

Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret Schools Staff Salaries 1955-1956

Agnes Dyck – Grade 1 – 29 Students - \$2,300.00

Lorraine Regehr – Grade 1 – 33 Students - \$2,300.00

Lydia Neufeld – Grade 2 – 36 Students - \$3,200.00

Pauline McCarthy – Grade 3 – 34 Students - \$3,000.00

Irene T. Johnson – Grade 4 – 36 Students - \$2,200.00

Shelia Hartman – Grade 5 – 34 Students - \$2,200.00

Henry Schmidt – Grade 6 – 32 Students - \$3,250.00 – Principal Princess Margaret

May 1962

Use School For Clubhouse

Princess Elizabeth School on Rothesay street will be moved to the south-east corner of the Springfield Heights School grounds shortly to be used as a community clubhouse.

A delegation which appeared before North Kildonan Council Tuesday night was told that property is in the process of being acquired from the School Board.

Residents in the Springfield Heights area have been endeavoring for some time to obtain property for recreation facilities.

It is expected that the building, which is about 25x85 feet, will be moved as soon as the wet weather conditions improve.

Aug 1962

School Windows Smashed

Windows in the Princess Elizabeth School in North Kildonan have been the target of a person or persons unknown since the school was vacated about two years ago, with the result most of the glass has been shattered.

Recently residents in the area complained to North Kildonan School Board to have the windows boarded up.

The School Board passed the request along to Council for action.

Council passed it along to the North Kildonan Community Club, which organization recently obtained the building for a community centre.

Recently Council was informed by Metro that the building could not be moved from its present site on Rothesay to the Springfield Heights grounds.

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Princess Margaret School Additions Over The Years

1956 – Four Rooms – Cost \$62,000.00

1957 – Two Rooms added

1958 – Four Rooms added

1959 – Five Rooms added and Gym added

1963 - Nine Rooms added

1966 – Four Rooms added – Cost \$115,000.00

1967 – One Classroom converted and added to existing one room library

1987 – Six Classrooms built in 1956 and 1957 condemned as structurally unstable

1989 – Two Portable Classrooms added

1994 – Two Portable Classrooms destroyed by arsonist

1995 – Two new kindergarten rooms, new music room, new multipurpose room, new gym and old gym converted to new library – Cost \$1,500,000.00

Princess Margaret School During First Year

Built in 1955

4 Rooms

Total Students in 1955-1956 - 142

Cost to build Princess Margaret in 1956 - \$32,000.00

Princess Margaret School's Principal/Teacher salary - \$3,250.00 per year in 1956-1957

The average salary of the other 3 Teachers at Princess Margaret School in 1955-1956 - \$2,600.00 per year. The starting salary for an elementary teacher in 1956 was \$2,100.00 per year and the maximum salary was \$3,725.00 per year.

It had been suggested by some local residents in 1954, that a 12-room school with an auditorium/gym and library should be built in the area. One North Kildonan Municipal Councillor said this idea was absurd and this area would never need a school that size. As far as an auditorium/gym and library were concerned, these were 'frills' and the product of 'foolish thinking'.

May 1959

N. Kildonan School Bylaw

A \$150,000 school bylaw for a six-classroom elementary and junior high school will go before North Kildonan voters June 1.

The building would have a large auditorium-gymnasium. It would be located between Whiteford Avenue and Hawthorne Avenue, joining Princess Margaret and Princess Elizabeth Schools.

Princess Margaret School in the 1960's

As the 1960's began Princess Margaret was a sixteen room school containing grades one through seven. Grade eight students were enrolled at Princess Margaret beginning in the 1963-1964 school year, these students along with the grade seven students were to remain at Princess Margaret until Chief Peguis Junior High opened in 1969. Kindergarten came to the school in the fall of 1969 as it did to all elementary schools in the River East School Division. It was also during the decade that Princess Margaret achieved its largest enrolment of nearly 650 students.

The 1960's saw the construction of its first library in one of the classrooms and the conversion of a second classroom to the library area in 1967. The school's first gym, the present library area had been added in 1959.

March 1964 saw the first story in the Herald newspaper dealing exclusively with Princess Margaret School describing the first Citizenship Court held at the school. During the federal election of 1963 it had been brought to Principal Henry Schmidt's attention that 800 adults of voting age living in the district could not vote as they were not Canadian citizens. After speaking to the Princess Margaret School Home and School Association and obtaining the information on what was required to become a Canadian citizen; it was arranged to have Citizenship Court at Princess Margaret. This was held on March 4, 1964 where 19 immigrants were sworn in as new Canadian citizens in front of 100 invited guests. This was the first ceremony of this kind ever done in a Manitoba school. For the next 3 years the ceremony was again held again at the school with the 1967 ceremony held during Canada's Centennial Year being the largest.

Princess Margaret and its school grounds were the center of much community gatherings especially after the removal of the old Princess Elizabeth School building in 1962. In this pre indoor arena era, a skating rink was built on the school grounds every winter by the North Kildonan Parks Department. As well a jam pail curling rink was constructed during the winter months for the use of Princess Margaret students who competed with other students from other schools.

During the warmer months baseball was played on a regular basis by students of the school as well as outside groups. The Princess Margaret Gym and classrooms were used on a regular basis by community groups to hold their meeting.

In some years the grounds of Princess Margaret were used for some very special events. On several occasions the official North Kildonan fireworks celebrations were held at Princess Margaret. The most important ceremony held on the grounds of Princess Margaret occurred during the evening of December 31, 1966 when North Kildonan's official welcome to Canada's Centennial was held. To open the celebration, for the first and probably the only time a helicopter landed on the grounds of Princess Margaret bringing North Kildonan's Mayor Pekary to the event.

The Centennial Year of 1967 brought many special activities and was a year warmly remembered by all those alive during that time.

The end of the 1960's brought many changes to Princess Margaret, the departure of the junior high students, the arrival of the kindergarten students and the departure of Henry's Schmidt as principal to become the first principal of Chief Peguis Junior High.

Princess Margaret School in the 1970's

As the 1970's opened Princess Margaret School contained the same distribution of grades as today but the school still had only one program stream, the Standard English program. German Immersion would not arrive until the next decade. The last physical change to the school had been made in 1967 when the library had been expanded from a one classroom size to a two classroom size. The next change was not to occur until 1987 when the original part of the school was condemned as structurally unstable.

The 1970's were the beginnings of the success of the Princess Margaret music program. The first winner from Princess Margaret that I have been able to find in the Winnipeg Music Festival occurred in 1969 with the winning of the Peter Logan Memorial Trophy for outstanding performance in a school classroom choir for grades 4 to 6. The following year 1970 saw the school winning two awards, one for the top grade 2 choir and the top grade 4 choir. The year 1974 saw the school win the Beethoven Shield and in the year 1975 the school won the Annie Pullar Trophy for the best school classroom choir for kindergarten to grade 3.

During Manitoba's Centennial in 1970 the River East School Division ran a Festival of the Arts program over a period of 3 days in May. The 3 day program involving all River East schools, had each school present one or more short programs of music, plays, dance programs or visual presentations. Princess Margaret student performances included two presentations of folk dancing, a play "Three Little Kittens", a presentation of rhythmic and a play "Land of Promise"

The years of the 1970's saw the school retaining a relatively constant student population with numbers near the 600 as declining numbers in the immediate catchment area was matched from students being bused in from the overcrowded schools to the north. The 1970's were a period of high inflation with the inflation rate averaging 9% per year over the decade. This resulted in a rapid rise in all areas of school expenses including salaries. During the decade teacher's salaries increased from an average of \$7,000.00 in 1970 to around \$20,000.00 by the end of the decade; part of this increase was due to the fact teachers by the decade's end were more highly educated. Many elementary teachers in 1970 only had one year of teacher's college training but by 1979 all new and most senior teachers had upgraded their own professional standing to one or more university degrees resulting in higher pay scales.

The year 1972 saw Princess Margaret students produce the musical "The Sound of Music"; this was the first presentation of a musical of this type for an elementary school in Manitoba and one of the first put on by any elementary school in Canada. The year also saw Helmut Dyck of Princess Margaret become one of the two winners in the River East School Division Fire Prevention Poster Contest.

The year 1974 saw Princess Margaret and her husband Lord Snowdon arrive in Winnipeg for the City of Winnipeg's 100th anniversary celebrations. Princess Margaret

probably contrary to the hopes of many in the area did not visit the school named after her but a student of Princess Margaret School did meet the Princess and make a special presentation to her on behalf of the students of Princess Margaret School at a luncheon held in her honour at Sturgeon Creek School. Sonya Spletzer a lucky grade 6 student presented Her Royal Highness with a bouquet of flowers. Later in the year the East Kildonan Centennial Committee had a plaque installed at the Hawthorne Entrance to commemorate the visit of Princess Margaret to Winnipeg.

The Herald newspaper reported in February 1978 that Princess Margaret School students participated in a special day of school called APWAP which stood for Alternative Programs With A Purpose. Students participated in 39 different activities such as crocheting, cross-country skiing, flower making, different kinds of painting, music, games and many other activities.

As the 1970's ended plans were being made by some in the community to approach the school division with a proposal to create a German Immersion Program. Many meetings were needed and many steps needed to proceed but this became a reality at Princess Margaret in the 1980's.

Feb 1963

N.K. to Vote On School By-law

Ratepayers in North Kildonan will go to the polls on March 22nd to vote on a \$122,000 money bylaw for school additions.

The bylaw will provide a 9-room addition to Princess Margaret School.

The vote is being taken early as it is hoped to start construction this spring. The extra classroom space will be required for fall enrollment.

Princess Margaret School: Fifty Years Of Change

Princess Margaret School is 50 years old in 2006, in that time the school has changed much in the years since the opening of the school in 1956.

When the decision was made in 1955 to build a new school, the district was part of the North Kildonan School District which comprised the area from the north side of Oakland Avenue to the East St. Paul boundary and from the Red River to Gateway Road. During the time Princess Margaret School was being planned and built there was no elected school board in North Kildonan as the entire elected board had resigned in 1954 due to an internal dispute among the members. It was an appointee of the province who called for the required money by law vote needed to build a new school or any addition in those days. A majority vote of the property owners was needed before such a decision could be made. This requirement was finally eliminated in 1968 and now the province fully funds such projects without the direct approval of the local property owners needed.

In early 1956 when Princess Margaret School was being built there was already a school on the present Princess Margaret School grounds it was located on the Rothesay side of the grounds where the present baseball diamond is now located. This three room school named Princess Elizabeth School had opened in 1950 and existed until June 1959 when it closed after an expansion of Princess Margaret occurred. It sat vacant on the site until 1962 when it was finally removed.

The Princess Margaret School of 1956 was a four room school built at a total cost of \$62,000.00 including the cost of furnishing it. The school of 1956 had a total staff of 4 teachers, this compares to a 2006 staff of 31 teachers, 8 paraprofessionals, 4 custodians, 2 secretaries and a library clerk. Princess Margaret School's first Principal Henry Schmidt was also the principal of Princess Elizabeth until that school closed in June 1959. A caretaker from Lord Kitchener School was sent out on a part time basis to take care of the needs of Princess Margaret.

The original four room Princess Margaret School of 1956 consisted of just 4 classrooms of 142 students from grades 1 to 4. There was a small storage room besides the 4 classrooms to store the small amount of items used at the time. The essential areas and items of today such as a library, gym, music room and a computer lab simply did not exist fifty years ago. Today Princess Margaret had 20 classrooms in use, a gym, a library, a multipurpose room, a computer lab, a special education room, 2 resource rooms and a couple of extra classrooms. These would have been seen as unimaginable luxuries to the students and teachers of 1956.

Students of 1956 were taught in a very different manner from students of today. All students were in the same program as there were no other programs in existence in 1956, things such as German Immersion or Special Education had not even been thought of or even if they had been thought of they would have not been considered. Conformity was

the order of the day and all students were expected to fit in to the existing English following the policy of a one shoe fits all program.

Teaching was done mainly straight from a textbook which the student's family had to buy along with other school supplies such as paper, pens and pencils. Free textbooks were not supplied to all students until several years later. If a student's family could not afford the cost of textbooks the student had to do without or try to borrow one from another student.

Physical education time was done mostly out in the open area as there was no room for any indoor activities that required much space.

As there was no library what books that the school did have besides textbooks, were kept in each classroom and there was not even a public library in the area that students could go to. This was long before the age of video, schools such as Princess Margaret in 1956 did not even have a movie projector in the school as this was seen as a 'frill' item.

The computer and video equipment of today was totally absent from the world of 1956, as there was not even a single computer in existence in all of Winnipeg and there was but a single television channel available and that station the CBC, had only started in 1954.

The world has changed much since 1956 and Princess Margaret has changed along with it, since 1956 there has been nine significant additions and changes to the physical structure of the school in 1957, 1958, 1959, 1963, 1966, 1967, 1987, 1989 and 1995. Princess Margaret School has a proud past and it has much to celebrate in 2006.

Princess Margaret School, Teachers, Salaries and Class Size

Teacher	Grade	Class Size	Salary
1960-1961			
Adelheid Koop	1	26	\$3,000.00
Lorraine Regehr	1	26	\$4,100.00
Ruth Janzen	1	27	\$3,000.00
Lillian Thorarinson	2	27	\$2,600.00
Rose Froese	2	27	\$3,400.00
Judith Govenlock	2	26	\$3,000.00
Lydia Neufeld	3	32	\$4,300.00
Lillian Koop	3	35	\$3,200.00
Margaret McClland	4	32	\$4,100.00
Anna Hermann	4	32	\$3,200.00
Pauline McCarthy	5	26	\$4,500.00
Majorie Laurie	5	26	\$3,200.00
Guenter Strempler	6	30	\$3,100.00
Venetia Harvey	6	30	\$3,000.00
George Durvetz	7	27	\$3,100.00
Ethel Koshelanyk	7	28	\$3,700.00
1961-1962			
Ruth Janzen	1	30	\$3,000.00
Adelheid Koop	1	30	\$3,200.00
Lorraine Regehr	1	30	\$4,300.00
Judith Govenlock	2	30	\$3,000.00
Lillian Koop	2	28	\$3,400.00
Vivian Wangen	2	30	\$3,500.00
Lynne Brooko	3	31	\$3,000.00
Lydia Neufeld	3	31	\$4,300.00
Anna Hermann	3	30	\$3,400.00
Venetia Harvey	4	31	\$3,000.00
Margaret McClland	4	33	\$4,100.00
Marjorie Laurie	5	33	\$3,200.00
Pauline McCarthy	5	32	\$4,800.00
Guenter Strempler	6	29	\$3,400.00
Ethel Koshelanyk	6	27	\$3,900.00
George Duravetz	7	30	\$3,400.00

1962-1963

Adelheid Koop	1	31	\$3,500.00
Ruth Janzen	1	25	\$3,200.00
Carole Beard	1	30	\$3,000.00
Eron Wolfe	2	30	\$4,200.00
Rita Matthies	2	34	\$3,200.00
Judith Govenlock	2	27	\$3,250.00
Marjorie Laurie	3	29	\$3,200.00
Lynne Brooks	3	26	\$3,000.00
Lydia Neufeld	3	30	\$4,300.00
Venetia Harvey	4	30	\$3,200.00
Margaret McCelland	4	32	\$4,150.00
Dorothy Smith	4 and 5	30	\$3,875.00
Pauline McCarthy	5	31	\$4,600.00
David Loewen	5	33	\$3,500.00
Guenter Strempler	6	33	\$3,600.00
Ethel Koshelanyk	6	32	\$4,200.00

1963-1964

Adelheid Koop	1	23	\$3,700.00
Adelheid Redekop	1	28	\$3,000.00
Carole Beard	1	29	\$3,000.00
Judith Drewe	2	26	\$3,450.00
Majori Lodge	2	32	\$3,300.00
Rita Matthies	2	31	\$3,200.00
Lynne Brooks	3	29	\$3,200.00
Marjorie Laurie	3	27	\$3,200.00
Lydia Neufeld	3	28	\$4,300.00
Elsie Neufeld	4	29	\$3,800.00
Lore Loewen	4	30	\$3,000.00
David Loewen	5	27	\$3,500.00
Pauline McCarthy	5	27	\$4,600.00
Joseph Bahr	5 and 6	29	\$4,150.00
Neville Yurkiw	6	32	\$3,200.00
Tina Redekopp	6	33	\$4,600.00
Ethel Koshelanyk	7	27	\$4,300.00
Henry Krickham	7	27	\$4,250.00
Wayne Groser	7 and 8	30	\$3,900.00

1964-1965

Judy Drewe	1	31	\$3,750.00
Adelheid Redekop	1	33	\$3,100.00
Carole Beard	1	21	\$3,300.00
Carolyn Pearl	2	27	\$3,100.00
Adelheid Koop	2	27	\$4,000.00
Lynne Smith	2	22	\$3,500.00
Lydia Neufeld	3	31	\$4,500.00
Toby Star	3	24	\$3,100.00
Ruth Janzen	3	32	\$3,500.00
Lore Warkentin	4	28	\$3,100.00
Barbara Wiens	4	26	\$3,100.00
Elsie Neufeld	4	29	\$4,100.00
Marjorie Salki	5	28	\$3,450.00
Richard Holland	5	29	\$3,925.00
Dittberner Burkhard	5	28	\$3,575.00
Tina Redekopp	6	34	\$4,900.00
Neville Yurkiw	6	34	\$3,400.00
Joseph Bahr	7	30	\$4,300.00
Ethel Koshelanyk	7	29	\$4,500.00
Max Pronin	7 and 8	26	\$4,500.00
Guenter Strempler	8	26	\$4,400.00

1965-1966

Carole Beard	1	31	\$3,500.00
Judy Drewe	1	32	\$3,950.00
Adelheid Redekop	1	25	\$3,700.00
Lynne Smith	2	31	\$3,700.00
Adelheid Koop	2	33	\$4,200.00
Carolyn Prigroski	2	25	\$3,100.00
Lydia Neufeld	3	30	\$4,500.00
Janice Pippus	3	30	\$3,100.00
Ruth Janzen	3	23	\$3,700.00
Elsie Dyck	4	30	\$4,400.00
Lore Warkentin	4	31	\$3,300.00
Barbara Wiens	4	31	\$3,100.00
Venetia Harvey	5	24	\$3,700.00
Burkhard Dittberner	5	24	\$3,600.00
Marjorie Salki	5	25	\$3,700.00
Tina Redekopp	6	31	\$4,950.00

Neville Yurkiw	6	32	\$3,600.00
Kathy Janzen	6	31	\$5,000.00
Joseph Bahr	7	31	\$4,300.00
Ethel Koshelanyk	7	31	\$4,500.00
John Martens	8	28	\$6,150.00
Guenter Strempler	8	28	\$5,300.00

1966-1967

Adelheid Redekop	1	32	\$3,875.00
Peterette Muzyk	1	30	\$3,400.00
Judith Drewe	1	23	\$4,450.00
Carole Penney	2	29	\$3,400.00
Anne Todd	2	21	\$4,900.00
Carolyn Prigroski	2	30	\$3,600.00
Janice Kowbel	3	23	\$3,400.00
Lydia Neufeld	3	25	\$5,100.00
Ruth Janzen	3	28	\$4,500.00
Katherine Slota	4	26	\$3,400.00
Elsie Dyck	4	26	\$5,100.00
Lore Warkentin	4	26	\$3,950.00
Barbara Wiens	4	27	\$3,700.00
Burkhard Dittberner	5	27	\$4,800.00
Marjorie Salki	5	26	\$4,325.00
Venetia Harvey	5	26	\$4,425.00
Tina Redekopp	6	29	\$5,550.00
Imgaro Tiede	6	29	\$3,525.00
Neville Yurkiw	6	29	\$4,375.00
Joseph Bahr	7	22	\$5,050.00
Kathy Janzen	7	24	\$5,850.00
Erwin Kroeker	7	23	\$4,750.00
John Martens	8	30	\$7,150.00
Jacob Reimer	8	30	\$6,000.00

The Creation of Princess Margaret School

I would like to correct three errors that I made in the last issue in this installment. One of the problems in constructing a history of the early years is the lack of primary information available and the difficulty of finding it. The original North Kildonan School Board Minutes along with the three other school district board records prior to 1967; now part of the River East section of the River East Transcona School Division were placed in storage in the old John Pritchard School # 2 building now since torn down. As little maintenance was done on the building the roof leaked and the records, some dating back to 1881 were damaged by the water; they subsequently were thrown out and a priceless source of information was lost forever. The Herald and daily newspapers did not cover the North Kildonan area on a regular basis until the 1960's so information is little and far between from these sources. Information relating to the school registers for the era prior to 1967 can be found at the Manitoba Archives but the teachers usually just listed the school district they taught in and not the actual school which is very frustrating to researchers if there is more than one school in a particular school district. The Department of Education Annual Reports sometimes provide some information but again the material is very spotty on individual schools

I have since learned that Princess Margaret School opened in 1955 not in 1956, probably in September 1955. The Winnipeg Free Press of August 27, 1955 reports that the construction of Princess Margaret School should be complete in ten days. The Winnipeg Free Press and the Winnipeg Tribune both reported that the cost of constructing the four room Princess Margaret School was \$32,000.00 not the \$62,000.00 I mentioned earlier. The 1955-1956 Department of Education Annual Report indicated the original cost of the school was \$62,000.00 but that seems to be a misprint. Finally I mentioned there was no principal of Princess Margaret School in the early days but I have since learned that Henry Schmidt was indeed the first principal of the school along with Princess Elizabeth School which shared the school grounds until it close in June 1959.

The school we know as Princess Margaret would likely not exist today if a money by-law that was held at the end of June 1954 had been approved by the voters of North Kildonan instead of been defeated by a margin of only 8 votes. The by-law called for a four room addition to Lord Kitchener [John Pritchard] and for a four room addition to Princess Elizabeth School which was located along Rothesay between Hawthorne and Kingsford. Princess Elizabeth School would have then consisted of seven rooms and would have been the local school for the entire area now served by Princess Margaret. Princess Elizabeth School opened in 1950 so we would have celebrated the 50th anniversary of that school in the year 2000. The area now occupied by the present Princess Margaret School building would be the western end of the Princess Elizabeth School ground.

The defeat of the money by-law in 1954 opened up the deep divisions that had existed for some time among members of the North Kildonan School Board and resulted in the entire board resigning over this issue but this was just the final issue that split the board.

For several years two factions on the board had fought endless battles among themselves and their inability to work together for a common purpose resulted in almost continuous conflict. With the resignation of the entire elected school board, the provincial government was forced to step in and run the affairs of the school district through an appointed trustee Mr. A. A. MacDonald who ran things from July 1955 to the end of December 1956 when a new elected board took over. The resignation of the entire board did lead to a change in legislation by the provincial government. In the case of the resignation of the entire school board; the appointed trustee of the province now has the authority to call for elections within 60 days.

It was Mr. MacDonald who issued the order for a new money by-law for a new school building in the first part of 1955. This time the majority of the voters approved the plan and the result was the original four room Princess Margaret School and that decision was the beginning of the end for Princess Elizabeth School.

In the first year of Princess Margaret; the 1955-1956 school year, Princess Margaret and Princess Elizabeth Schools were administered as one unit and for all real purposes were one school in two separate buildings sharing the same school yard. Henry Schmidt was the principal of the two schools and also the grade 6 teacher with 32 students earning \$3,250.00. Shelia Hartman taught 34 students at a salary of \$2,200.00. Irene T. Johnson was the grade 4 teacher with 36 students making \$2,200.00 as well. Pauline McCarthy was the grade 3 teacher with 34 students and she earned \$3,000.00 for the school year. Lydia Neufeld taught a grade 2 class of 36 students earning \$3,200.00. There were two classes of grade 1 students; Lorraine Regehr taught 33 students making \$2,300.00 and Agnes Dyck taught 29 students earning \$2,300.00 as well.