

The Basin Record

Building Families Through Time - Legacy of Learning

This March, students at Kootenay Orchards Elementary embarked on a unique journey to create a historical portfolio with our innovative online application, *Building Families Through Time and Other Adventures in History* as part of the Transformative Learning Programme.

Developed in collaboration with the Columbia Basin Institute of Regional History (CBIRH), School District No.5(SD#5), and the Community Foundation of the Kootenay Rockies (CFKR), this application offers a one-of-a-kind individual experience in historical research and archiving.

In partnership with Eggplant Studios Owner and Operator Shawn Wernig, Ryan McKenzie (Helping Teacher of Transformative Learning), District Resource Librarian Kylie Rodney and Teacher Carol Potter at Kootenay Orchards Elementary, and School District No.5 (#SD5)—Southeast Kootenay we were able to test the CBIRH's new research, learning, and archiving App with a blended class of Gr. 4 to Gr. 6 students on Thursday, March 13.

Building Families Through Time was created with SD#5 through our Legacy of Learning Project, with significant community contributions.

We are especially grateful to the CFKR for their generous support in developing this original application in its foundational phase.



Thank You Kootenay Orchards

The CBIRH would like to express its gratitude to the students at Kootenay Orchards Elementary who have played a crucial role in executing the first stages of this pilot project in a curriculum-based setting. Your efforts have been instrumental in bringing this project to life.

<https://basininstitute.org/portfolios/>



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Sparwood Grad Boards

Renewing our commitment to preserving the rich history of School District #5(SD#5), the CBRH has undertaken a significant project. We have digitized 26 Sparwood Secondary School grad boards, a treasure trove of our community's past, for public research.

From the class of 1955 to the class of 1980, we meticulously scanned each board. It has taken countless hours to process the large boards, involving intricate cutting and stitching to make them digitally complete, and then extract over 1,000 individual names from Androlick to Wajtula. All these names will be entered into a searchable digital format using our record management system, a testament to our team's dedication and effort.

This meticulous and often repetitive work is a labour of love. The result will be that all of Sparwood's graduating students will be able to see themselves and their classmates at the height of their teenage glory. We eagerly anticipate completing this work, which will be accessible by the middle of June 2025, and strive to recreate feelings of goodwill and memories of an exceptional educational experience with SD#5.

New Works

The CBRH is uploading forty-five candid shots of Elkford students, both Rocky Mountain Elementary and Elkford Secondary, to the internet, commemorating some of the exciting happenings in those schools from the 1970s to the 1990s (see bottom right photo).



Cranbrook Girls Bugle Band - 1980

We continue collecting and processing material documenting the incredible undertaking of the Cranbrook Mount Baker (and Tri-School) Girls Bugle Band. More than 2,000 young women from the Cranbrook region belonged to this band between 1944 and 2024. We have successfully located some students(now adults) who participated in life-changing journeys such as the one to Expo '96 in Montreal. We are planning a virtual exhibit with the materials collected from this beloved group.

THE ELK VALLEY MINER, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1990

Elkford pupils learn fire safety

By GLENDA KOMENAC

For 2½ weeks this month, Elkford fireman Dave Bobak worked with students from the town's two elementary schools to promote the "Plan To Get Out Alive" program.

The annual program is offered to children from kindergarten to Grade 4 (primary level) in an attempt to foster both fire prevention awareness and a family co-ordinated emergency escape plan.

Children from Rocky Mountain Elementary and Elkford Elementary, with help from their families, drew up escape plans from their own homes in the event of an emergency. The children's names were entered in a draw at each school to be honorary fire chief and captain-of-the-day.

From Rocky Mountain Elementary, Adam Klapp was selected as honorary fire chief and Mike Sheppard as captain. Adam Schultz and Sonali Sharma were selected from Elkford.

First, they had lunch with Elkford fire chief Neil Hickman. Then, they were picked up from their homes by Mr. Hickman and Bobak and chauffeured to the town's big fire truck.

At the fire hall, the children suited up in regulation coats and hats. They then watched deputy members set a huge pit fire in the fire hall. The firemen quashed the fire at the command of their honorary chiefs and captains.

The pit is used routinely to test drills.

The firemen set the numerous times by lighting fuel on top of water demonstrated various methods of tinguishing the flames using water and foam.

After the demonstration, the children were presented with certificates to commemorate their participation.

The four children enjoyed an exciting day Wednesday courtesy of the fire department.

Fire chief Neil Hickman, far left, and fireman Dave Bobak, on truck, with Adam Klapp, Adam Schultz, Mike Sheppard and Sonali Sharma.

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Name that Teacher

This summer, more new work will be featured in partnership with the Cranbrook Retired Teachers Association. With an initial commitment from this group, we have applied to the B.C. Retired Teachers Association for funding to proceed with 'Name That Teacher'. This will help supplement SD #5's continuing resource commitment to Legacy of Learning.

We know that many memories of past school events and pleasures are linked to particular teachers. As the graduating population ages, names often get forgotten. The CBIRH has hundreds of staff photographs of teachers throughout the district, but no names are attached. 'Name That Teacher' will help to identify these unique faces on the internet so that people can discover and think back on how memorable and formative their school years were.

Amy Woodland

With the destruction of Amy Woodland School *Legacy of Learning* put some time and energy into collecting as much of the school story as was available. Having learned through the destruction of the Elkford school that artifacts were sometimes stored away in the most unlikely places, we appealed to Director of Operations Joe Tank to identify what remained after the Amy Woodland fire. Joe had fourteen boxes of artifacts delivered to the SD#5 Legacy of Learning Archives Room.



Amy Woodland Elementary Grade 1 - Class Photo 1969-1970

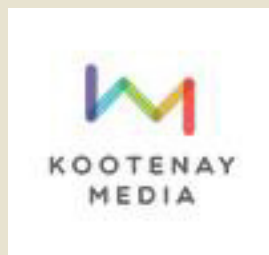
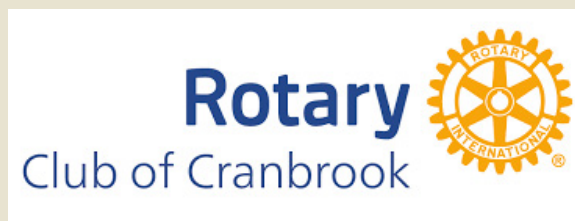
The CBIRH has digitized all the framed photos and stored them securely. We plan to display them in an upcoming virtual exhibit and hope that we can eventually help return these artifacts to a new Amy Woodland building while imparting the community with a rich tradition of history.

A special thank you to our sponsors and supporters:

Heritage BC, Community Foundation of the Kootenay Rockies, the Triangle Women's Institute, the Cranbrook Quilters Guild, the Columbia Basin Trust, the Regional District of East Kootenay, the Rotary Club of Cranbrook, School District No. 5, the East Kootenay District Labour Council, the Government of British Columbia, the Government of Canada, West Kootenay Regional Arts Council and ARTiculate Magazine, Kootenay Media and Trench Magazine for featuring our column, East Kootenay News Online Weekly, the Cranbrook History Centre, Kimberley Heritage Museum, Moyie High House and Rossland Museum & Discovery Centre.

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