

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.

Built in three stages (1958 -1964 -1972), the first stage, a one story 10 classroom building) replaced old wooden school annexes on Second Street West. The second stage was a two story 16 classroom building, necessitated by population growth due to the building of a community college in the area. The third stage opened in 1972 and was built to join 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 due to tremendous growth in the southern residential part of The Pas with the opening of a pulp and paper complex. Holding about 900 students in 1972, enrollment is now about 400. It became a Community School in 2006. The privately operated The Pas Day Care also operates in this school.

1958 principal: Geoffrey Smith
1958 enrolment: 180

2009 principal: Julia McKay
2009 enrolment: 397



Opasquia Elementary 27 Eighth Street West

Named after a Cree word reputed to be the origin of "The Pas".

Built in three stages (1958 -1964 -1972), the first stage, a one story 6 classroom building) replaced old wooden school annexes on Second Street West. The second stage was a two story 16 classroom building. 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 it became a middle school until 2006 when 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



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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. TPCI became Mary Duncan Junior High in 1968, but burned down in 1971. A new 16 class open-area Mary Duncan Elementary school was opened on this site in 1973 to accommodate students from the former The Pas Elementary (Second Street West) and Sacred Heart School (First Street West), mainly from the northern half of The Pas, and bus students from several areas. In 1985 the classrooms were enclosed and in 1991 the Grade 5 & 6 students were moved to the newly formed middle schools. In 2006 the K-Grade 4 students were relocated to the reorganized Opasquia Elementary. The Kelsey Adult Learning Centre, and the 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.

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.

In 1973 the new Scott Bateman Junior High School was opened. Grade 7 and 8 students who had been temporarily located in various school sites in The Pas due to the loss by fire of Mary Duncan Junior High in 1971, moved to this facility which extended the range of specialized art and vocational class rooms and shared facilities with MBCI next door. In 2002 a decision to establish it as a middle school brought the elementary Grades 5 and 6 classes to this site. In 2006 Opasquia Middle School was reorganized 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. 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 located at 60 Third St. W. It contained the first specialized facilities, including a cafeteria and a community use auditorium/gymnasium. In 1973 a community owned 25 metre pool was added to the south side, along with a school addition holding a new library, a language lab, business education facilities and vocational class rooms. Dual credit for technical vocational courses was arranged with Keewatin Community College. Distance education instruction was incorporated into the high school curriculum in the 1990s, offering some high school courses shared with Flin Flon as well as several first year university courses via Inter-Universities North. An infant care centre was started in the school in 1995. In 1996 an adult learning centre component was developed (later moved to Mary Duncan School). 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

