

REMEMBER WHEN

In 1928 the school opened with 12 rooms and 308 students. Byng was born in 1928, also.

In 1946, the population was 1291 - Grades 7 - 12.

In 1996, 1053 - Grades 8 - 12, and portables have to be added this year!

Remember when we had no gynasium, no auditorium, no tennis courts, no swimming pool, no grass fields, no cafeteria service, no theatre, no staff lounge. We did have: ink wells, steel nibbed pens and The McLean Method of handwriting!

Remember when a 33 foot lot in Dunbar cost \$400.00, foundations were excavated by a horse and scoop, most houses had one bathroom and one telephone and the party-line was who you shared the phone with, not your politics. Coal was delivered by the sack as was sawdust - a bin could take up one third of the basement!

Remember when slab wood was dumped in the lane, wet and heavy, to be carried in and stacked. Remember the slivers? Bread and milk were delivered by horse and wagon - or sleigh. You could phone "to Morrow for your ice today" - ice boxes on the porch. Chasing the ice-man for ice chips. Most houses had 45 gal. drums in the back yard as incinerators - you could burn trash.

Remember when garbage was collected by garbage men and mail was delivered by the mailman! Junk dealers with horse and wagon called, "any old junk!" Chinese vegetable men and their open-sided Ford trucks delivered fresh produce, street cars had a conductor and a motorman, fires were fought by firemen.

Remember how the language has changed - PC was a police constable, hardware was nuts and bolts, software didn't exist, a chip was something off the old block, transit was a surveyor's instrument, a bug had six legs, not four wheels, a John was a toilet and a Hooker was front row on a rugby team, pot was for boiling potatoes, grass you cut on Saturdays, coke you drank from a curved bottle, a joint was the Sunday roast, to be gay was to be happy and coming out of the closet was part of hide and seek! May Queens were elected and female, a rumble was a noise, making out was how you did on exams and Wreck Beach had a wreck, but no nudes.

Remember waving to Teddy Lyons and his Observation Car, a board walk that crossed the swamp below Quilchena, when fog was dense on Asthma Flats, when the lily pond froze and you could skate or play ice hockey, the Christmas Train at Spencers, pneumatic tubes which took money to a cashiers office and returned change, at Birks.

Remember Saturday matinees with Yo-Yo contests and Bo-lo Bats, Buck Rogers was total fantasy. Saddle shoes, pleated skirts and Cashmeres were in - no girl could come to school in slacks! The best strides were from On Wo's - and who got sent home for chest-high drapes? There were zoot-suit riots at the Home Apple Pie Cafe.

Remember Khaki Cadet uniforms and wooden rifles and the bugler blowing a faultless "fall in" When the vets returned from UK we discovered that, if you knocked somebody up, you woke them for breakfast - what a relief! There was a rifle range under the East Wing. Earrings were worn by females and pirates.

DEBBESAY

Remember Debby and his quiz questions, being sure to put your chair back in the library, protecting yourself on the stair landing, if you were a monitor, who was the Forest Prince, and did he ever win over the Princess? The Grade 12 dance with Al MacMillan's Band and Ex-Byngites, how to set your locker?

Remember when the River froze and the school closed because they couldn't get fuel, Bill Roper came to school on skis, Meadows kept us awake with cartooning, Limpus and Kirk circled the school at noon in heavy discussion, you feared most of all Putnam's bony hand on your shoulder sending you to the board, and Eric Brooks insisting snakes aren't slimy!

Remember when you could easily get a summer job at canneries, ship yards, department stores, pulp mills, B.C. Sugar, American Can, summer resorts, construction sites, waitressing, lawn cutting, logging, coastal ships, and farm labor. The summer wages would take you through the year if you were living at home.

Remember when there were no Chinese in our class, no Indo-Canadians and no Iranians, no Native Americans and Aboriginal Peoples lived only in Australia. Chinese could not use the Crystal Pool (our only large public pool) nor could they buy property in the British Pacific Properties in West Vancouver. East-end kids wore black bell-bottoms - Chink pants vs drapes, ESL was unknown.

Remember when post secondary education was accessible, you could escape government exams with a C+ average, it was customary to marry before you lived together, the Principal and Vice-Principal were always male, desks were screwed to the floor in rows, the Annex was heated by a coal stove.

THE GENERATION: 1928 - 1996

We are the Lucky Generation: 1928-38 - Surviving the Depression
1939-49 - Too young to go to war
1950-60 - Work & Education, Boom economy
1961-71 - Family beginnings - homes we could afford
1972-82 - Growth in economy & opportunity
1983-93 - Career climax - Medicare/Pensions
1994-96 - Retirement, Travel, Leisure, Grandchildren

Delivered by John Allan at Lord Byng Class of '46 Gala 50th Reunion - June 22, 1996.

1996 - 2017 -

AND GREAT GRANDCHILDREN