

History of Viking School 1908-



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1908-1986



History

THE HISTORY OF THE VIKING SCHOOL

1908 --- 1986

The first schools in the Viking vicinity were Lake Thomas School north of Viking, then Cobourg and Cromer Schools south of Viking.

On December 21, 1908, the Viking School District #1906 was organized with Mrs. Eugene Clark as the first teacher. She had 41 pupils (19 boys and 22 girls) registered in grades one to nine.

In 1909, a school 24' x 32' was built at a contract price of \$387.00. This building served the purpose for four years.

In 1911, a new teacher, Mr. C. G. Purvis was hired at a cost of \$75.00 a month, "salary to include janitor work".

In 1912, Mr. W. F. Hargrove followed Mr. Purvis.

In 1913, tenders went out for a new, larger school, and the following bid was accepted: \$12,900 for the school and \$2517.00 for the heating plant.

In January, 1915, the new school burned, and classes had to be held in the Baptist and Methodist churches in the village of Viking.

In 1917, the teachers listed were Mr. R. J. Scott, Grace Hicks and Helen Hawlett.

In 1918, the four-roomed, two-storey, steam-heated building was completed, and the teachers were Mr. W. McLeod, Elsie Healthcote, and Grace Hicks.



The School Board felt confident now that the four-roomed school would be adequate for the total enrollment for many years to come. In 1920, Miss Anna Hall joined the Viking Staff.

In 1922, Mr. H. L. Porter became the new principal, and Miss Susie Gilbert came on staff.

In 1923, Mrs. McLean took over the duties in grades one, two and three.



In 1926, Mrs. Suzanne Clark was hired for the primary room, and Miss Mary Hoskins joined the staff

Mrs. Clark, Miss Hoskins and Miss Hall

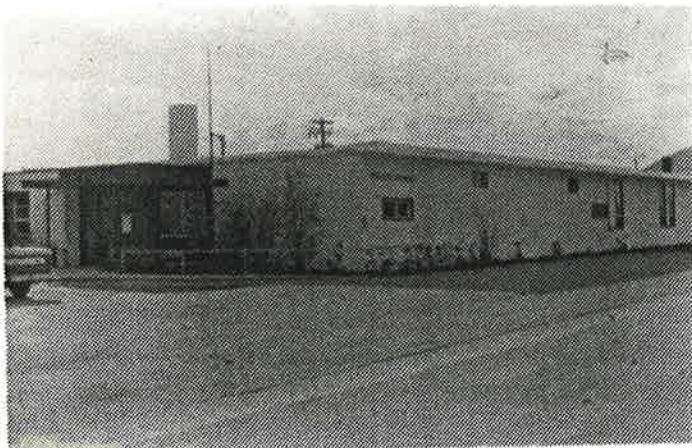
In 1939, four new classrooms were added to the north side of the present building, as can be seen on this picture, to accommodate the 165 pupils enrolled.



As the school enrollment grew classrooms were built in the basement, and finally, by 1948, two county schools were moved onto the premises for grade one and overflow classes.

In 1949, the Holden School Division was formed, and the Viking School became a part of this organization. About this time, the Holden School Division Committee decided to begin the closure of rural schools and the transporting of children by bus to the Central schools. This move was completed by 1956. During this period, Clover Lodge and Alice Hill schools were moved to Viking to be used for grade one classes and Band rooms. Even the school bus garage that was built at the east entrance of the school grounds was used for the Shop classes for a time.

In 1951, the original four-roomed school with its additions was declared unsafe and had to be torn down. In the meantime,



a portion of 55th Avenue was closed and a new one-storey structure had been built to accomodate the enrollment. That 1951 portion of our present school now houses the Staff room, kindergarten, furnace room and grade fours.

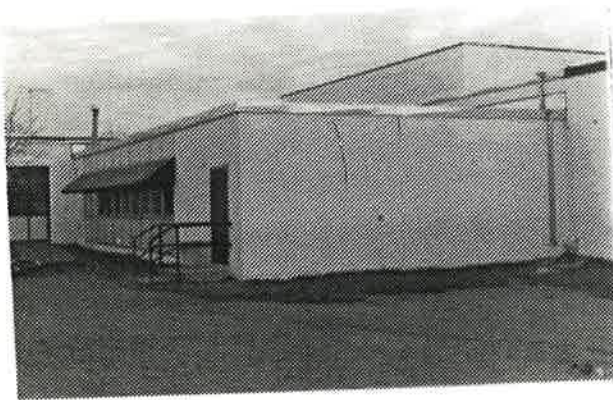


In 1954, the new school was doubled in size by adding classrooms southward to 54th Avenue. This presently accomodates grades one, two and three.

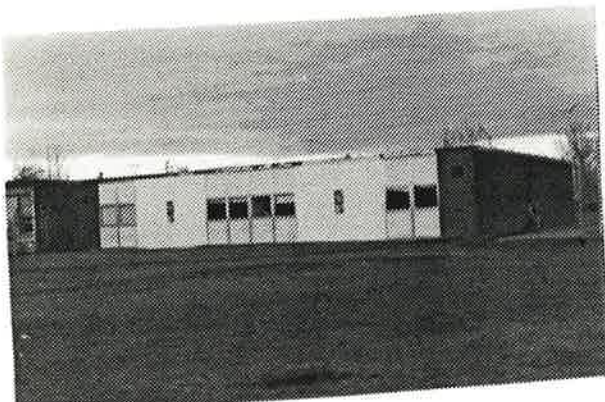


In 1956, a new wing to the north was built over the old school site. This now houses the central office, band room, computer room, art and science centre, and grades seven, eight and nine.

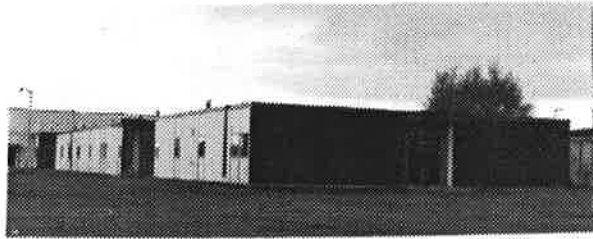
The gymnasium was also added at this time. (1956)



In 1961 the present Home Economics and Industrial Arts complex was added.

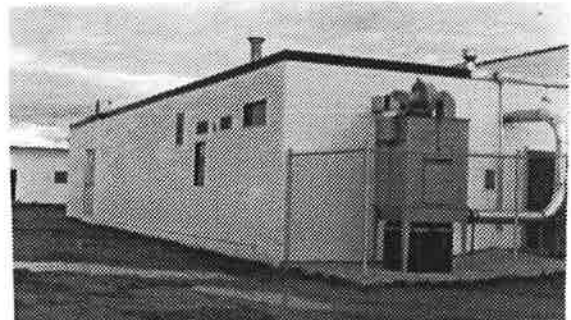


In 1963, a portion of 56th Avenue was closed to add playground area and the north wing was extended. These now are used for grades five and six.

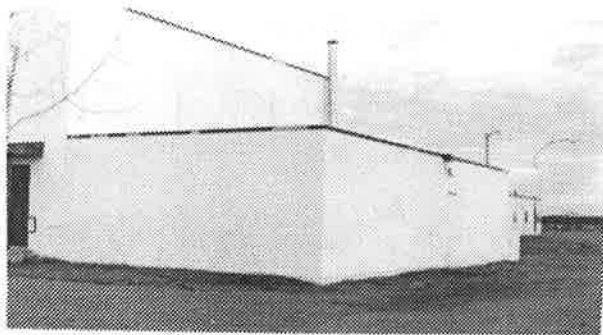


In 1966, the present library and High School wing was added to accomodate the total enrollment of 650 pupils and 28 teachers.

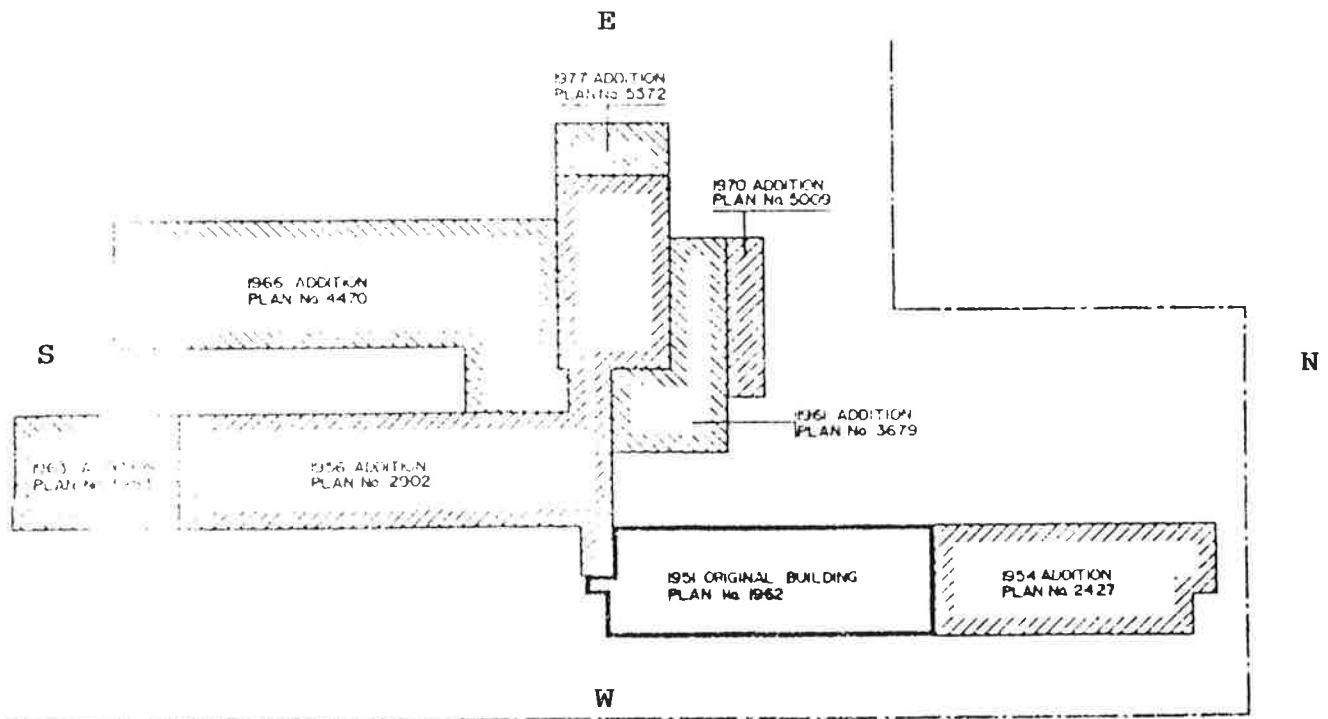
In 1970, the present Industrial Arts complex was added.



Finally, in 1977, the shower rooms were added to the east end of the gymnasium.



This pattern of progress can be traced on the following detailed drawing.



In 1956 the Holden School Division was absorbed into the County of Beaver #9, which now has boundaries extending along Highway 14 from the County of Strathcona west of Tofield to the School Division of Wainwright east of Kinsella. The School Committee of the County of Beaver formulates policy for the schools within its jurisdiction.

The High School operates on a partial Semester system, allowing the students a choice of matriculation or diploma pattern. In 1966, a complete commercial program was included to augment the subject area choice, especially for the Diploma pattern. At present, several computers have been added.

The Home Economics department offers excellent courses in cooking, sewing and designing.

The Industrial Arts centre offers courses in wood-working, plastics, ceramics, drafting and automotives.

The Physical Education program has achieved extremely good results in that special field as is proven by some of the following information.

The training begins in grade one with exercises and games to improve individual physical fitness and develop motor skills. This continues through the elementary, junior and senior high school classes with a continuous progression in skills from basic to complex. Not only can students participate in indoor activities such as basketball, volleyball, gymnastics and rhythmic, but the program also includes outdoor activities like track and field, cross-country running and skiing, curling, golf and tennis. The ultimate aim in high

school classes is to develop in each student leadership techniques, and social and physical skills that will eventually serve the school and community. The Intramural Program that takes place during the noon hours is scheduled for all age groups in the school.

The Inter-Scholastic Athletics have become a challenging reward for students. The Viking High School is a member of the newly re-aligned Central Alberta Schools Athletic Association working under the parent, Alberta Schools Athletic Association. We are a member of the County of Beaver Sports Council. Both the Junior and Senior High School teams play in the County of Beaver Athletics Conference. The senior clubs are also involved in the Battle River Volleyball and Basketball league which includes schools from the Municipal District of Wainwright and the County of Flagstaff.

Some of the more outstanding accomplishments in the Physical Education Department include:

- Zone Cross-country Senior Boys' Champion - 1982
- 2A Zone Cheerleading Champions - 1976-77
- 2A Provincial Cheerleading Champions - 1976
- 2A Girls Zone Basketball Champions - 1972, 1974
- 2A Girls Provincial Basketball Finalists - 1977
- 2A Girls Provincial Basketball Champions - 1978
- County of Beaver Flag Football Champions - 1971, '72, '73, '76, '81, '82
- Junior High Track and Field County Champions from 1970 to 1980
and 1985
- Junior High County Badminton Champions - 1981 to 1986
- Senior High County Badminton Champions - 1978 to 1984

This looks like an enviable record.

Here is a list of the Principals of the Viking School from 1908 to 1986.

1908 to 1911	-	Mrs. Eugene Clark
1911 to 1912	-	Mr. C. G. Purvis
1912 to 1914	-	Mr. W. Hargrave
1914 to 1917	-	Mr. J. F. Mills
1917	-	Mr. J. Chapman
1918	-	Mr. W. McLeod
1919 to 1922	-	Mr. E. Smith
1922 to 1924	-	Mr. H. Porter
1924 to 1928	-	Mr. W. D. McDougall
1928 to 1935	-	Mr. Herman Rogers
1935 to 1940	-	Mr. William Dean
1940 to 1949	-	Mr. W. S. Elliott
1949 to 1967	-	Mr. J. R. Hemphill
1967 to 1969	-	Mr. Lloyd Symyrozum
1969 to 1971	-	Mr. Lloyd Campbell
1971 to 1973	-	Dr. Neil Gannon
1973 to 1984	-	Mr. Dennis Watson
1984 to 1986	-	Mr. Neil Nordquist
1986 - - - - -	-	Mr. Dan Kardash

Pictures of some of these principals can be seen on the next page.



H. B. Rogers
1928 - 35



W. R. Dean
1935 - 40



W. S. Elliot
1940 - 49



J. R. Hempbill
1949 - 67



L. Symyrozum
1967 - 69



L. Campbell
1969 - 71



Neil Gannon
1971 - 73



Dennis Watson
1973 - 84



Neil Nordquist
1984 - 86



Dan Kardash
1986 . . .

It is with some interest that we can look back at the enrollment in the Viking School over the past 20 years. Included in this will be the Kindergarten room that officially became a part of the Viking School in September of 1975.

1968	-	674	students
1969	-	708	students
1970	-	692	students
1971	-	692	students
1972	-	672	students
1973	-	658	students
1974	-	653	students
1975	-	665	students
1976	-	717	students
1977	-	708	students
1978	-	634	students
1979	-	609	students
1980	-	592	students
1981	-	598	students
1982	-	577	students
1983	-	560	students
1984	-	550	students
1985	-	526	students
1986	-	521	students
1986-87	-	495	students

At the time of this printing, (September 1986), there are a total of 29 teachers on the Viking Staff. A fleet of eleven school busses bring the children from the country areas.

Interesting contrasts can be seen in the following comparisons.



Staff of 1928 (Left to Right)

William R. Dean
Miss Mary Hoskins
Miss Anna Hall
Mrs. Suzanne Clark
Mr. Herman Rogers



35 Staff Members of 1974 - 75. (left to right)

Top Row: Chow Pon, Bob Wiley, Dora Haerberle, Bob Baldwin, Randy Ness, Les Ellsworth, Terry Peurie, Dick Morris, Bob Evans, Ron Erickson, Ping Pon

Middle Row: Carol Maxwell, Ada Hudson, Pat Andrukow, Sharon Pobuda, Bonnie Dunbar, Lorene Francis, Beth Merta, Sharon Kropelnicki, Margaret Hill, Marion Midbo, Anne Slavik, Gerda Nordstrom, Irene Hafso

Bottom Row: Elida Heisler, Maddy Place, Marjorie Hanson, Mary Hardy, Olive Zwierschke, Dennis Watson, Earl Kindley, Elsie Merta, Doreen Barber, Shirley McKay, Stella Evans

The Viking School Band has been an important part of the Viking School for many years. The band was organized in 1935 under the direction of Mr. T. V. Newlove. Other Band leaders that followed were:

1936	- Mr. Lochlan Campbell
1937-40	- Mr. W. R. Dean
1940-52	- Mr. W. S. Elliott
1952-58	- Mr. Clarence Jevne
1958	- Mr. Fred Powell
1959-66	- Mr. Kenneth Hilliker
1966	- Rev. McDermott
1966-67	- Mr. J. R. Hemphill
1967-69	- Mrs. Norma Westrom
1969-72	- Mrs. Elida Heisler
1972-74	- Mr. George Lavalley
1974-75	- no record
Sept. '75 to March '76	- Wayne Wicks
March '76 to June '76	- Wolfgang Oeste
1976-78	- Miss Eileen Hartman
1978-85	- Mr. Everett Norris
1985-86	- Mr. Lyle Newton

It is interesting to note that in the years 1963, 1964, 1965, and 1966, under the leadership of Mr. Kenneth Hilliker, the Viking School Band placed first in the school band competition at the Edmonton Exhibition. A picture of that band is shown on the following page.



VIKING SCHOOL BAND - 1959-66

FRONT ROW: Jean Gilpin, Colin McLaren, Wendy Babb, Judy Nordstrom, Sharon Brown, Annette Chomik, Ruth Balaban, Elizabeth Balaban, Bob Taylor, Ken Chillibeck, Glenn Nordstorm, Bryan Nordstrom, Craig Hafso.

MIDDLE ROW: Mr. Kenneth Hilliker (Bandmaster) Pat Hafso, Nancy Wemp, Monica Slavik, Sandra Haeberle, Bryan Topechka, Anita Kindley, Dianne Brokop, Bob Thunnell, Judy McArthur, Nola Miskew, Randi Sorenson, Connie Barkwell, Brian Anderson.

BACK ROW: Marilyn Dyck, Ehleda Cottrell, Linda Gares, Ina Kolenosky.

SPECIAL MENTION

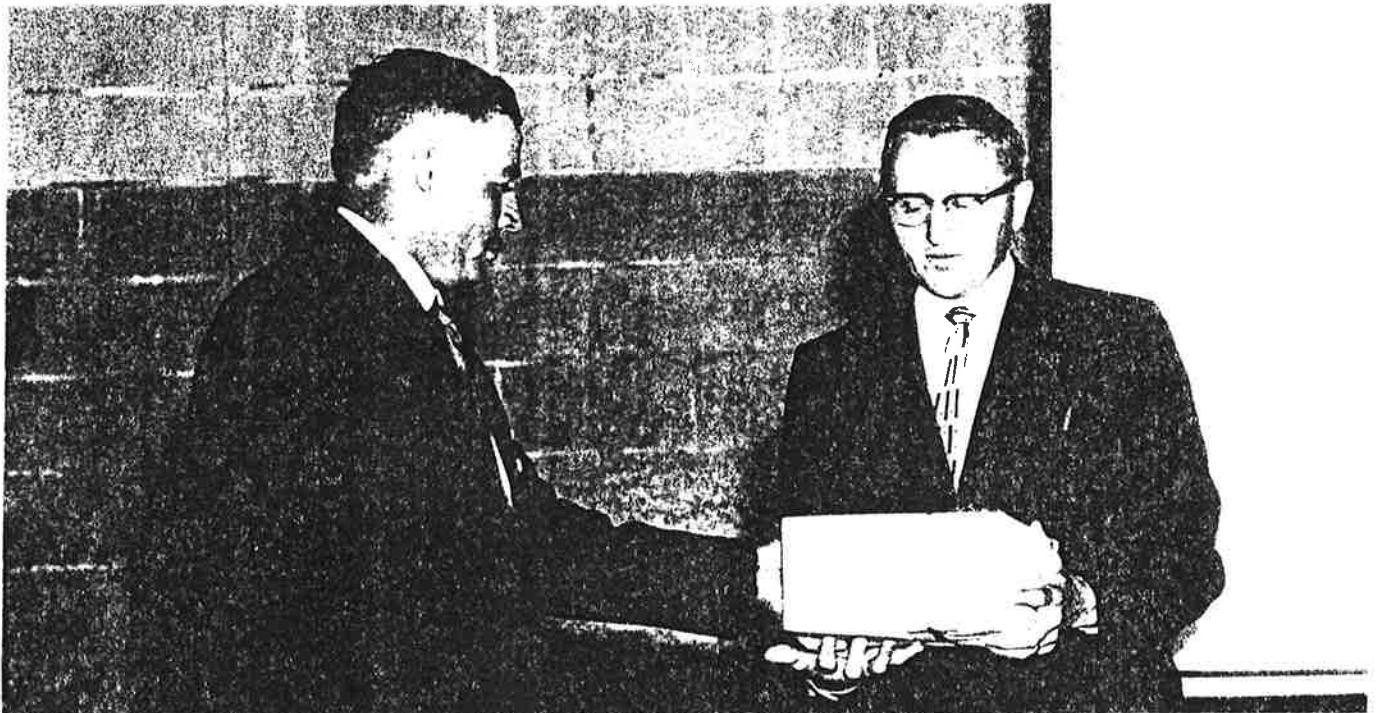


Mrs. Maddy Place, who has been the Viking School Secretary for the past 20 years, (1966 - 1986) has been a stalwart pivot around which most school activities have whirled. She has tolerated (with a smile) Principals, Staff, students, custodians and parents alike, in the endless demands on her time and talents. The never-ceasing ringing of the telephones, the constant drone of the typewriter, the calls on the P.A. system, the counting and banking of countless funds of money, the sale of pens, pencils, erasers and "what-nots", the sorting and dispersal of orders of books, films and filmstrips, and the never-ending chore of taking and delivering messages, has been a small part of her average day of work. Maddy, we salute and thank you. You are truly one of a kind.



Another person deserving special mention is Mr. Earl Kindley. He started teaching in the Viking School in 1949. Out of 37½ years of teaching, he has set a record with 34 of those years in Viking. Earl will always be remembered as the kind, tolerant, hard-working, conscientious vice-principal who went far beyond the call of duty

to help any and every Staff member that came to him. He survived more principals, more initiations, graduations, social functions, bus tours, staff complaints, and early dismissals on stormy days, than any staff member to date. He excelled in his chosen field of Biology, and is at present working with the Department of Education in the Student Evaluation Branch, Alberta Education, Biology 30 Examinations Branch. In 1961, Earl received the Outstanding Teacher Award from the County of Beaver #9, shown in the picture below.



Mr. Jack Roddick
Chairman of the School Committee

Mr. Earl Kindley
- 1961

The Outstanding Teacher Award was also given to Mrs. Margaret Phillips (Gares) and Mrs. Gerda Nordstrom.



Mary Hardy, Margaret Phillips,
Mary Hoskins - 1958



Jack Roddick, Gerda Nordstrom
- 1963

At one time, June Departmental examinations were administered to all grades from 8 to 12. During that time, a unique award was won in the Viking School. The highest honour for grade nine was the Governor General's Award. In 1965, an unheard-of happening resulted. Twins, Bryan and Glenn Nordstrom's marks averaged out to the nearest tenth, came out exactly the same. So, for the first time in the history of this award, two students were recognized with duplicate gold medals.

The family, school and church are the three institutions of every area that teach the children the value system of the community. The three systems should supplement one another in educating the whole child. Some years ago, the Home and School Association was organized as a worthwhile contact between the home and the school. This gave way to the Parent-Teacher Association, and recently a Principals Advisory Committee (PAC) has been set up as an effective tool. Perhaps the most direct contact still remains the parent-teacher interviews that are set up on a scheduled basis once or twice a year.