

# Bulkley Valley School District No. 54 fonds

*Fonds No. GF3*

*Accession No.: 1981.22; 1981.28; 1987.19; 1990.26; 1993.10; 1993.15; 1999.18; 2002.5; 2003.9; 2004.20; 2005.5; 2009.66; 2012.106; 2017.2; 2017.12; 2017.18; 2017.36; 2017.91; 2017.123; 2017.135; 2018.89; 2019.40; 2019.44; 2020.6; 2020.10; 2020.27; 2020.34; 2020.36*

*Physical Description: 13 cm of textual records; 199 photographs; 59 colour slides; 17 audio cassettes; 2 floppy discs; 156 MB of textual records (PDF/A)*

*Date Range: [1918-2001]*

*Location: Box 34; Box 35; Box 83; Photo Boxes; Z:\All Numbered Photographs, Z:\Digitized Archival Items\GF3 School District No. 54 fonds*

## **Administrative History/Biographical Sketch**

Education in the Bulkley Valley was decentralized for the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with each school run by its own board of trustees. The Cameron Report, undertaken by Maxwell A. Cameron of UBC's Department of Education in the mid-1940s, advised that the province's 600+ school boards be consolidated into under 100. Thus, all schools in the Bulkley Valley area were consolidated into School District #54 in around 1947. This led to the gradual closing of the small rural schools and the bussing of children to Smithers, Telkwa, and Houston for their education.

School District No. 54 covers the communities of Smithers, Witset, Telkwa, Quick, and Houston. As of 2020, it consists of five elementary schools (Telkwa Elementary, Walnut Park Elementary, Twain Sullivan Elementary, Silverthorne Elementary, and Muheim Elementary) and two high schools (Smithers Secondary and Houston Secondary). It formerly included Lake Kathlyn Elementary School, Glentanna School, and Quick Elementary School as well. The School Board's office is located in Smithers.

## **Custodial History**

Records from accession no. **1981.22** were donated to the Archives by Mike O'Neill on May 13, 1981. Records from accession no. **1981.28** were donated by Pat McCammon on May 20, 1981. Accession **1987.19** was donated by J. Nessma in 1987. Records from accession no. **1990.26** were donated by Mel Briggs on January 9, 1990. Records under accession number **1993.10** were donated by Della Herman on November 1, 1993. Accession **1993.15** was donated by N. McEwan on December 4, 1993. Records from **2003.9** were donated by Jo Anderson on January 6, 2003. Records from **2004.20** were donated by Mollie Ralston on July 31, 2003. The 14 audio cassettes were donated by Linnea Lanstrom on October 27, 2004. The 1942 Smithereen Yearbook from **2002.5** belonged to Joe McPhee and was donated by Doreen Wilson on May 16, 2002. Photos from **2005.5** were donated by Lorraine Clarkston on September 13, 2005. Accession **2012.106** was donated by Philip A. Jones on November 27, 2012. The **2017.12** photos were found in the collection. Colour slides from **2017.36** were found in the collection. Social Studies class projects *Pioneers of Smithers* (**1999.18**), *Smithers and District* (**2017.18**), and a 1959 yearbook (**2017.91**) were found in the collection. Records from **2020.6** were found in the Old Works Yard storage

building in April 2020; they had originally been donated by the Interior News in 2007 and officially had an accession form signed by Grant Harris in May 2020. Records from **2020.10** and **2020.27** was found in collections in May 2020. Items from **2020.34** had previously been in the museum's reference files, but were accessioned and added to fonds in August 2020. Items from **2020.36** were found in collections on September 21, 2020.

## Scope and Content

This fonds contains items pertaining to the history of School District No. 54, such as yearbooks, photo booklets, photographs, school newspapers, guest books, ledgers, oral histories, calendars, and editions of the Quarterly 54 newspaper. It consists of one series (S1) for the Board of School Trustees and six sous-fonds, each focusing on a different school: Muheim Memorial Elementary (SF1), Smithers Secondary (SF2), Lake Kathlyn Elementary (SF3), Telkwa Elementary (SF4), Glentanna School (SF5), and Quick School (SF6). Sous-fonds for other schools will be added as necessary. In addition, sous-fonds 1 (Muheim Memorial Elementary) has a photograph (P) series.

## Notes

2018.89 is listed among the accessions with items in this fonds, but no items with this number could be found. It is possible that they are missing or that the accession number was listed in error.

The audio cassettes donated by Linnea Lanstrom do not have an accession number and their location is unknown. No donor sheet has been found.

## Board of School Trustees

Series no.: **S1**

Part of: School District No. 54 fonds

Related accessions: 2004.20, 2020.6

Physical description: 1.3 cm of textual records

Date range: 1953, 1982, 1994

## Administrative History/Biographical Sketch

The Board of School Trustees was presumably established around 1947 to manage the newly-created School District #54. Before this, each individual school had had its own Board of Trustees consisting of three members and sometimes an additional Secretary-Treasurer. Today's Board of Education is made up of 7 members, including a Board Chair and Vice Board Chair.

## Scope and content

Series contains an invitation from School District 54 to ratepayers to vote on Bylaw no. 2 (School Construction Programme), a 1994 calendar containing the School District's Annual Report, and one file with three Quarterly 54 newspaper supplements from January 27, April 14, and June 16 1982.

## Custodial History

Item **2004.20** was donated to the Archives on July 31, 2003 by Mollie Ralston. Items from **2020.6** were donated to the museum by the Interior News in 2007 and stored in the Old Works Yard until being retrieved and accessioned in April 2020; accession form was signed by Grant Harris in May 2020. Item from **2020.34** had previously been in the museum's reference files, but was accessioned and added to fonds in August 2020.

## Muheim Memorial Elementary School

Series no.: **SF1**

Part of: School District No. 54 fonds

Related accessions: 1981.22; 1981.28; 1990.26; 2002.5; 2003.9; 2017.36, 2017.135; 2020.36

Physical description: 2.5 cm of textual records, 59 colour slides; 32 photographs; 156 MB of textual records (PDF/A)

Date range: 1933-1934; 1938; 1940-1942; 1967-1970s

### Administrative History/Biographical Sketch

Smithers Elementary School, also known as Smithers Public School, was built circa 1915 as a two-room, two-storey building on Third Avenue South. Two more rooms were later added to create an L-shaped building. The school taught grades one through seven. It was used as a temporary hospital during the Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918. Another two-storey building was later constructed on the same grounds by the local contractor, Ernie Hann. In the early 1950s the original building was demolished and replaced with a new eight-room school, renamed Muheim Memorial Elementary in 1959 after the School District's first secretary, Alex Muheim. New facilities, including a gymnasium, four new classrooms, a staff room, and a library, have since been added, with the whole school receiving a renovation in 1979.

### Scope and content

Series contains records pertaining to the Muheim Elementary School, including past iterations of the School such as Smithers Elementary School and Second Elementary School. Records include five Smithereen yearbooks (1933-1934 [digital only], 1938, 1940, 1941, and 1942), a centennial photo booklet containing five photographs, and 27 photographs and 59 colour slides depicting the school in the late 1960s and 1970s.

### Acquisition Source

Records from accession no. **1981.22** were donated to the Archives by Mike O'Neill on May 13, 1981.

Records from accession no. **1981.28** were donated by Pat McCammon on May 20, 1981. Records from

accession no. **1990.26** were donated by Mel Briggs on January 9, 1990. The 1942 Smithereen Yearbook

from **2002.5** belonged to Joe McPhee and was donated by Doreen Wilson on May 16, 2002. Records

from **2003.9** were donated by Jo Anderson on January 6, 2003. Colour slides from **2017.36** were found in

the collection. Digital records from **2017.135** are from a scrapbook that was lent for digitization by Carol

Spicer on December 13, 2017; donor retains the physical records. Records from **2020.36** were found in a

scrapbook in Room 6 on October 28, 2020.

### Photographs

Series no.: **SF1 P**

Part of: Muheim Memorial Elementary School; School District No. 54 fonds

Related accessions: 2003.9; 2017.36, 2020.36

Physical description: 59 colour slides; 31 photographs

Date range: 1967-1970s

Photo numbers: P6311-P6369, P7976-P8001

Series includes a centennial photo booklet of 5 Muheim Memorial Elementary School photographs, and 52 slides and 31 photographs of the school in the late 1960s-1970s.

## Smithers Secondary School

Series no.: **SF2**

Part of: School District No. 54 fonds

Related accessions: 1987.19 ; 1993.15; 1999.18; 2009.66; 2012.106; 2017.18; 2017.91; 2017.123; 2017.135; 2018.89; 2019.40; 2019.44; 2020.10; 2020.27; 2020.36

Physical description: 4.8 cm of textual records; 17 audio cassettes; 1 photograph; ~833 MB of digital records

Date range: [1959-2002]

### Administrative History/Biographical Sketch

Prior to the construction of a secondary school in Smithers, high school students met on the same grounds as the elementary students. However, this soon led to overcrowding, and by 1926 the town leased the former Royal Bank Building to handle the overflow. Shortly after, the School District approved the decision to invest \$15,000 in a new high school building. This was built on Third Avenue by Ernie Hann and opened in 1927. It had two rooms and could accommodate up to 60 students. Throughout the 1940s, it was known as Smithers High School. Students in the junior grades (8-9) were moved to Chandler Park Junior Secondary School in 1963. The current Smithers Secondary School campus was opened in 1978, with a total enrollment of 400 students in grades 10 through 12. Grade 9 was reinstated at the school in 1981, and grade 8 returned with the closing of Chandler Park Junior Secondary in 2004.

### Custodial History

Visitor book (**1987.19**) was donated by J. Nessma in 1987. Graduation program (**1993.15**) was donated by N. McEwan on December 4, 1993. Social Studies class projects *Pioneers of Smithers* (**1999.18**), *Smithers and District* (**2017.18**), and a 1959 yearbook (**2017.91**) were found in the collection. The *Moccasin Telegraph*, Vol. 1 No. 4 (**2012.106**) was donated by Philip A. Jones on November 27, 2012. Yearbooks from **2017.123** were collected by Dave Wilson and brought in by his daughter, Christina, for digitization on November 29, 2017. Yearbooks from **2017.135** were brought in for digitization by Carol Spicer on December 23, 2017. Yearbooks from **2019.40** were donated by Linda Goudy on September 27, 2017. Yearbooks from **2019.44** were donated by Anne Havard on November 27, 2019. Cooperative education material (**2020.10** and **2020.27**) were found in collections in May 2020. Photograph of Grade 11 and 12 classes in 1953 (**2020.36**) was donated by Peter Botham on August 22, 2007 and found in

collections on September 21, 2020. Other materials from **2020.36** were found in collections in October 2020.

The 14 audio cassettes were donated by Linnea Lanstrom on October 27, 2004; accession number is unknown.

### **Scope and content**

Series contains records pertaining to the Smithers Junior Senior High, including books compiled by Social Studies 30 classes entitled "Smithers and District" and "Pioneers of Smithers," 2 issues of The Moccasin Telegraph (1939 and 1940), a graduation program, a cheer sheet, a guest book for parent teacher meetings; certificates, a pamphlet, and other documents pertaining to cooperative education; 14 (17?) audio cassettes of oral histories conducted by Grade 10 students in 1992; a photograph of the 1953 Grade 11 and 12 classes; and yearbooks including: the Rocket (1959), the Glacier (1960, 1962, 1972), the Jubilee (1963-64), an unnamed yearbook (1964-65), the Arrow (1966), the Centennial Souvenir (1967), the Centennial Plus 1 (1968), and the Apple (1970).

### **Note**

The audio cassettes donated by Linnea Lanstrom do not have an accession number and their location is unknown. No donor sheet has been found.

## **Lake Kathlyn Elementary School**

Series no.: **SF3**

Part of: School District No. 54 fonds

Related accessions: 2017.2, 2005.5, 2020.36

Physical description: 165 colour and b&w photographs, 2 floppy discs, 0.2 cm textual records

Date range: 1964-1977, 2001

Photo numbers: P5273-P5280, P5543-P5545, P7734-P7821, P7830-P7849, P7889

### **Administrative History/Biographical Sketch**

Lake Kathlyn Elementary was established in 1960 to accommodate the growing population of Smithers. It taught Kindergarten to Grade Seven to children from as far west as Witset. The school was built on land purchased from Floyd Laughlin and initially had two classrooms teaching Grades 1-5. Grades 6 and 7 were added in 1962. The school expanded throughout the '60s to include additional rooms, a covered play area, and a gymnasium. Lake Kathlyn Elementary School was absorbed into Smithers' boundaries in 1979. On April 12, 2016, the School District 54 Board of Trustees voted to close the Elementary School at the end of June because of the loss of funding initially given for diminished enrollment.

### **Custodial History**

Photos P5273-P5280 were found in BVM archives on January 2, 2017.

Photos P5543-P5545 and P7734-P7821 were included among the memorabilia of Hugh and Hilda Clarkston which was donated by Lorraine Clarkston on September 13, 2005. They were initially part of a scrapbook. The photos were found in a folder in the archives on September 9, 2020, given P numbers (except for P5543 and P5545, which already had them), and added to fonds GF3.

Photos P7830-P7849 and other items numbered 2020.36 were found in collections in Room 6 on September 21, 2020. The photos had been labelled P5006-P5047, but as these numbers were already in use for different photographs, they were given new numbers.

### **Scope and content**

Series includes 165 photos of Lake Kathlyn Elementary School, its staff, and students, primarily during the 1960s and 1970s. Subjects include children playing outside, making arts and crafts, playing musical instruments, and dressed in historic costumes; class photographs from 1967 to 1977; and 42 unidentified headshots of students and staff members. Other items include a typed page on the history of Lake Kathlyn School, and 3 photos, 2 floppy discs and a short write-up about a Witsuwit'en blanket feast held at Lake Kathlyn School on November 30<sup>th</sup> 2001.

## **Telkwa Elementary School**

Series no.: **SF4**

Part of: School District No. 54 fonds

Related accessions: 1993.10

Physical description: 5 cm of textual records

Date range: [1918-1978]

### **Administrative History/Biographical Sketch**

Telkwa's first school, known as the Telkwa Assisted School, was founded in 1915. A new two-room building was built in 1919 due to the growing population and the rising river levels near the site of the old school. As Telkwa's population continued to grow, it was determined that a larger school was needed, and the Telkwa Superior School was constructed. Classes began in September 1949 and the building officially opened in June 1950. Originally Grades 1 to 10 were taught here, but the higher three grades were moved to Smithers in the 1960s, leading to the school being renamed the Telkwa Elementary School.

### **Scope and content**

Series includes three visitor ledgers containing guest signatures for various events.

### **Custodial History**

Items were donated by Della Herman on November 1, 1993.

## **Glentanna School**

Series no.: **SF5**

Part of: School District No. 54 fonds

Related accessions: 1993.10

Physical description: 1 cm of textual records

Date range: February 1956 – November 1957

## **Administrative History/Biographical Sketch**

Glentanna School was located at the north corner of the crossroads of Telkwa High Road and Snake Hill Road. It was founded in 1920; the earliest register is dated February 2<sup>nd</sup> 1921 and lists nine students and the teacher, Wilhelmina Lennox. The original building was a one-room schoolhouse made of logs. In 1936 a second, frame building, also with one room, was built just behind the earlier school. Della Herman taught at this school from January 1937 to June 1939. Other teachers included Florence Oulton and Kitty Robinson. Around 1960, a rural bus service was established in the area so the students could be transported to Smithers, leading to the closing of Glentanna School. The buildings have since been removed.

## **Scope and content**

Series includes one order book listing items ordered and repairs needed by Glentanna School between February 1956 and November 1957. Only 6 pages have been filled out; the rest are blank.

## **Custodial History**

Items were donated by Della Herman on November 1, 1993.

## **Quick School**

Series no.: **SF6**

Part of: School District No. 54 fonds

Related accessions: 2020.34, 2020.36

Physical description: 0.1 cm of textual records, 1 photograph.

Date range: 1981, 2000

## **Administrative History/Biographical Sketch**

Quick School was established at the First Annual School Meeting of the Quick School District, held on July 9<sup>th</sup> 1921 at V. Conn's residence. A motion was passed to secure a school site "on the south side of the road, about 40 rods east of the west line of Spinning Flat." Classes were held in an old log cabin until a new, one-room schoolhouse could be completed. The first teacher was Mabel Allen, who served for two years. The school received modernizations throughout the 1950s and 60s, such as modern heating, electricity, plumbing, phones, and a furnace; a second classroom was added in 1953 and a staff room/office in 1973. In 1964, grades 5-8 were sent to Telkwa for one year so that the second classroom could temporarily house Happy Valley School. The original school building was condemned in 1978 and replaced with three mobile classrooms. Quick Elementary School remained open until at least 2007, but shut down sometime before 2020.

## **Scope and content**

Series includes a booklet on the school's history produced by the Quick School 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee in 1981, and a photograph of students dressed for the play "The Elephant's Child" in 2000.

## **Custodial History**

Item from **2020.34** had previously been in the museum's reference files, but was accessioned and added to fonds in August 2020. Item from **2020.36** was found in collections in October 2020.