

## **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary History of Current The Pas Schools Since 1959**

### **Kelsey Elementary 120 Stewart Street**

Named for the first European to visit the area, Hudson Bay Co. explorer Henry Kelsey.

Kelsey School was built in three stages (1958 -1964 -1972); the first stage was a one story 10 classroom building along Settee Avenue. It replaced old wooden school annexes at the “Red Brick” school site on Second Street West. The second stage was a two story 16 classroom building along Hogan Avenue, necessitated by population growth in the town due to the building of a community college in the area. Due to construction in The Pas which caused significant population growth, intermediate students went on staggered hours for 19769-70. Four school locations were allocated under the Kelsey School principalship in 1970-71, in order to accommodate a total of about 900 students.

The third stage opened in 1972 and joined the two original buildings with an addition that contained 12 open-area classrooms, a gymnasium, offices, and music, science and kindergarten rooms. This modernization was meant to handle tremendous growth in the southern residential part of The Pas, a result of the opening of a pulp and paper complex.

In 1972 when the facilities opened, enrollment was about 600. There were 400 students in 2009, and about 300? currently. Kelsey became a Community School in 2006, broadening its services to improve home/school connections. The privately operated The Pas Day Care is also located in this school.

1958 principal: Geoffrey Smith  
1958 enrolment: 180

2009 principal: Julia McKay  
2009 enrolment: 397

### **École Opasquia Elementary 27 Eighth Street West**

Named after a Cree word reputed to be one of the origins of “The Pas”.

This school was built in three stages (1958 -1964 -1972); the first stage on Constant Avenue was a one story 6 classroom building that replaced old wooden school annexes at the “Red Brick” school site on Second Street West. The second stage was a two story 16 classroom building built along Gordon Avenue. The third stage opened in 1972 and was built to join the two original buildings with an addition that contained 8 open-area classrooms, a gymnasium, offices, and music, science and kindergarten rooms. This modernization was due in part to the growth in students bussed from the developing Pasquia Project, settlement in the Carrot River Valley west of The Pas, Wanless and from The Pas Reserve.

In 2002 École Opasquia School became a middle school, but in 2006 it reverted to an elementary school with the addition of 200 former students from Mary Duncan Elementary. The privately operated Marigold (Day Care) Centre is also located here.

1958 principal: Wilfred Tomasson  
1958 enrolment: 150

2009 principal: Gavin Smith  
2009 enrolment: 368

## **Mary Duncan School 60 Third Street West**

Named after the first elementary principal in The Pas.

Opened in 1973, this school rests on the foundation of The Pas Collegiate Institute (circa 1954). TPCI became Mary Duncan Junior High in 1968. As a result of arson, most of this original building burned down in 1970. A new 16 class open-area school, renamed Mary Duncan Elementary, was opened on this site in 1973 to accommodate students from the former The Pas Elementary School (Second Street West) and Sacred Heart School (First Street West), with students mainly from the northern half of The Pas, and bus students from several areas. In 1985 the open area classrooms were enclosed and in 1991 the Grade 5 & 6 students were moved to the newly formed Scott Bateman and Opasquia middle schools.

In 2006 the K-Grade 4 students were moved to the reorganized École Opasquia School. The Kelsey Adult Learning Centre, and the school division's alternate individualized PACE and Great Expectations programs, were then relocated to the Mary Duncan School. The privately operated Halcrow Day Care also occupies part of the school.

In 2014, arson caused massive damage again. The school underwent extensive redesign and construction during which the Kelsey Learning Centre was temporarily relocated to University College of the North while the alternative programs were housed in temporary classroom portables on site along Cook Avenue. The rebuilt school was scheduled for opening in Fall 2016.

1973 principal: Vaughn Wadelius  
1973 enrolment: 500

2009 principal: Tara Manych  
2009 enrolment: 269

## **Scott Bateman Middle School ??? Grace Lake Road**

Named after a former The Pas principal and Manitoba Deputy Minister of Education.

Formed in 1973, the new Scott Bateman Junior High School was opened in 1974. Grade 7 and 8 students who had been temporarily located in various school sites in The Pas since 1971 due to the loss by fire of Mary Duncan Junior High, were moved into this facility which extended the range of specialized art and vocational class rooms and allowed for shared options facilities with Margaret Barbour Collegiate Institute next door.

In 2002 a decision to establish it as a middle school brought the elementary Grades 5 and 6 classes to this site from Kelsey and École Opasquia schools. In 2006 Opasquia Middle School was reorganized into a K-Grade 5 elementary school and its Grades 6, 7 and 8 students were also moved to Scott Bateman Middle School.

1973 principal: Al Yaskiw  
1973 enrolment: 400

2009 principal: Kelly Wadelius  
2009 enrolment: 375

## **Margaret Barbour Collegiate Institute 429 Smith Avenue**

Named after a long serving The Pas high school teacher.

High school history in The Pas is a long and proud one. The first high school in northern Manitoba was established here in 1932. From 1954-1968 high school classes were located in The Pas Collegiate Institute at 60 Third Street West. A new Margaret Barbour Collegiate opened in 1968. It was designed by the well-known architect Étienne Gaboury and replaced the original The Pas Collegiate Institute which then became a junior high school. MBCI contained the first specialized facilities, including a lunch room/cafeteria and a community use auditorium/gymnasium.

In 1974 a community owned 25 metre pool was added to the south side, along with a school addition on the south end holding a new library, a language lab, business education facilities and vocational class rooms. Dual credit for technical vocational courses arranged with Keewatin Community College in the 1970s was expanded by the 1990s.

Distance education instruction was incorporated into the high school curriculum in the 1990s, offering some high school courses shared with Flin Flon. Several first year university courses via Inter-Universities North's Distance Education program were located at MBCI allowing advanced post-secondary course credit for selected Grade 12 students. An infant care centre was started in the school in 1995, providing a complement to the high school Family Life courses. In 1996 an adult learning centre component was developed under the MBCI principalship and operated at the nearby Keewatin Community College. This adult component was moved in 2007 to the Mary Duncan School site under its own principalship.

MBCI graduates have relocated across the globe, and many international exchange students have spent a year at MBCI.

1968 principal: James Fasano  
1968 enrolment: 550

2009 principal: Doug Van Damme  
2009 enrolment: 418