



Decker Lake School

Huskies Herald

100 Years

Est. 1921

Mrs. W. Kelemen, Principal

Office Hours: 8:30 AM to 3:15 PM Phone: 250-698-7301 Fax: 250-698-7349

Mrs. Vossen, Secretary

Principal's Message

My morning didn't start off so well yesterday! There was no internet! For a principal in 2021, this technological glitch spells disaster... but should I be complaining? What was school life like back in 1921 when Decker Lake Elementary was first established?

As I pour over the beautiful handwritten manuscripts from the March 31, 1921, DLES Journal, I learn about the motions that passed to have Decker Lake Elementary School completed.

"...A use for surplus lumber...was discussed that we build a porch and woodshed."

"Clearing of ground for playgrounds were discussed but not decided."

My favourite historical documentation of our school stems from an August 1, 1935, journal entry that noted the one-room schoolteacher needed to be asked to discontinue drinking in public buildings, also to discontinue playing cards for money in [the] Hall, and that if she continued these practices that the School Board would notify her that they would have to dismiss her. The schoolteacher's resignation letter was read and accepted at a December 5, 1935, Trustees Meeting and DLES received four new teacher applications to replace her!

While life in a one-room schoolhouse may have changed over time, the one feature of Decker Lake Elementary School that has remained steadfast is the sheer amount of community support for our school! Our school has been in operation for 100 years because of the people for whom we serve. Thank you for entrusting us to educate your children (1st, 2nd, and 3rd generations)! Happy 100th birthday, Decker Lake Elementary School!

Respectfully,
Mrs. Kelemen, Principal

Did you know in 1921 that a quart of milk was 10¢, a loaf of bread was 10¢, a hotel room was \$1 if you shared a bed, and wages 50¢ per day for carpenters and 40¢ for labourers?

Mark your Calendar

June

- 11 80s Day
- 14 Gr 7 Field Trip
- 15 PAC Meeting 6 PM
- 16 DLES 100th Birthday!
School Photo 9 AM
- 17 Gr 3-4 Field Trip
12+ Vaccine Clinic
- 22 Report Cards Home
- 23 Hot Lunch
- 24 Newsletter
- 25 Sports Day
- 29 Last Day of School—
Noon Dismissal

100 YEARS OF OUR VERY OWN SCHOOL!

Decker Lake's first school had been a log building constructed in 1920 at the old town site. In 1921, Highway 16 was built to Burns Lake and in 1923 this highway was completed to Endako, giving the Decker Lake residents road access to the southern parts of BC. The pull of the highway was strong and most of the settlers living in the original townsite moved closer to the highway which left the school in a location that was inconvenient for the pupils.



This original log schoolhouse had a barrel stove four to five feet from the entrance and a stove pipe across the ceiling to the teacher's desk which was felt to be a fire trap. The poor heating system also meant that that the school was cramped, with the stove taking up so much of the space. Furthermore, the building was cold in the morning as it was felt to be too dangerous to keep a fire going at night.

An excerpt from the Mar. 31, 1921 meeting minutes:

"It was moved by Mrs. Wilson and seconded by Mrs. Smith that the porch and woodshed be built as soon as possible either by donation or contract."

It was moved by Mrs. Wilson and seconded by Mrs. Smith that the porch + woodshed be built as soon as possible either by donation or contract.



The first teacher to teach at Decker Lake School was Miss Agnes Donaldson. She is seen here with two of her students.

**What makes DLES such a great school?
"Small school."
—Anonymous Staff Member**

At the **July 17th 1924** Annual General Meeting for the Decker Lake School Board, it was decided to move the school building to a new site. It was to be moved down closer

to the newly built main road, known today as Highway 16. In its new location, this building served the community until the 1930s. Here is the original log schoolhouse in it's new location:



First school—second location 1925

An excerpt from the July 17th Annual General Meeting minutes for Decker Lake School regarding moving the building.

audited for one year. Next thing was regarding the moving of the school to a more central place on the government road. It had been moved and seconded that the said Decker Lake School be moved down to the main road. It

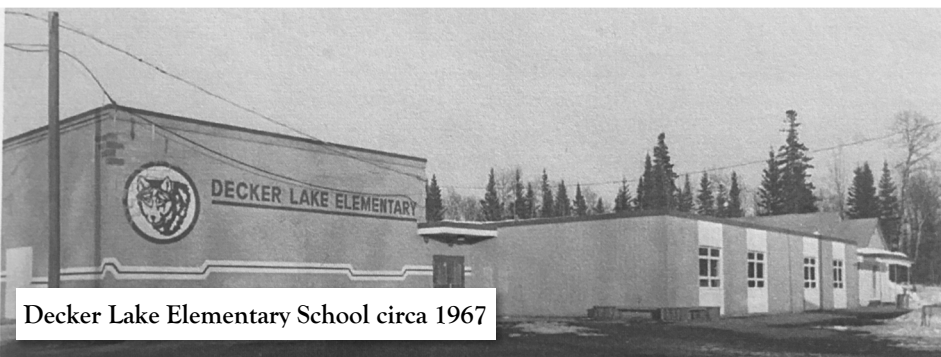
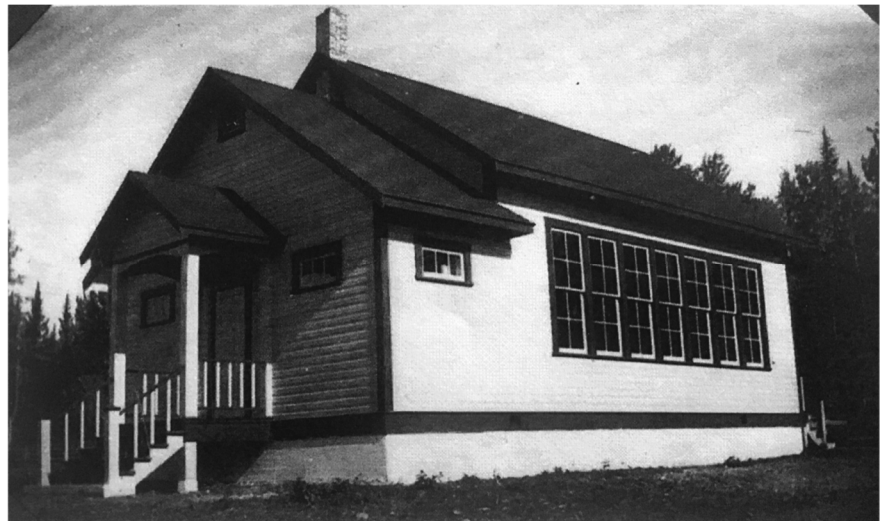
1939 School Building

By 1932 thoughts turned to building a new schoolhouse. The minutes of the 1932 Decker Lake School Board's AGM contains a motion to survey a new school site. This was the first concrete action towards acquiring a new building and the first recorded indication that that the community desired

a new facility. At the 1937 Annual General Meeting a major financial commitment was made toward the new school when Mr. Pete Olson proposed setting up a \$100.00 sinking fund to be used only for building a new school at some future date. This was a significant commitment as the total assessment for running the school in the previous year had only been

\$150.00. Since all, except twenty percent (20%) of the building costs had to be raised locally, these citizens had chosen to spend a good deal of their own money on a new school. Here is a photo of the second Decker Lake School which ended up coming in slightly under budget at \$2,204.50.

Below is Decker Lake School Class of 1939 with Miss Haddock as the teacher. If you have an idea of who's who amongst the students, we'd love to know!



Decker Lake Elementary School circa 1967

VACCINE CLINIC FOR 12 YEAR OLDS AND OLDER!

On June 17th, 2021, from 10:45 AM to 12:45 PM for children who will be 12 years old and older in 2021. This means all of our Grade 6 and Grade 7 students are eligible for their first vaccination—here at DLES!

And the Last Word goes to:

all of our substitute staff who have stepped up and aided our regular staff by taking on their roles to ensure our students continue to receive quality education throughout this COVID-19 year. Our hats off to Mrs. D. Wall, Mrs. C. Iker, Mr. L. Matte, Ms. J. Gurtins, Miss S. Coulson, Miss J. Rensing, Miss L. Atkinson, Ms. T. Lowe, Ms. M. Donnelly, Mr. F. Durand, Ms. M. Cormier, Miss E. Moore, and Mrs. I. Gooding. Thank you all so much!!!



Decker Lake Elementary School officially opened Oct. 3, 2002