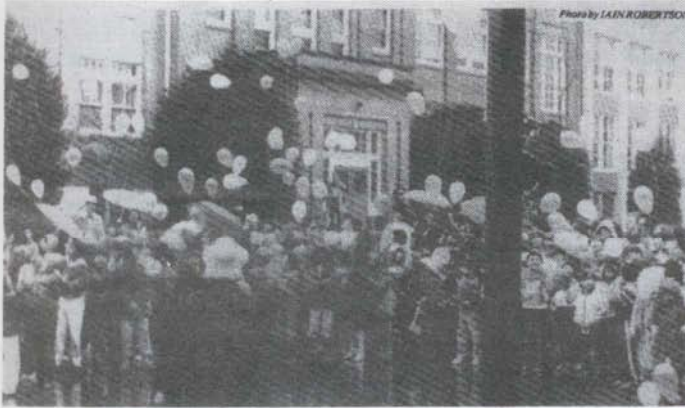
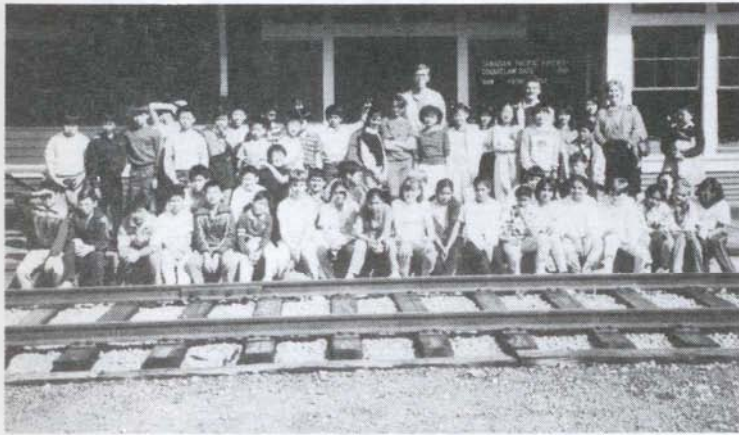


Photo by IAIN ROBERTSON

**Sexsmith salutes Centennial**

Students of Sexsmith Elementary School, 7455 Ontario, let go with balloons during Centennial celebrations held last week. Other events included a ceremonial tree planting and period costumes worn by the staff.

*Sexsmith celebrates the Centennial with a ceremonial tree-planting and release of balloons in April 1986*



*After months of raising money by selling popcorn and having a Spring Fair, the grade 5's with Mrs. Stark, Mr. Jones and Mr. Barr are seen here heading for Barkerville, June 1987.*



**Sexsmith presents 'Tom Sawyer'**

A few members of the cast are shown here in dress rehearsal. From top left Fred Fung as "Huck Finn", right Karen Lee as "Aunt Polly", and bottom Corey Cheng as the notorious "Tom Sawyer".



*The Science Fair in the spring of 1987*

"One of my funniest memories at Sexsmith occurred while helping with the Haunted House that we put on for a Carnival Night. It was quite a challenge to plan scary things for the kids to do as they passed through the Haunted House. Mr. McCallum, Ms. Grove, Mr. and Mrs. Nielsen and I did such a good job making the activities, that some of the kids were terrified, We had to keep telling them that the "eyeballs" they were touching were only 'peeled grapes'. They were!

Luella Bate (Teacher/Librarian - 1967-1983)



“Sock Hops were amazing events – how long would the girls line up along one wall and watch the boys against the other? Who would ask first? Who would get to ‘slow dance’? In the end we all danced in two rows – one for boys and one for girls!”

Cathy Cooke (Student - 1968-1975)



Mr. Rohloff with children in Strings program

“I remember Mrs. Shaver, who was so little she never could see over the podium when she conducted music and it wasn’t very long before I was towering over her.”

Ross Lumb (Student - 1964-1973)

“Some of my fondest memories: Camp Elphinstone (bloody knuckles, flashlight tag, and the long, long Thursday night dances); Library Express – and the super feeling of harmony between the students and teachers at Sexsmith – the best school I’ve ever taught at.”

Gord McCallum (Teacher - 1975-1981)



Seashore Study at Camp Elphinstone with Mr. Credo and Mr. McCallum



Mr. Spruston in the Long House at Camp Elphinstone



"My most memorable experience was . . . Camp Elphinstone – we had a great time playing flashlight tag, competing for cookies and for the cleanest cabin, creating crazy skits and playing bloody knuckles – ouch!"

Cathy Cooke (Student - 1968-1975)

"My most embarrassing moment while helping at Sexsmith was in 1980 while designing the Display Case in the main hall for Marketplace Fair. I was placing articles in it. (In fact, I was in it . . .) I closed the back panel so I wouldn't fall out, and unfortunately I got stuck in it. The panel wouldn't open. I was in there for 35 minutes. Then an Engineer saw me in there and let me out. It was 4:30 p.m. on a Friday . . ."

Sital Dhillon (Student - 1964-1971)

"I'll never forget the time Timmy Jex switched the directional signs on Voting Day. Instead of pointing to the gym, it led people to the boys' washroom."

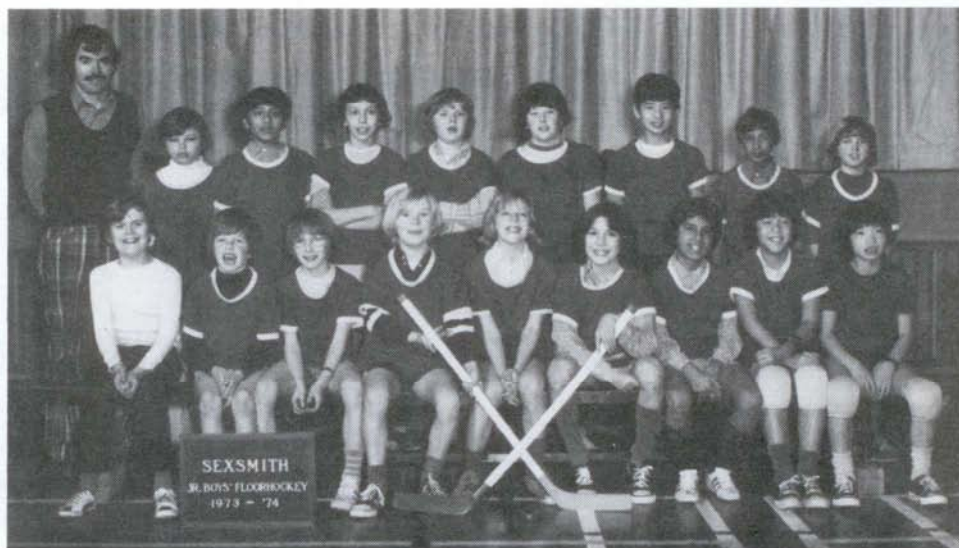
Vivian Norman (Teacher - 1978-1980)



Mrs. Stark, Mrs. Rowan with a girls Volleyball team, circa 1967-68

"One of the highlights of my years at Sexsmith was in 1967 – I was in Grade 4 and we had a school-wide Open House to celebrate the Centennial. Mrs. Larson was ill and we had a substitute (Mrs. Chapman). My class built a wooden longhouse in the classroom, and we all wore Indian costumes. Indian Chief Joe Mathias came to our class and taught us all the dances, which we performed at the Open House."

Janice Beck (Student - 1962-1971)



Mr. Brownsword with a boys Floor Hockey team, circa 1973-74



## FEATURES

### LONG TERM TEACHERS & STAFF:

#### Miss Myrtle A. Batcheler



#### *An end, and a beginning*

42 YEARS OF TEACHING have come to an end for Miss Myrtle Batcheler, who retired from Sexsmith School Thursday. In her honor, a new scholarship award was inaugurated, and Miss Batcheler was pictured with 12-year-old David Bruce, 190 East Sixty-third, whose name is the first engraved on honor roll.

No history of Sexsmith School would be complete without the mention of Miss Myrtle Batcheler, who taught at Sexsmith School for 42 years, from 1919 to 1961. Miss Batcheler was active in many areas. She was a prominent member and supporter of the school and the P.T.A. during her years at Sexsmith. She served a term as President of the Vancouver Elementary Teachers' Association for six years and she served a term as President of the B.C. Library Association.

Miss Batcheler was appointed Vice Principal of Sexsmith School in 1952 (she was the first woman Vice Principal in Vancouver). On her retirement, the P.T.A., which she served for many years in the capacity of Treasurer, honoured her with a special program and inaugurated the Myrtle A. Batcheler Scholarship Award, a trophy on which the name of the top Grade 7 scholar (1961 - Grade 6) is recorded each year. Miss Batcheler generously added a cash prize to accompany this Award, which is still being presented in honour of a great and dedicated teacher.

"I remember being thrilled and proud to receive the Myrtle Batcheler Award. There was a warm, community feeling at Sexsmith at that time, with many parents and the whole school gathered in the gym at the end of June for a school ending ceremony.

Dave Bruce (Student - 1955-1962)

"I vividly recall winning the Myrtle Batcheler Award in 1984. It was a highlight of my days at Sexsmith.

Simon Szeto (Student - 1976-1984)



Mrs. Minishka and Mr. Cupit presenting the Myrtle Batcheler Award to Yvonne Cheung in 1985.

## Myrtle Batcheler Award Winners

|                  |               |     |                 |     |
|------------------|---------------|-----|-----------------|-----|
| Dave Bruce       | (for Grade 6) | '61 | Ricky Lowe      | '73 |
| Dave Bruce*      |               | '62 | Bobby Der       | '74 |
| Barry White*     |               | '62 | Teresa DiCarlo* | '75 |
| Bev Leong*       |               | '63 | Pamela Lee*     | '75 |
| Barry White*     |               | '63 | Anita Arndt     | '76 |
| Brenda Hughes    |               | '64 | Lionel Yip      | '77 |
| Anne Stevenson   |               | '65 | Eva Chow        | '78 |
| Annette Greene*  |               | '66 | Elda Ko         | '79 |
| Gerda Schultz*   |               | '66 | Andrea Chiu     | '80 |
| Valerie Ashdown* |               | '67 | Zely Lee        | '81 |
| Garnet Gordey*   |               | '67 | Jennie Li       | '82 |
| Wanda Louie      |               | '68 | Luke Cheuk      | '83 |
| Trudy Arndt      |               | '69 | Simon Szeto     | '84 |
| Clifton Nipp     |               | '70 | Yvonne Cheung   | '85 |
| Cindy Louie      |               | '71 | Decelia Lum     | '86 |
| Mary Balomenos   |               | '72 | Jaswant Ranu    | '87 |

\*Joint winners for that year

"When I was in Grade 5, Miss Batcheler retired (1961). I can remember collecting pop bottles for weeks with a group of girls. At 2 cents apiece, I believe we raised \$7.50. We walked up Main Street and purchased an oil painting that we thought was gorgeous. I can still recall her wonderful blue eyes twinkling as we presented it to her."

Linda Nielsen (nee Parks) (Teacher - 1973-Present)

"My very dear friend and Great-Aunt, Myrtle Batcheler, passed away in November, 1987. She was a beautiful person who held her health, dignity and charm right to the end of her 87 years. After Miss Batcheler retired, her main hobbies were gardening and reading. She talked to Greta Partriquin daily, and was a dear friend of hers until Miss Partriquin passed away a number of years ago. Miss Batcheler often spoke of the students dropping by her family home, reminiscing about the old days at Sexsmith School. She never married or had children – her main love in life was the hearts and minds of the children she taught at Sexsmith School."

Great-Niece of Myrtle Batcheler – Carolyn Bromage

## Miss Greta Partriquin



The teacher with the second longest record of service was Greta Partriquin, who started teaching here in 1933 and was a staff member for 33 years. She served on the P.T.A. Executive as Secretary, and was a member of a number of educational committees, including those on curriculum revision and Cuisinaire Arithmetic. She retired from teaching in 1966.

This photograph was taken in Room 105 in June 1966 by a Vancouver Sun Newspaper photographer



Miss Partriquin at retirement party



## Ms. Bonnie Henderson (m. Dwyer)



Ms. Henderson (m. Dwyer) has the third longest record of service at Sexsmith School. She has taught here from 1966 and is presently on staff at this time. She has always taught Grades 1 and 2 during these 22 years at Sexsmith.

"After teaching in a couple of "brand" new schools in Alberta; it was quite a shock, on my first day at Sexsmith, to be led to a room in the "dungeon"! However, it all turned out well!"

"When do I get my gold star?"

Bonnie Henderson (Dwyer) (Teacher - 1966-Present)

## Miss Margaret Main



The teacher with the fourth longest record of service is Miss Margaret Main. She was on the staff of Sexsmith from 1922 until 1943, when she transferred to Tecumseh School. She married Mr. Faulkner in 1945, and left teaching in 1951. She joined the staff of a school again at Quilchena School, and retired in 1963.



## Mrs. Linda Nielsen (nee Parks)



"I attended school at Sexsmith as a child from 1956 to 1963. Pleasant memories of both past teachers and classmates are plentiful, and I still see many ex-students who I once played jacks or hopscotch with out on the front playground. Catching tadpoles in the stream next to the school each spring, and ice-skating "on the flats" south of Marine Drive during 'icy-cold' winters, were my favourite neighbourhood memories. My mom put all my Sports Day Ribbons (no firsts!) and green and yellow Sexsmith badges in a Scrapbook so I still have them today!

What a coincidence it was to be placed at Sexsmith as a long-term substitute teacher in 1973. I returned as a full-time grade two teacher in September, 1974. The last 15 years of teaching have been very enjoyable for me, and I feel like Sexsmith is my second home. I especially enjoy watching the winners receive the Myrtle Batcheler Award in June, as I remember her inaugurating this Award when she retired.

On several occasions I've had the pleasure of teaching students who are children of my former classmates. It has lead to entertaining parent/teacher conferences. I look forward to the upcoming Reunion, and have thoroughly enjoyed talking to the interesting ex-staff and students while gathering quotes for this Book."

Mrs. Linda Nielsen (nee Parks) (Student - 1956-1963) (Teacher - 1973-Present)

## Mrs. Dorothy Smith 1957-1985



No record of long-lasting staff would be complete without the mention of Mrs. Dorothy Smith who worked as the school secretary from 1957-1985. The first encounter many children had at Sexsmith was to be registered by Mrs. Smith at the office.

## Mrs. Gwen Beck



Mrs. Gwen Beck has been involved with Sexsmith School for the last 26 years as a parent, member of the P.T.A. Executive, Supervision Aide and Staff Assistant.

“THOSE WERE THE DAYS”: I remember when . . .

- P.T.A. meetings filled the gymnasium with parents;
- the Centennial Sports Day, all the students dressed in pioneer costumes and pulled covered wagons;
- lunchroom main dishes were 15 cents, and you got the most delicious cole slaw;
- girls were sent home because their skirts were too short (mini-skirt craze);
- the strap was used;
- Mr. Brunner had a ping-pong paddle;
- Mrs. Shaver’s Music Class sang “Rule Britannia”;
- the office was being renovated – and we all had to work in the Library; and
- our school enrollment was over 700 students, and we had four classes in the lunchroom.

Other long time Staff Members at Sexsmith include Mrs. McLean, Mrs. Stark and Mr. Upton. Over the years, a large number of people have made long term commitments to Sexsmith School, which has contributed to the warm and welcoming atmosphere that so many ex-students and Staff have recognized and mentioned in their comments.

## The Community School

Sexsmith School received the designation of a Comprehensive Community School in September, 1974.

Much of the ground work for this designation has to be credited to the Parent-Teacher Association who, in years prior to this, developed programs for parents and students, such as Family Nights, Parenting courses (eg. Children the Challenge), after-school gym, etc.

The first Community School office was in the old nurse’s room, now Room 202. Tina Slosky was the first Community School Coordinator, from September, 1974 to October, 1976. At that time, she was replaced by Rose Marie De Paoli, who was Coordinator until she was replaced by Bill Price in June, 1983. Bill Price is our current Coordinator.

## WHAT IS A COMMUNITY SCHOOL?

A Community School is a regular public school with special emphasis upon the value of community residents and school staff.

One of the dominant characteristics of the community which Sexsmith is situated in is the number of people from non-English speaking backgrounds. For example, the major languages spoken at Sexsmith Community School are Cantonese, Mandarin and Punjabi. Other languages spoken are Hindi, Filipino, Japanese, Korean and Fijian, to name a few.

Sexsmith Community School provides an elementary education, as well as children’s programs in the arts, heritage languages, crafts, cooking, etc.; and for adults – English as a Second Language, continuing education, gym programs, social events, community meetings, the arts, etc. We have programs for everybody, from pre-school-aged children to senior adults. Our school is open from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and everybody is welcome!

Our Community School has a strong emphasis on ESL programs, from preschool to seniors’ classes, as well as children and youth programs. This reflects the needs of the community.



## Amherst Private Hospital Visit Program

One of our most popular and rewarding programs has been the Amherst program started 7 years ago by the Community School Coordinator, in which students visit residents at Amherst Private Hospital on a weekly basis.

Approximately 25 students are accepted for the Program each term (three to four months). The Program runs on Wednesdays (with the exception of the first Wednesday of each month), for one hour, and is in coordination with a Program offered by the Hospital at 2:00 p.m. daily. The first 30 minutes being taken up with a social "Tea" that the students serve to the residents. At the end of the hour the students are responsible for showing the residents back to their rooms.

The Program has been extremely rewarding for everyone involved, and has run very smoothly. The Amherst Hospital staff and administration, and the staff here at Sexsmith, are happy to continue this activity as a regular Community Program.



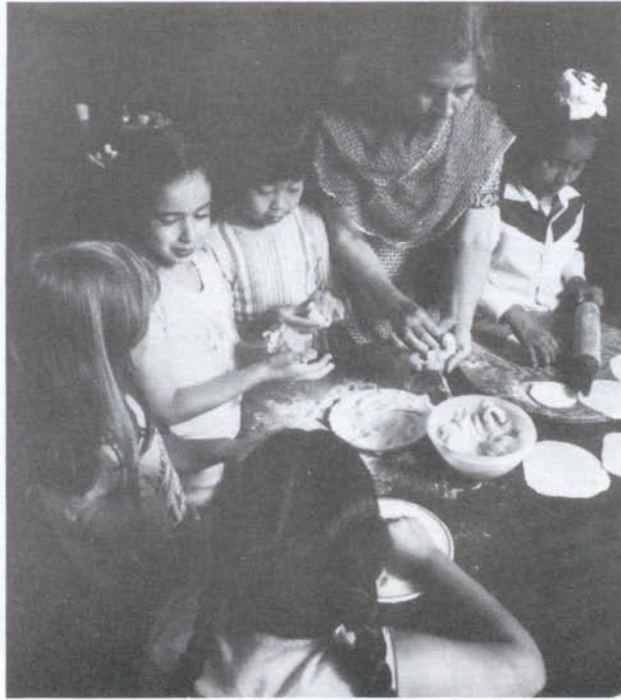
*Ms. Leibing with her Pre-school class*

The Sexsmith Community School Association is made up of interested staff, parents, and non-parents who reside in the Sexsmith catchment area, and members of different groups using our school. These community members contribute greatly to the variety of programs that are offered in our school, through direct input and participation in the decision-making process as to what the community's needs are, and how our programs can meet those needs.

A very strong part of the community has been the Chinese Cultural Group – originally founded as the Chinese Core Working Group in 1976. Dr. Kan Chen has been the continuing leader for this group. As a former parent, P.T.A. member, and one of the founding members of the Community School (as well as a long-time resident of the Sexsmith area), Dr. Chen and his wife, Alice, have given many volunteer hours to Sexsmith.

Other early founding members include: Doreen Bailey, who helped to lay the ground work as P.T.A. President in the early 70's, Jack Cooke, Paul Pulle, Ed Foo and Helene Minishka.

Mrs. Minishka has, like Dr. Chen, continued to participate in the Community School as a resident. From 1970, she was active in the P.T.A. as Programs Chairman and later President (1974-1978). She was a lunchroom volunteer and day convener for 8 years, an active Room Mother, Block Home Parent, and during this time she also served as a Vancouver District Parent Representative. In the mid-80's she chaired the Sexsmith Community School Association, and helped to bring new parents into the school. She has always kept time open to participate in the Community School.



*Volunteer Mrs. Dhillon cooking with a group of children*

"On reflection about my activity at Sexsmith, I am pleased to say that I was fortunate to have a neighbourhood school where parents and teachers were encouraged to be involved. I'm so glad there was a P.T.A. and that we have a Community School."

Helene Minishka (Parent Participant - 8 years) (Resident - 10 years)

"When I think back on my days at Sexsmith Community School, I'm filled with warmth and wonderful memories. The school community was so unique that the school was already well on its way to being a community school when I arrived. Working with the staff, students and community to develop the community school was a real pleasure. I think the specialness of this school is apparent in the long time interest held by people who are either still there or who have long since passed through its doors."

Tina Slosky (Coordinator - 1974-1976)

"What I found exciting working at Sexsmith was seeing how the school brought the different cultures and age groups together within the community. The school was a living and vibrant example of Canada's multicultural policy at work."

Rose Marie De Paoli (Coordinator - 1976-1983)



*"This is the kind of help I got when I asked staff to help me advertise a Community School function. In this picture, we have teachers, Matt Credo, Tom King, Linda Nielsen and Principal, Ray Hollins (and me - in the mask) . . . and to think we drove through the neighbourhood at 4:30 p.m. dressed up like this! What super support the staff gave me!"*

*Rose Marie De Paoli (Coordinator - 1976-1983)*





*Dr. Kan Chen, a long-time volunteer, enjoys a Family Night at Sexsmith*



*East Indian Dancers performing for Sexsmith School*

"I remember taking a Red Cross babysitting course taught by Rose Marie De Paoli, in Grade 6 or 7 and getting a good score on the final test – and hence at an assembly being presented with a baby bottle and a diaper."

Bridget Minishka (Student - 1970-1978)



1939

**Sports  
Day  
Then...**



1939

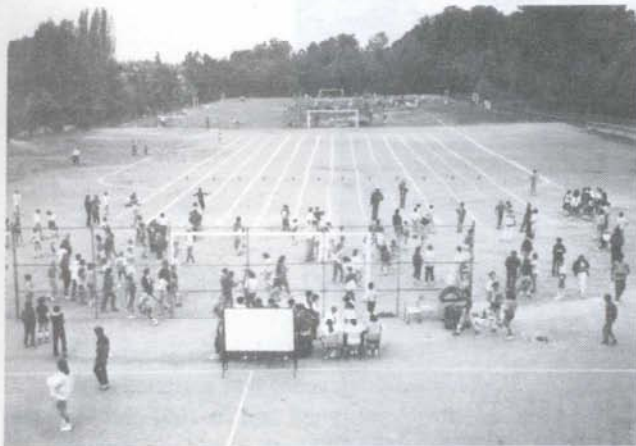


1959



and Now...

1986



1986



1987



## Sexsmith Hot Lunch Program

A key factor in the development of the uniqueness of Sexsmith School was the introduction of a Hot Lunch Program that has been providing lunch to students for more than 50 years.

“On March 1, 1922, the Parent Teacher Association was founded. It was these women who pioneered the first soup kitchen at the school, which provided soup during the Depression years. All vegetables and meat were donated from gardeners and butchers in the neighbourhood. The generosity of the Chinese market gardeners, the Leong and Yick families, was invaluable.

Lillian McLachlan – nee Ramsay (Student - 1912-1920)

“Tens of thousands of bowls of soup were given to the needy pupils during the Depression years.”

W.R. Johnson (Principal - 1924-1936)

From 1946 to 1948 the P.T.A. lobbied the School Board for lunchroom facilities and a gymnasium, and in 1951 the present lunchroom was opened (prior to that time there had been a stove in the janitor's area, and tables had been set up in the boys' basement).

During 1967-68 the facility was required for a classroom once again. In the fall of 1970 a full lunchroom program began again and has continued to the present, thanks to the volunteering of parents and residents who have so generously given of their time.

The menu has varied as the population has changed. We have gone from mashed potatoes and sausages to pizzas, chow mein and chicken burgers. There continues to be an emphasis on nutrition, with such things as muffins, yoghurt and cheese and crackers offered in the place of snack foods. Sexsmith's Hot Lunch Program was founded on soup – and this is still offered daily.

We have the oldest continuing program in the school district, and should be extremely proud of the people who have prepared and served lunches at Sexsmith School.



*Lunchroom, circa 1985*

## The Children's Hospital – 1933-1982

There was a Children's Hospital located at 250 West 59th Avenue, between Manitoba and Columbia Streets. The Children's Hospital Teachers were included in the Sexsmith School staff. In 1935-37, a teacher was assigned to the Hospital for the educational needs of patients. In 1948 there were three teachers assigned and in 1951 the teaching staff expanded to four. Under the overall medical administration of the Children's Hospital both in and out patients participated in the Department of Education school program. Administered locally by the V.S.B. and supervised by the principals of Sexsmith, the children were registered on class lists at Sexsmith, while in the hospital.



*Mrs. McKinnon teaching group of in-patients, Children's Hospital*



*Class – out patients, Children's Hospital*

"I used to take the moving picture equipment over to the hospital and show films once a week. There was one teacher on staff called Miss Taylor."

Frank Lightbody (Principal - 1936-1942)

"I remember so well . . . Hockey Time during recess – books piled at the end of the long table made goals. Tongue depressors were hockey sticks, and the black checker was the puck. These wonderful children had hands that could barely flick a tongue depressor, but they improvised an exciting hockey game. These were children named after the NHL teams, and the players were the hockey heroes of the day. Such excited cheering as the puck was flicked from player to player and into the goal."

Irma Jones (Children's Hospital Teacher - 1957-1973)



*Teacher Mrs. Watts, with a class from the Children's Hospital*



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**Sources** – Sexsmith Archives  
– “Windows” – Vancouver Archives Kit, V.S.B.  
– Childrens' Hospital Records  
– V.S.B. Photographs  
– The Vancouver Sun (1961)  
– The Vancouver South Echo (1931)

We hope that this Book made for interesting reading and refreshed your memories of days gone by. The quotes within this Book are only a random sampling of past events and memories, and we know that there are many more people who we could not contact. We hope that the facts included are accurate, but we remind you that this is primarily a 'Memory Book'. We shared many chuckles as we selected the material and assembled this Book. We hope that you, too, will enjoy it for many years to come.

Time it was  
And what a time it was,  
It was . . .  
A time of innocence,  
A time of confidences.  
Long ago . . . it must be . . .  
I have a photograph.  
Preserve your memories;  
They're all that's left you.

Simon & Garfunkel  
(Submitted by Lisa Simonski, Student - 1976-1983)



*Whole School Population 1987 – 1988*



