
Laura Secord School



**75th ANNIVERSARY
1912 - 1987**

*The Principal and Staff
of
Laura Secord School
Cordially invite you to attend their*

75th
*Anniversary School Tea
and
Reunion*

*On Friday, May 1, 1987
at 960 Wolseley Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
2:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.*

RSVP by April 15, 1987



**75TH ANNIVERSARY
PROGRAM**

I. Open House and Tea — May 1, 1987

Location: Laura Secord School

Time: 2:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Price: \$3.00 per person

Special Events at the Tea

1. Welcoming Ceremony

Location: School Gymnasium

Time: 3:00 p.m.

2. Fashion Show

Location: School Gymnasium

Time: 6:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.

II. Social Reception — May 2, 1987

Location: International Inn

Time: 7:00 p.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Price: \$12.00 per person with a cash bar.

III. Children's Day Celebration

Date: May 4, 1987

Students will participate in various fun type activities.

This memory book has been published to commemorate Laura Secord School's 75th Anniversary. Sincere appreciation to all who have contributed and shared their memories in this book. It is an honour to dedicate this memory book to all of Laura Secord's friends.

The Memory Book Committee
May 1, 1987



CONGRATULATIONS FROM MYRNA A. PHILLIPS

May I take this opportunity to congratulate Laura Secord School on its anniversary. It has been part of our neighbourhood for the past 75 years and has been a focal point both physically and educationally for the community.

Enjoy your anniversary celebrations.

Myrna A. Phillips,
MLA for Wolseley



GREETINGS FROM THE MAYOR

It is a pleasure for me to be given the opportunity to extend greetings to all the former students and staff members of Laura Secord School on the occasion of this 75th Anniversary Reunion.

I will be thinking of you as you gather together and travel down memory lane. You will be renewing acquaintances and reminiscing about your days at Laura Secord.

I extend to each and every one my sincere best wishes for a most joyous reunion.

William Norrie, Q.C.,
Mayor



CONGRATULATIONS FROM HERITAGE WINNIPEG

Dear Friends:

Please accept our congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of your 75th anniversary celebrations. We hope that it will be a grand time for celebrating what life at Laura Secord has meant to each of you and that it will also be a good time to reflect on the glorious setting in which you found friends and knowledge.

Both your present and past students and teachers have had the opportunity to work in one of the classic school structures in Winnipeg. The superintendent, Dr. Daniel McIntyre, and commissioner of schools Col. J. B. Mitchell saw to it that the building would be a safe and impressive place in which education would take place. Built in 1912, its design is indicative of society's enlightened attitudes. Its interior design, with the large rooms and wide halls and decorative details, combined with an imposing exterior of pale brick and limestone, has been nationally acclaimed for its quality. The transom glass and school crest give an artistic touch seldom found in the modern halls of education.

We are sure that you and your neighbourhood appreciate the value of your educational home as much as we do. We take this opportunity to wish each of you the very best in the years to come and we hope that the spirit of Laura Secord School will continue to carry each of you forward successfully.

Sincerely,
David McDowell,
Chairman, Heritage Winnipeg



PHYLLIS I. MOORE PRINCIPAL 1979-1987

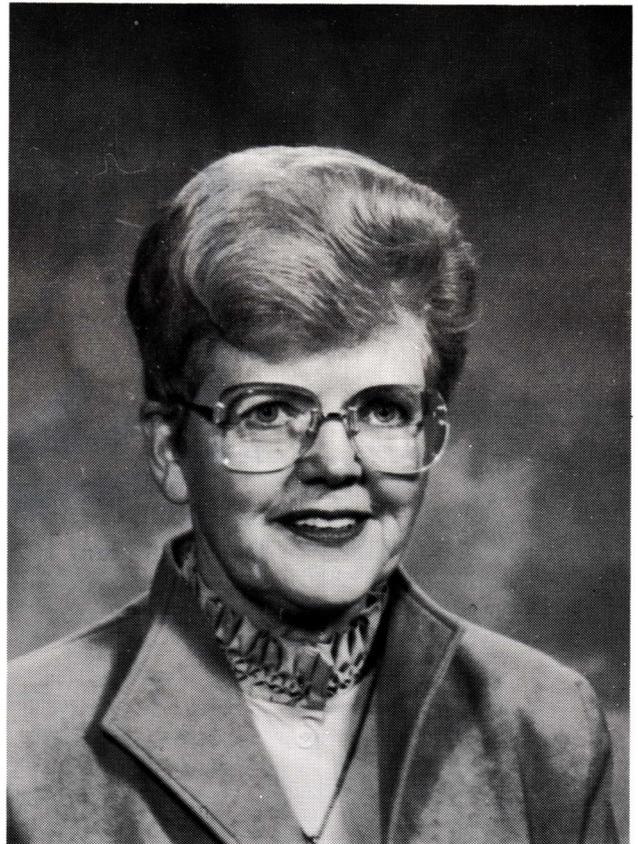
Long before I was appointed principal of Laura Secord School I was aware of the tradition of excellence which existed here. Laura Secord was famous for its Festival choirs, its athletic teams, its fine library and its outstanding patrols. Teachers at 'Laura' were known for their dedication to helping children to excel. There was a spirit of success in the school, whether it meant learning to read or making an outstanding project for the Winnipeg Schools Science Fair. Parents, too, in this area were known for their contribution of time and energy to provide supports both through the Home and School Association and through the Community Club.

With the help of parent groups new programs have been introduced into the school. French has been taught as a subject from grade one to grade six since 1977. French Immersion classes were started at the kindergarten level in 1983 and now extend to grade three with a new grade level being introduced each year. A Nutrition program is now part of every school day. Breakfast and snacks are served daily, and Food Experience is taught from the kitchen, which is room 9, converted to this purpose in 1982. English as a Second Language (E.S.L.) became a necessary addition to the regular program in 1978 when large numbers of children who could not speak English, arrived at the school. A program was introduced for very capable children in 1981. This Discovery Program now offers enrichment activities to 90 children each week. Computers have become a part of the school day. Although the school has only eight units, they are shared and the basic functions are taught, consequently, our pupils will be very familiar with the operation of a computer by the time they leave after grade six.

Laura Secord School has not changed dramatically during the past eight years. This school has a stable teaching staff which has continued to hold to tested values. The population has declined to under 400 students. Every classroom is utilized which makes me wonder how it was possible to cram 900 pupils in this school as early reports indicate. The children who attend Laura Secord today come from many

ethnic backgrounds. One recent report indicated that 86 children come from homes where English is not the first language. In fact, 22 different languages are represented in this school. Although group homes for children have declined in this area, many older homes have been bought and remodelled by families with young children, therefore it would indicate a continued need for Laura Secord School.

On this the 75th Anniversary of the school, students, parents and staff members of previous years will be visiting the school. Those who return will recognize at least one of the photographs of former principals which are hanging in the main hall. These men and women have played a large part toward upholding traditions and values which endure through time. It is truly a privilege for me to be one of this group. It is also a privilege to be here at the time of the 75th Anniversary and to be able to say "Welcome back to Laura Secord School."



*Phyllis I. Moore
Principal 1979-1987*



PRINCIPALS

A. G. McARTHUR

1913-38

"He serves best who serves youth"

F. D. BARAGAR

1938-57

"Though much is taken much abides"

J. A. FRASER

1957-61

"The most useless day of all is that in which we have not laughed"

M. A. GUNTER

1961-76

"The childhood shows the man as morning shows the day"

W. J. McKEE

1976-1978

G. GRUBERT (Acting Principal)

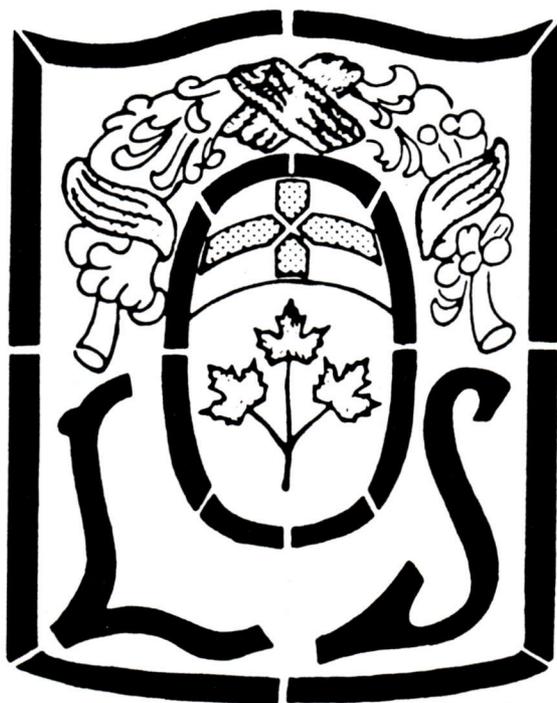
Dec. 1978 - June 1979

P. I. MOORE

1978-



HISTORICAL
PERSPECTIVES





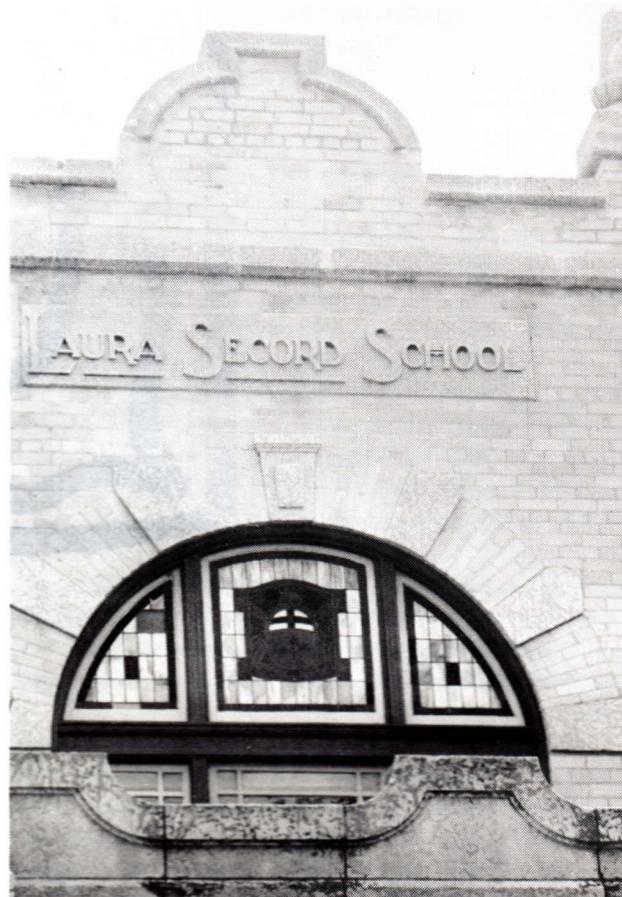
Wolseley Street Educational Institution Will be Finest Elementary School in the West.

The school board has let the contract for a new school of twenty-six classrooms for \$187,786. It will be two stories in height, of reinforced concrete and thoroughly fireproof. It will have a large assembly hall and a large room for manual training. The grounds cover a whole block in the western part of the city between Portage Ave. and the Assiniboine. The Laura Secord School was the name chosen for the new hall of learning.

At its last meeting the school board added the following teachers to its staff: Misses Elsie Morrison, Margaret MacWilliams, Blanche Stevens, B.A., Amy Richardson, Ida Davidson, May Bastin, B.A., S. Sigvaldson, Margaret Bell, Ethel Morrison, Nellie Young, Elizabeth Felker, and Mary Richardson.

A resolution, supplementary to the schedule of salaries recently adopted, will give some of the lady teachers in the collegiates an increase in salary. An increased contribution to the teachers' retirement fund was also voted. The total sum for school purposes, which the city will be asked to furnish this year, is \$766,000.

— *Western School Journal*, Vol. VIII No. 6
June 1912



Laura Secord School
— *Manitoba Archives*



DECEMBER 27, 1912 ANNUAL REPORT — BUILDING COMMITTEE

"In the west end of the city it was found necessary to provide more accommodation, and your committee had plans prepared and submitted for approval. Authority was given, tenders were accordingly called and a contract for the erection was awarded to Thos. Kelly and Sons for the sum of \$187,786.00. The Jas. Ballantyne Co. was awarded the contract for the heating and ventilating systems at a cost of \$22,700.30. This school, which is bounded by Ruby, Lenore, Wolseley and Ida Streets, consists of 26 class rooms, 2 manual training rooms and an auditorium, with quarters for the janitor on the third floor, and is named the 'Laura Secord'. The cornerstone was laid with appropriate ceremony by Mr. R. R. Knox, Trustee for Ward Six, Mr. R. W. Craig acting as chairman. It is expected that this building will be in readiness in the early part of the Spring and will relieve the Mulvey School to a large extent."



DECEMBER 30, 1913 ANNUAL REPORT — BUILDING COMMITTEE

"The completion of the Laura Secord, Principal Sparling and Lord Selkirk #2 Schools and their use at the opening of the term beginning August 15, greatly relieved the overcrowding of the west, northwest and Elmwood districts.

The Laura Secord School, which is situated on Wolseley and Lenore Streets was formally opened on December 10, when the principal and teachers gave an 'at-home' to the parents of the pupils and all interested in schoolwork. The building was first inspected by those present, and it was gratifying to see the interest evinced by the pupils by the large num-

ber who turned out to visit the school. After the inspection, the spacious auditorium was filled, during the carrying out of a programme of music and speeches. Mr. Geo. Lister, Chairman of the Building Committee, presided and short addresses were delivered by Mrs. Isaac Cockburn, Mr. R. W. Craig, Trustee for Ward 3 and the architect of the building, Lieut. Col. J. B. Mitchell, and Mr. D. M. Duncan, Assistant Superintendent of City Schools. A pleasing feature of the programme was the unveiling of a portrait of "Laura Secord" by her grand daughter, Mrs. Cockburn, who, by her interesting address brought vividly before the audience the heroic deed of the woman after whom the school is named."



FINE NEW SCHOOL

Many Citizens at Formal Opening of Laura Secord Building

The opening of the new Laura Secord school took place last night when 1,200 residents in that district gathered to witness the ceremony. The school has been open since August 18, but owing to all the work in the interior not being completed, the opening was postponed. The school, which is situated at the corner of Lenore and Wolseley, is the most modern structure. It is absolutely fireproof, there being no wood in the whole building except the desks and hardwood floors in the classrooms. The school was built at a cost of approximately \$250,000 being built by Thomas Kelly and Sons and has been under construction for nearly two years.

The school has an enrollment of 602 pupils and employs 14 teachers. The opening programme was given in the school auditorium. This room is one of the finest in the building. It has a unique stage, with entrance from both rear and front and a gallery with a seating capacity of about 200. The whole will seat 800 people.

The meeting was presided over by Mr. A. Lister. In his address Mr. Lister drew attention to the Canadian heroine after which the school was named. Brave deeds, he said, even as brave as that which made Laura Secord famous, were done every day. "The greatest deeds which man has done have never been recorded" he said. He urged the pupils of the

Luxton (1907), Lord Selkirk No. 1 and No. 2 (1909 & 1912), La Verendrye (1909), Earl Grey (1914) and Laura Secord (1912).⁵ These schools vary in exterior architectural detailing while using a common plan. Following a tragic school fire in Collingwood, Ontario, the elementary schools were two storeys in height for fire safety. The corridors were wide, 14 to 18 feet with metallic ceilings throughout. Exits front, back and side were well separated from each other. In the interests of fire safety, the schools were constructed of steel and brick, with floors of reinforced concrete and a stone foundation. The partition walls were brick, with the plaster laid on hollow tiles instead of lath. The stairs were made of iron. Heating and ventilation were also an important part of Mitchell's school design, demonstrated to the height of technological capacity in Laura Secord School.

In particular interest in the high schools and older three-storey elementary schools was the new fire escapes. Large steel tubes, shaped in a gentle spiraling curve were connected to the building by iron balconies. Manufactured and designed in Winnipeg by Vulcan Iron Works, these slide escapes could clear a school's population in two minutes. The overall design, special care and architecture detail of these J. B. Mitchell schools caused a school inspector from Toronto to remark "Winnipeg is especially to be congratulated on the liberal, vigorous and wholesome manner in which they have undertaken to teach and house their school children."⁶

Laura Secord School fits perfectly with this overall description. Erected in 1912-13 at a cost of \$208,000, the dimensions are 165 feet by 152 feet to a height of 72 feet.⁷ Nearly square, the school is built around a large interior courtyard that makes the building exceptionally light and airy. Across the courtyard at ground level is the original shops room, isolated from the rest of the school in the interests of safety and covered with a long gabled skylight of fire glass. The school is two storeys high over a raised basement. It is made of a pale brick with a good deal of limestone trim and rustication. The front of the building, facing onto Wolseley Avenue, features symmetrical end pavilions each of three arched bays, and a tall central tower (now removed) that eased into an open portico with side staircases. The sides have large central pavilions with projecting stone porticos while the rear formerly had one large pedimented projection. These wall projections correspond with variations in the roofline. Semi-elliptical

dormers peek out from what is essentially a mansard shape, originally outlined with iron cresting. Most of the attic is empty space supported by wooden rafters but the Ruby Street side contains several vacant rooms. This was the janitor's suite, with a space for a family, and lit by extra windows onto the courtyard. With a narrow stairway that goes directly to the boiler room, the janitor could stoke up the boilers during the night to keep the school warm for the early morning.

Besides the careful exterior ornamentation, Laura Secord School also has some remarkable interior finishes. The iron balustrade of the stairways incorporates small plaque with school's initials on it. Each of the original classrooms has four long windows, each with a transom of beautiful stained glass. Several other windows in the school also have stained glass, such as the first floor offices. The crest of the school is executed in glass in a delightful little teachers' room at the base of the tower overlooking the roof of the portico. There is a large assembly hall on the south end which has a stage (and formerly had a small balcony) but also serves as the gymnasium. The corridors, which are lit by the courtyard, are so broad that they are used as extra rooms for showing films, running races etc. The spacious library, which occupies two former classrooms on the northeast corner, is also a pleasant feature. Careful layout and special consideration of interior spaces characterizes the school's interior.

Architect Mitchell was especially concerned with the mechanical systems of his schools. Massive boilers, originally fueled by coal, now produce steam heat from gas. Ventilation is a combination of air flow from the double sash windows and an elaborate state of the art mechanical system. Air sweeps into the school by a wind tunnel, passes over a tight grid of heated radiator to warm it and is then pushed by a huge electric fan into the ducts. An exchange system extracts the stale air and vents it at the rear of the building. Housed in the boiler rooms is the sub-basement of the school, the original equipment daily performs its routine function in this early system of air conditioning.

Laura Secord School was constructed by Thomas Kelly and Sons, the contractors who achieved great notoriety for their role in the Legislative Building scandal. The contractors were convicted in 1916 of defrauding the Manitoba government and were ordered to repay \$1.2 million.⁸

The school opened in September 1913. The school

yard extends for an entire city block behind, purchased by the School Board at a cost of \$37,000.⁹ Originally only 10 rooms were finished, with six more completed in January and the remainder of the school finished by the summer of 1914. The boundaries of the school's jurisdiction were Portage Avenue to the north, the Assiniboine River to the south, Chestnut Street to the east and Dominion Street to the west. In 1914, there were 774 pupils from Grades I to IX. In 1921, Wolseley school opened to take some of the pressure off Laura Secord and in 1960, all Junior high classes, Grades VII to IX, were transferred to Gordon Bell School.

Pupils in the new Laura Secord School came from comfortable homes in the west end. The district, which was new in 1912, developed rapidly, and the school grew as a part of the thriving community. It was almost exclusively Anglo-Saxon in its ethnic composition and rigourously middle-class. From the start, Laura Secord School was an integral part of the neighbourhood, with a high level of community involvement. Originally this was due in part to the first principal, who quickly established a firm relationship with the parents of his students. A. G. McArthur opened Laura Secord School as principal in 1913 and served the school with dedication until his retirement 25 years later in June 1938. McArthur was a vibrant, congenial man, active in sports and interested in music. Following the principal's retirement, a framed portrait of him was unveiled in the front hall of the school he had loved. From the response of students, teachers and officials in the crowd, it is obvious that they loved him as well.¹⁰

McArthur was succeeded by another principal of long-standing, Fred Baragar. Born in Ontario and a graduate of United College and University of Toronto, Principal Baragar also administered Laura Secord School with a populist's touch from 1938 to 1957. Besides his long hours in the school and community, Baragar was a devout churchman who served as President of the Manitoba Teachers' Society.¹¹ His memory lives on at the school as the Baragar Memorial Library, an expansion of the regular library in Laura Secord School made in 1965.

Aileen Gunter maintained the tradition of the school's principal from 1961 to 1976. One of the first chairpersons of the Canadian College of Teachers, and a highly dedicated professional, Gunter was also greatly admired by her pupils.¹² The tradition of these strong and dedicated personalities, which continues to the present, has had a positive and forma-

tive effect on the history of the school.

When Laura Secord School first opened its doors in 1913, the basic curriculum for grades I to IV was reading, spelling, writing, arithmetic, geography, singing, drawing and "elementary handwork". By Grade V, the girls had branched into sewing, the boys into benchwork and both studied history. Grammar was added as a separate study in Grade VI, with geometry, cooking, forge and woodwork added in Grade VII.¹³ Because of the large school yard and the proximity of the river, the pupils have enjoyed a dynamic sports program that is now tied with the City's Community Club on the south border of the school yard.

Beyond the quota of Christmas plays and teas, the students of Laura Secord School have historically demonstrated particular initiative and verve. Through the medium of *Laura Lites*, a school newspaper published from 1938 to 1957, we have a window in the activities of the student body. Through its mimeographed pages and students' drawings, we read of the school's involvement in gathering waste material for the war effort, of the nostalgia of a graduating class of Grade Nines, of fighting the flood waters in their community in the flood of 1950, or the special delights of field days and class parties. Photographs of grinning gap-toothed children at sports and play, posed proudly to receive some special honour or cackling behind a fort of snow, animate the spirit of the student body.

A special feature of Laura Secord School was the establishment of a School Board dental clinic there in the early years. As one of four clinics serving the city's school children, the dental clinic was one facet of a new holistic approach to education.¹⁴

In 1940, enrolment reached 1013 students in 24 classes,¹⁵ with morning and afternoon kindergarten classes added shortly thereafter. At this point, the neighbourhood was still extremely stable, with most of the students completing all their primary schooling at this one institution.¹⁶ During the 1960's and 1970's there was a discernable shift in the student population as rents lowered in the district and many of the large houses were subdivided. Laura Secord School has been revitalised with an infusion of new ethnicities, symbolized with a mini-Folklorama held there in 1976. French immersion classes, a school band, nursery classes and computers demonstrate the school's remarkable ability to change with the times. The enrolment now rests at 402 pupils from nursery school to Grade VI.

The school is named for Laura Secord Ingersoll, a young Ontario woman who trekked through hostile American Territory to warn Canadian troops of a planned ambush during the War of 1812. The incident occurred in 1813, but was for several decades a nearly forgotten event. After 1860, her legend grew, reaching a peak in 1910 with a monument erected to her memory in Queenston Heights. Her portrait was hung in Queen's Park and Laura Secord School established at Queenston.¹⁷ In the local school board's desire to name their schools after Canadian heroes, Laura Secord was an obvious choice.

The school has undergone some structural changes. The central tower was removed in the 1960's because it was structurally unsound and the rear of the school has suffered some alteration. The shops room in the centre of the courtyard has its skylight darkened and it is now a craft room. To bring the hallways rear exits, and assembly hall into accordance with fire codes, all have had some modifications. Despite these changes, most of the school's exterior and a good deal of its layout and finishing is original to 1912. This further underlines the care that was taken in the design of these large schools.

It would be appropriate to compare these schools as the academic counterpart of the handsome banks on Main Street, the functionally elegant warehouses of the downtown or the masterful Legislative Buildings inasmuch as the same pride, confidence and big budget is reflected in all these building types. In a study of public school buildings across the province, Ivan Saunders observed that Winnipeg's "large, massively proportioned and extremely expensive elementary schools" demonstrate a commitment to offer citizens the best facilities possible for an enlightened education. In examining the period 1904 to 1914, to which Laura Secord School belongs, Saunders concludes:

The great economic prosperity enjoyed by Manitoba through most of its pre-war decade clearly produced a substantial growth in the size and quality of its schools... Winnipeg's energetic building program thrust Manitoba into the forefront of Canadian school building construction during the years 1904-14. It would appear that these architectural and administrative advances were the product of a prosperous maturing society able and willing to avail itself of the best of contemporary school construction technology.¹⁸

ENDNOTES

1. W. G. Pearce, M.A. *Winnipeg School Days, 1871-1950* (condensation) (Winnipeg) c. 1951, Chapter VI p. 10.
2. Reports of the Superintendent of Public Schools, Sessional Papers, Department of Education, 1914, p. 207; 1916, p. 251 and 1917-18, p. 106-107.
3. Pearce, *op. cit.*, p. 11.
4. "Winnipeg's School Building" *Construction* November 1909, p. 67.
5. *Ibid.*, also from Sessional Papers, *op. cit.*, 1907 to 1914.
6. "Schools of the West" *The Western School Journal* December 1909 Vol. 4 No. 10, p. 353.
7. City of Winnipeg Building Permit No. 1131, 10 May 1912. Laura Secord School opened in September 1913.
8. W. L. Morton *Manitoba: A History* University of Toronto Press (Toronto) 1979 (1957 first edition) p. 221.
9. "Winnipeg Schools" *Manitoba Free Press*, 15 November 1922.
10. Pearce, *op. cit.*, p. 117.
11. "Frederick Drury Baragar M.C." obituary *Winnipeg Free Press*, 5 October 1964.
12. "Understanding and concern are parts of Aileen Gunter's professionalism" *Our Schools* 1976 Ewart-Morgan Scrapbook Collection p. 757 Teachers' Library and Resource Centre, Winnipeg School Division No. 1.
13. Sessional Papers, *op. cit.*, 1914, p. 207.
14. Sessional Papers, *op. cit.*, 1917-18, p. 107.
15. *Laura Lites*, Vol. III No. III, p. 7.
16. *Ibid.*, Vol. IX June 1947, p. 3.
17. Frances P. Halpenny, general editor, *Dictionary of Canadian Biography* Vol. IX University of Toronto Press (Toronto) 1976, p. 406.
18. Ivan J. Saunders *A Survey of Manitoba School Architecture to 1930* C.I.H.B. Research Bulletin No. 222 November 1984, p. 9 & 10.

Sheila C. Grover,
30 June 1985

Heritage Winnipeg
BUILDING INFORMATION SHEET

Name of Building: Laura Secord School
 Address/Location: 960 Wolseley Avenue
 Historic Building Designation: Grade: (1,2,3) Date: (July 11, 1985) Recommended Grade 2
 Present Owner/Manager: Winnipeg School Div. No. 1
 Date Constructed: 1912 - 1913 (final completion - summer, 1914)
 Architect: James Bertram Mitchell

Builder: Thomas Kelly and Sons

Technical Information (Arch. style, No./stories, primary materials, special features etc.)
Eclectic; 2 storey, pale brick with limestone detail; Nearly square - built around large interior courtyard; Stained glass windows (transoms), room-sized corridors lit by courtyard, Classical detail over columns, wood detail, originally the Shops Room had a long gabled skylight of fire glass; Fire safety construction: steel & brick, reinforced concrete floors, stone foundation, brick partition walls, plaster on hollow tiles, iron stairs.

Dimensions: 165' x 152' Height: 72'

Facade features symmetrical end pavilions each of three arched bays and originally included a central tower that eased into an open portico with side staircases. The sides of the building have large central pavilions with projecting stone porticos while the near formerly had one large pedimented projection. The wall projections correspond with variations in the roofline. Semi-elliptical dormers project from an essentially mansard shape, originally outlined with iron cresting.

MAJOR ALTERATIONS

Date	Description	Architect	Builder
1960's	Central Tower removed (structurally unsound)		

Historical & Architectural Significance: 1) Architect 2) to Winnipeg (see below)

3) Reflects Manitoba's economic prosperity through most of pre-war decade

4) Excellent physical expression of the new progressive educational philosophy introduced at the turn of the century. 5) Excellence in design & construction (large, airy, well lighted interior; ornamental details)

CONSIDERATIONS RE: DEMOLITION/ALTERATION

- Significance to the city of Winnipeg: The academic counterpart to the Main Street bank buildings, the downtown warehouses and the Legislative Building.
- Relationship to local streetscaping/neighbourhood: A major contribution to the streetscape and of particular importance in terms of the particular street.
- Potential for Adaptive Reuse: _____
- Architectural Elements for Preservation: Assembly hall/gymnasiums, oak entrance transoms



THE COURAGE OF LAURA SECORD

Adventures began to come to little Laura Ingersoll when she was a baby. In the year 1775 her parents brought her to Canada, when they were forced to flee from their home in Massachusetts, because they were United Empire Loyalists. In the same year, and for the same reason the Secords also had to flee to Canada.

James Secord and Laura Ingersoll grew up, were married, and went to live near Queenston.

Not long after Sir Isaac Brock called for recruits, James Secord was one of the first to volunteer. When Sir Isaac Brock fell on the battle field at Queenston it was to the Secord home he was taken. On the same day James Secord was badly wounded and would have died had it not been for his brave wife who found him on the battle field.

In the following weeks the Americans gained a footing in Canada, and early in June of the year 1813, the Secords were forced to allow a number of Americans to be billeted at their house. One night Mrs. Secord overheard them making plans. She heard the words "Fitzgibbon" and "Beaver Dam". At once she was filled with dismay. Beaver Dam was a Canadian outpost some twenty miles away and Lieutenant Fitzgibbon was the officer in charge. He had barely one hundred and fifty men behind him. At once she knew that she must warn him, as her husband was not yet strong enough to go so far.

The first streaks of morning light were hardly showing in the sky when she started her journey. She drove a cow before her as she went and when an American sentry asked her where she was going, she said she was driving the cow to St. Davids where she had a sick brother.

As soon as the sentry was out of sight she let the cow graze wherever it wanted and hurried on her way. But she was not able to go so fast for long. The trail led through swamps and at one place she crossed a stream by crawling over on a log. Hour after hour she pushed herself on. At night, she came up on a group of Indians. After she had controlled her fear, she begged them to take her to Lieutenant Fitzgibbon.



*Laura Secord Monument, Drummond Hill Cemetery
— Manitoba Archives*

They did so and she gave her information at once. Quickly he sent messengers to Twelve Mile Creek for assistance. In the morning, when the Americans made the attack, they found themselves surrounded by British soldiers and Indians, and were compelled to surrender.

Laura Secord lived for over fifty years after her journey. During that time many people visited her in her home at Chippawa just to hear from her own lips, the story of her great achievement. In the year 1860 King Edward VII, who was then Prince of Wales, visited her, and later sent a gift of five hundred dollars.

When Laura Secord died, a monument was erected in her honour at Queenston Heights. On it these words were written: "This monument has been erected by the Government of Canada to Laura Ingersoll Secord, she saved her husband's life on the Heights on October 13, 1812 and who risked her own in conveying to Captain Fitzgibbon, information by which he won the battle of Beaver Dam January 24, 1813."

Elaine Muir, Grade V, Room 8
Laura Lites, June, 1957



THE BROWN AND THE GOLD

Hail, Lau-ra Se-cord, we sing to your praise;
Great our af-fec-tion through all of our days.
Here on the prair-ie in the great gol-den west.
Our Lau-ra Se-cord, we love you the best.

O Laura Secord, we're proud of your name,
Which, in this city, bears pioneer fame;
As in the future we all drift apart,
Still we'll remember you deep in our heart.

Dear Laura Secord, we'll always be true
To all the memories that we have of you;
Down through the years as your merits unfold,
We shall remember the "Brown and the gold."



FIGHT ON, FOR OUR SCHOOL

Laura Laura Secord, We will fight for you.
As we meet the test of life, Count us to be true.
Laura Laura Secord, We will win for you.
For the glory of our cause, We will carry through!

Words written by Don Simpson



THE BRIAN SWANSON MEMORIAL TROPHY FOR SPORTSMANSHIP

This trophy was presented to Laura Secord School by Mr. and Mrs. Neil Swanson in memory of their young son Brian who passed away suddenly on Feb. 5th, 1974, while a student in Grade 5 at Laura Secord School. This trophy is presented to a Grade 6 student who excels in all-round sportsmanship in everyday living. Winners of this trophy have been:

1973-74	Brian Swanson
1974-75	Kevin Moist
1975-76	Timothy Prout
1976-77	Wayne Haley
1977-78	Lyal Hopko
1978-79	Michael Toews
1979-80	Rey Carbonell
1980-81	Hoa Quoc Tran
1981-82	Peter Harder
1982-83	Michael Labun
1983-84	Armando Zubin
1984-85	Jarem Sawatsky
1985-86	Steven Kuz



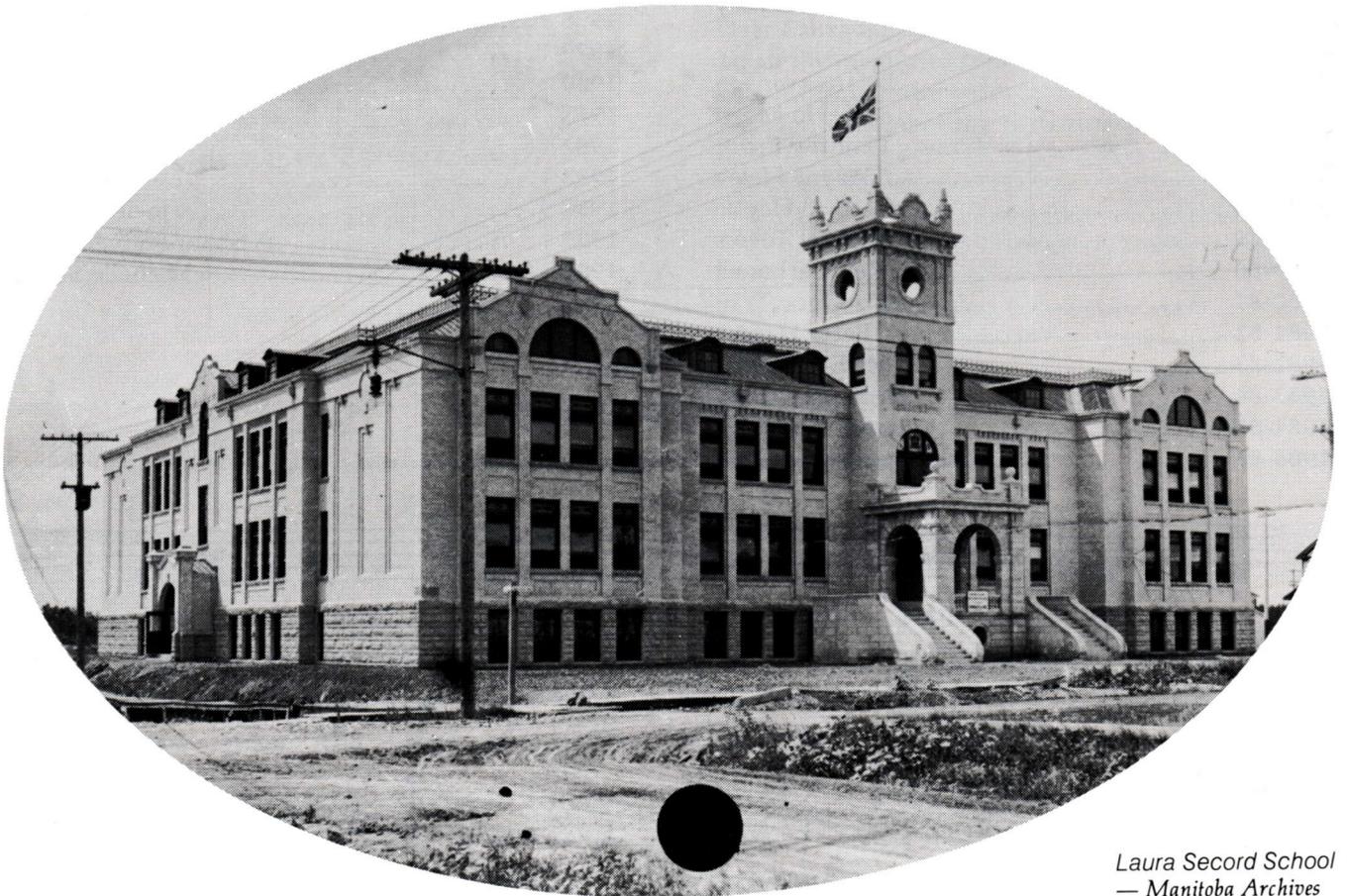
GUNTER GIRLS ATHLETIC TROPHY

This trophy was presented to Laura Secord School in honour of Miss M. Aileen Gunter, principal who retired in 1976. This trophy is presented to the top female athlete in Grade 6. Winners of this trophy have been:

1976	Barbara Gagne
1977	Janice Futz, Tracy Jacobson
1978	Rosemary Kohinsky
1979	Cassy Keith
1980	Mary Lou McIvor
1981	Johanna Ratcliffe
1982	Kim Hopko
1983	Lynn Bausback
1984	Joelle Spencer
1985	Shannon Sieunarine
1986	Michelle Santos



MOMENTS
TO REMEMBER...



*Laura Secord School
— Manitoba Archives*

I began to teach at L.S. in the autumn of 1922 and in those days there was no Junior High or Kindergarten and there were just eight straight grades with each teacher taking all subjects in her own class. The Principal was Mr. McArthur. There were three Manual Training teachers as classes came one day a week from several schools. The Manual rooms were in the basement.

The district was also different as there were many vacant lots especially west of the school. Garfield and Sherburn which had been the site of an amusement park called HAPPYLAND were just beginning to be built on; all the big houses on Wolseley and Westminster, and Ethelbert and Canora were one-family homes. Most of our pupils came from these and as far east as Armstrong's Point. Mulvey School was at Portage and Maryland. But the introduction of bungalows changed things. There had of course been many small cottages in poorer districts but they had no basements, and it was not until a big Exhibition shortly after the first war built a modern bungalow (and raffled it for 25¢ a ticket) that people realized how pleasant life in a fully modern bungalow could be. Soon the vacant lots were vacant no longer and Laura Secord had to open new rooms and even use basement classrooms. The introduction of Junior High and later of Kindergarten was another factor in the expansion.

The L.S. auditorium was in those days the finest school auditorium in the city, and if a well-known lecturer was in Winnipeg and expressed a wish to speak to children it was to our school he came. Among them I remember Ernest Thompson Seton, a naturalist and writer of animal stories. We also enjoyed a fine concert every year from the Military band of the Princess Pat's regiment; and another time a Mounted Policeman in full dress uniform (minus his horse, to our regret) spoke to the upper grades.

During the depression time of the "dirty thirties" each room would collect and pack a Christmas hamper and deliver it to some family that was hard up but too proud to go "on relief." When the 1939-45 war began we organized a Junior Red Cross unit in all the rooms and it was wonderful what the schools did for the bomb victims of Britain who were spending their nights in tube stations and underground shelters. The children, even the boys, learned to knit and made 6 inch squares from scraps of wool. These were stitched together to make afghans for the bomb victims. There was a woollen factory called Fairfield's

near the city and they had a shop downtown. For 7 pounds of clean used wool and \$1.75 they would exchange a grey or brown blanket. We sent many of those. The kids earned the money by cutting lawns, throwing in wood, etc. Even the little ones in Grades 1 and 2 collected wire coat hangers which the dry cleaning firms bought for a cent apiece.



1931, from the *Winnipeg Tribune*
 "Here are the boys of Laura Secord school, undefeated champions of the junior division of the Winnipeg schools. Their names are, left to right, front row: Charlie McKay, George McKay, Jack Jamieson, Roderick Lawrence, Donald McDonald and Jack Harris. Back row: Archie McVicar, Eric Ellis, Gordon McKay, Robert Gallagher (captain), and Norman Lawrie.

Baseball was always a popular game in Winnipeg, and softball was played long before the introduction of the present "fastball" game. There were many commercial teams and also several school leagues.

These boys loved the game and won every game they played in our own league and then went on to beat the winners of the other school groups in the city. Seven of the boys were in my Grade 6 class and I never missed a game. I took this snapshot behind the school and it was published in the *Tribune*.

Poor lads! They had picked a bad time to be born and were just old enough to fight in the war. I know that Gordon McKay was a pilot and his plane was shot down over enemy territory. Donald McDonald was a prisoner of war in Germany.

Lorna M. Cook
 Vancouver, B.C.

I recognized the picture in the newsletter before I saw the name. I watched Laura Secord being built! We lived on Evanson St. overlooking the school grounds from 1911-14. I roamed through every room in the school before it was finished — and my first schooling was in Laura Secord. I started in Grade 2, because I had been to Mrs. Bevin's Kindergarten (Aubrey St.). I went to L.S. through Grade 7. I can't remember the names of my first teachers. But I do remember Miss Phelps, Miss Parker, and Miss Saunders, whom I had for Grades 6 & 7. I skipped Grade 8.

I was one of the tea pourers when the school celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1962.

I am now 80 years old and have been away from Winnipeg for 19 years, but I can't visualize Wolseley Avenue without Laura Secord.

Mr. McArthur was the principal — and Col. Billman led us in fancy marching. Miss Pullar was the music inspector, and once a year we clutched a quarter and were taken to the old Board of Trade Bldg. for a concert by the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra!

How restricted our lives were. But we learned our spelling, grammar, our times tables (which I still use), and I shudder at the speakers on C.B.C. today.

Good luck in your efforts. I hope I live long enough to hear good results.

Dorothy Abbott Waines
Listowel, Ontario

So very pleased that at last there will be a reunion of Laura Secord School that I think was opened to pupils in 1914 and I believe I should be counted among the ones who was in one of the opening classes. I think I was put in grade two as I had gone to a private kindergarten run by a Mrs. Bavin on Aubrey Street so not far from my home at 141 Evanson Street. I could have started school at Mulvey but my parents felt it was too far from my home. I also had three younger sisters who when they became of age went to Laura Secord. I have a feeling that there might be very few around to attend this reunion as I will be 81 next month.

I will give you a rundown of the Scott girls living at 141 Evanson St. who attended Laura Secord for ages and sorry to say the death of two.

Will begin with myself, Alta Scott who attended from the day it was opened until I passed my grade 8 and we all moved to a farm at Gladstone as my father could no longer work inside after being four

years overseas during the first world war. I can remember that a colonel Bouie used to come to give us exercises in the auditorium and because I had taken quite a few music lessons I was chosen to play the marches for it. Also I remember that Claude Turner who later had his own orchestra which used to play at either Grand or Winnipeg Beach in the summer, married a school pal of his called Kathleen Morrison. Also, I remember a Whilene Smiley who lived on Lenore. Also Ault Mills who played the violin very well. Also Katharine Middleton who took up Home Economics and for several years had her recipes and suggestions on diets in one of the Winnipeg papers but I believe she has also died. They were in my room all the way to 8.

My sister, two years younger and named Erma Muriel, also went to this school. It was after we moved to Gladstone that she developed diabetes and was the 1st child in Winnipeg to be treated with insulin, in reality she was a guinea pig as it was so new it had to be shipped in from Toronto. Sorry to say, but they didn't know how to administer it to control children, and when she had her second coma, she passed away in 1923.

My Sister Helen was four years younger than me and wasn't a good student at school but certainly knew how to run restaurants after she married. She finally gave up running restaurants and worked as a ward clerk at General Hospital and was very well liked but died suddenly of a heart attack after just arriving home from a trip I took her on to Israel. I knew her heart wasn't strong, but I guess the trip home was too much for her and I still miss her.

My sister Wilma (Cail) lives in Winnipeg with her husband Herb C. in an apartment on Tylhurst Street. She is eight years younger than me but had a very serious heart attack about a year and a half ago. I'm very pleased to say she takes good care of herself and hasn't had one since. She just nicely started school when she moved to Gladstone. She worked as a stenographer and for several years was a mother of two daughters they adopted, and both married. I hope I haven't bored you with all this. I am sorry, but I just can't remember any of the teachers' names, but the principal retired from Laura Secord and I can still see him pinch his glasses on a finger, when he took them off to talk to us.

I am sure this Reunion will be a real success and looking forward to it.

Alta Atkinson (Scott)
1914-1922, Winnipeg

A couple of nights ago I was called to see if I would recall some incident regarding my attendance at Laura Secord. After some thought and perhaps wrong decision on my part I accepted the assignment, so here goes.

In the era of 1912 there was a gas tank situated at the foot of Ruby and Lipton streets or south end of the school grounds. The gas tank was attended by a "Yorkie" Danderdale who lived on the premises. Now a few of us young bloods became acquainted with Yorkie and at recess would often visit with him and listen to his many interesting stories. I believe he had been a seaman as his travels had been extensive — at times we would be late for class after recess and thus disrupt the routine.

This did not meet with the approval of teachers and after several warnings that trouble lay ahead we were one day summoned to be in attendance in the principal's office at 3:50 that afternoon. On being lined up facing Mr. McArthur we listened in a few well chosen words of the crime we had committed and the punishment some involved. Then reaching into a drawer and coming up with a piece of canvas belting he began exercising his pitching arm firmly and accurately on the palms of our outstretched hands. I do not remember whether my parents heard of the dishonour their Maxwell brought to the family but in later years my father and Mr. McArthur enjoyed many rounds of golf at Windsor Park.

Wonder if "Yorkie" misses us?

Another memory is of our class teacher Margaret Cameron, a great person and a credit to her profession. It was her custom near the end of the term on Friday afternoon after recess to have a "happy hour" at which time some well known person was invited to show slides or entertain us in some fashion. Among the pupils was Mollie Finsiloer, very clever and who had a younger brother 'Jackie' about four or five. On occasion Mollie would be permitted to have Jackie come to class to entertain us with his song and dance skit. This was not my cup of tea! I would rather be out on my paper route! However, Jackie had talent and I believe became a member of a group called "The Winnipeg Kiddies" which was very popular and included among others the Holmes twins and Gladys Fraser.

This is 30 from Max.

Maxwell McElheran
Winnipeg



MEMORIES OF LAURA SECORD SCHOOL

It is seventy years in September since I first attended Laura Secord School, in grade one. My teacher that year was Miss Pulford, and as I remember it there were 47 children in the class. The desks were in six rows of eight, bolted to the floor. Grades I and II were basement rooms.

Teachers in those days must have had great organizational skills for I know we were always busy. We were divided into bluebirds, canaries, robins etc., and while one group might have a reading lesson with the teacher another would be working with "tickets" — numbers and letters, while the third did handwork, colored or printed. We learned to work independently very early. If you were disruptive, you put your arms on your desk, your head on your arms and just sat. You did your work at recess or after four. Early finishers chose books, or helped the slower ones.

My two most vivid recollections are of Miss Pulford's story hour, at 3:30 and of learning to read my little Sweet Pea reader. Miss Pulford was a great story teller. She never read her stories, and she would bring us into the action with questions like "Now why do you think she did that?" which gave us a chance to talk now and then. Her reading lessons were pure magic. I know I felt launched for life when I could match the words to the little color squares in my book and reproduce them on my "tickets"! A great deal was made of everyone's achievements, and we thrived on her flattery.

In grade II we were a little more assured, and I think a little more rowdy. Miss Brown was the one who made words into pictures and song. We learned lovely poems from Stevenson and Longfellow, and we sang about "October had a party, — the leaves by hundreds came." I have forgotten most of it, but I do remember how the leaves chose their colors from the flowers. When October comes each year I still remember.

I was one of the tall ones, and usually sat near the back. We had no such place as a gym, but we stood in rows between our desks for about fifteen minutes a day — "Arms upward stretch! — downward stretch! — hands on hips! — on your toes! — knees



Laura Secord School play group
— Foote Collection, Manitoba Archives

bend. . .” it was at this point that a strategic stagger could send the whole row down like dominoes, and it often happened.

I believe it was when I was in Grade II that Banking at School was introduced. Most of us had penny banks at home, and were encouraged to bring these to School and deposits were made with the Bank of Commerce. We were given little red bank-books and each month if you had more than 10¢ you could line up on banking day, and the teller would bank it for you and enter it in your book. This was great for me. When I was in third year at University I used my money for a trip to Europe conducted by Professor Allison of the English Department!

Grade II was our first experience of real tragedy. My “best friend”, Lucille Smith, was accidentally scalded to death after falling into a hot tub of water. I remember picking flowers from my mother’s garden and going to her home. Someone was shooing me away from the door when her mother rushed to

me and hugged me tightly. She didn’t speak, — but the next day Lucille died. Miss Brown was very close to all of us at that time.

Twenty-five years later a friend brought a tall, white-haired lady to meet me. “You don’t remember me, do you?” she said. “No,” I said, “but I remember your eyes.” It was Miss Brown.

In grade III we had Miss Alice Tyson. She was considered to be the prettiest teacher in the school, and besides her room was upstairs! Everyone looked forward to her room, just as we dreaded Miss Glenn, the grade VIII teacher, who was a tiny person with a sharp, high-pitched voice who moved very quickly. Her own pupils used to tell us she was very nice, but we weren’t at all sure.

We also stood in great awe of the Principal, Mr. McArthur, a heavy-set dark man, whose eyes were everywhere, but who seldom spoke to anyone. Mr. McArthur had *rules*. One of the things you were not to do was to go near the river bank. This included

going and coming to school, or running back at recess. Now in those days, fairly big scows and steam boats went up and down, taking soft-wood into the city for fuel. The crews would too-toot merrily at you if they saw you, and the children loved them. After they passed by we would keep an ear open to see if we could hear the long signals as they asked for Maryland bridge to be cleared and raised so that they could pass downstream. I don't remember any accidents, but I remember some older boys getting the strap, and I know I saw the boats many times!

Fire drills in our big school were special fun. In very cold weather we were allowed to get just our coats, but mostly we filed out as we were. Sometimes the old fire chief, Mr. Buchanan would come to watch us. We greatly admired his fine uniform, white gloves and shiny buttons. He was everyone's friend, and rescued innumerable pet cats from trees. On Saturday mornings children would loiter around in front of the Fire Hall, and hope for a fire so that they could see the men slide down the poles to the rigs. While some of the equipment had engines, I seem to remember that the ladder rigs were horse-drawn. They were always a splendid sight.

It was on Christmas Eve when I was in grade II or III that the children of Laura Secord lost one of their greatest friends, Mr. Poyntz, the druggist, who had a shop in the red-brick building between Evanson and Lenore, was inexplicably murdered. The murder was never solved. Mr. Poyntz was a German, with a thick accent, a white "Colonel Saunders" goatee and sparkling blue eyes behind silver-rimmed spectacles. He had every kind of penny candy imaginable, — chocolate-marshmallow mice, gum-drop dolls, suckers, licorice whips, fruit drops — you name it! We spent every penny we could, agonizing on choices until, with goatee wobbling with suppressed laughter Mr. Poyntz would say "k-varter after vun!" and we could grab our candy, slap down our penny and race for the school yard before the 1:25-"line-up" bell.

Grade III was also the year we began to write with pens. This was a really messy business. The ink wells were inserted into the wooden desk tops at the right hand corner. The monitors had to pour the ink into little glass containers. If they didn't like you, your books below could be saturated. Also on at least one occasion the whole bottle of ink was upset, and finally the teacher took this chore over herself. This was also the year when my mother cut my hair to shoulder length. Long braids and curls were just too

tempting with full inkwells.

The pens we used were long, wooden, pointed handles, with a grip of cork near the nib. The nibs were metal, with split points, and a small hole half way up the nib trapped the ink, which was supposed to drip down the split to the point. You could write a short sentence with one dip. We soon learned that if they were poised, and then given a sudden jerk, all sorts of interesting things happened.

It must have been in Grade III that the Armistice was declared. In those days we had no radios or T.V., although most of us had phones. The news used to be flashed on a bulletin board at the Free Press, and people would go down town and stand in front of the building in crowds to read the war news. But when the Armistice was declared a man with a big black fog-horn stood on a ladder and shouted "The War is Over! The War is Over!" and the whole business area of Winnipeg had the news in about an hour. Coming home at noon we were met by our staid neighbors running down the middle of the street and shouting "The War is Over!"

No one went back to school. Soon all our fathers returned via the street-cars on Portage Avenue (there were no buses) and the whole neighborhood erupted into a joyous street celebration. I remember people weeping openly, and children marching up and down with little flags. I can't recall if the sun shone, but it was a glorious day.

When my family returned from the lake at the end of August in 1920 I was looking forward to grade IV. But it was not to be. I went swimming at Sherbrook Pool and everyone in my swimming class caught Scarlet Fever. It was the beginning of a severe epidemic, and after two months of hospitalization and ear surgery, I was left severely deafened. Returning to school in late November I was able to catch up with the work, but even though I tried desperately to watch the others and keep up, I could not always follow instructions. It was just too much for the teacher of a large class and she recommended that I be sent to the School for the Deaf. However my parents decided to try St. Mary's Academy, and I was able to complete my education.

Looking back, I marvel at the teachers. They really had us organized. There were monitors for everything, and we really worked! We distributed and collected materials, cleaned boards and cupboards, checked cloakrooms, policed the lines, walked smaller children home, inspected desks, ran errands, and helped the slower ones. We were never encouraged

to tattle, but pity help the child reported by a monitor, or the monitor who was a bully! You probably wrote a page of Egypt ("make all the tails line up!") seven words across and twelve lines down! You got smart quickly.

They were happy days. They were deliberately meant to be that way, and I look back on them with much gratitude. Thank you, Laura Secord School.

Ora (Forster) Selby
1917-1920
Winnipeg

I remember clearly our principal Mr. McArthur and my teacher Miss Lane. The reason, I visited Mr. McArthur's Office a few times to get the strap. One particular time, I don't know whether he missed or I pulled my hand to the side and he hit himself on the knee. That didn't go over so big and a few more were added.

Miss Lane was a Jewel, she had to be to put up with us kids.

The discipline they taught us was terrible at the time, standing in the corner face first, standing outside the room door, with hands behind our back. These serious events only happened when any of us got out of line.

I look back now and it was that discipline that was installed in me at Laura Secord that enabled me to have a successful and happy life, not only in sport but in business. I will always be thankful to Mr. McArthur and Miss Lane and any other teachers.

I remember playing baseball and soccer on the playgrounds with the teachers helping and coaching us. Encouraging us along in a game. Always after school, after 4 p.m. Laura Secord is where I became interested in sport.

The memory of the Laura Secord building, standing proud, majestically, representing all the things that Laura Secord did has always been with me because it was my school.

The following are not directly related to Laura Secord but the foundation was made there for me to be seriously involved in hockey as a goaltender from the time I left Laura Secord in 1926 until 1942.

In 1926-1927 & 1928, I played for Young United Church in a Sunday School league and each year won the Championship.

In 1929 with the Elmwood Millionaires we won the Manitoba Juvenile Championship (16 & under).

In 1930-31 with the Elmwood Millionaires Juniors (20 & under) we won the Canadian Memorial Cup Championship.

In 1933-34 with the Queens Club, in London, England (English League) we won the European Championship.

In 1934-35 with the Winnipeg Monarchs, representing Canada at the World Games we won the GOLD medal.

In 1939-40 with the Calgary Stampeders we were Finalists in the Allan Cup for the Canadian Championship.

In 1942-43 with the Victoria Army we were Finalists in the Allan Cup for the Canadian Championship.

I joined the Army in 1942 and eventually ended up with the Calgary Highlanders Infantry Battalion as an Officer. I was severely wounded in Normandy, France during the Invasion of Europe in 1944. I returned to Civilian life in 1946.

After the War I started my own business as a Manufacturers Agent, which was successful, retiring in 1977.

AND IT ALL STARTED AT LAURA SECORD SCHOOL.

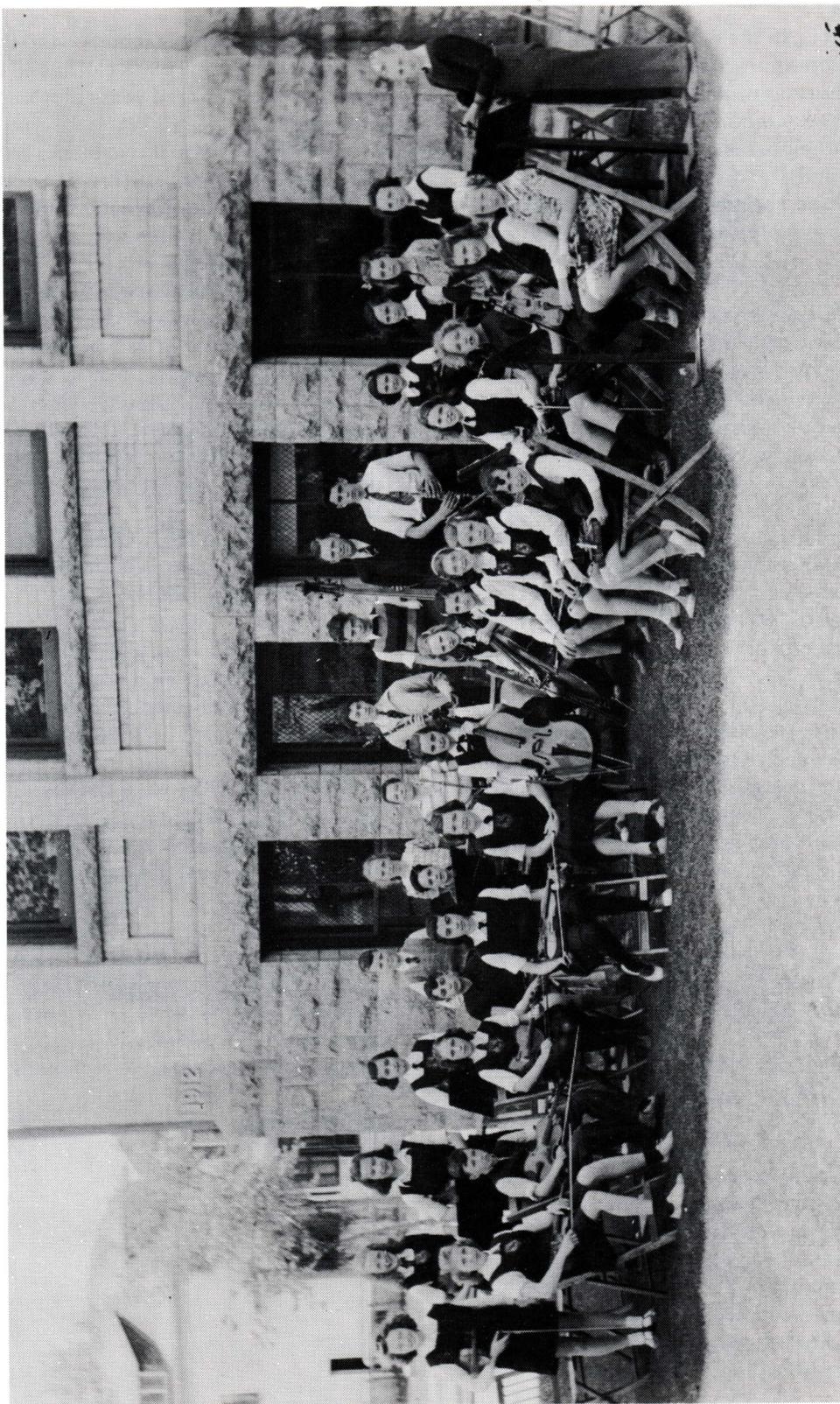
Art Rice-Jones
1919-1926
Calgary, Alberta

I was so glad to be back! The door was open as the caretakers were working. I attended from Grade 1 - 8 1929-1937. I never realized until today, what a beautiful building this is. The condition of the building is just wonderful!

Frank Dixon,
Hamilton, Ontario
1929-1937



Carol Singing, Laura Secord School, Christmas 1936



Laura Secord School Orchestra, 1939-40

September, 1938

We have moved up in the world — to the West End of the city — Dominion Street.. There is a direct streetcar run downtown, and a big skating rink is just across Portage Avenue — and we can walk to Polo Park to see the horses at the racetrack!

My brothers and I are to attend Laura Secord School and Dick and I will be in a combined grade 5 and 6 class. We have promised *never* to tell on each other.

October, 1938

Miss Pogue is our teacher — the best teacher in the school. I bought blotters for the whole class from my Dad's company. We have a penmanship contest every week and I would have won except for the tiny blob near the end of my paragraph. Mom has the bean pot going again, so we know what's for lunch this week!

November, 1938

We had Remembrance Day today at Assembly to think about people who had died in the Great War. My Dad was at some of the places they talked about — but he won't tell us anything about it. He just says it was the "war to end all wars" and we don't need to worry about it.

December 1938

Miss Pogue chose *me* to help clean up the room at lunch time. The Inspector is coming and we all have to remember to sit up straight and to stand if we are asked a question. My job was to clean around the ink-wells and to give out new nibs for everyone. I didn't even mind missing Bert Pearl and the Happy Gang.

January 1939

We are going to sing in the Festival. We get to ride on the bus to the Auditorium and be up on stage and sing two songs. Miss Pogue says we must practice every day from now on.

March 1939

We came in third, but Miss Pogue said we were really the best. She brought cookies for us again today.

May 1939

This is the worst day of my life. Miss Pogue is getting married so she won't be teaching any more and I can't have her for my teacher next year.

June 1939

I won the penmanship prize for this week! I've never tried so hard in all my life — and I don't care that Dick has won it three times. We all brought dimes and bought Miss Pogue a present. She cried and we cried.

September 1939

Miss Cook is my teacher — and I don't like her — she wears the same black clothes all the time and she must be two hundred years old.

October 1939

Miss Cook lives just two blocks from us. She asked me to help her carry stuff to her house and she even has a mother. They gave me some gingerbread cake and some milk with tea in it!

November 1939

We had to give our speeches in front of the whole class today. Mine was on the cruel Russians and how they attacked poor little Finland and how brave the Finland soldiers were. I was scared, and my breathing went funny, but I got 88%. We had Remembrance Day last week and my Dad was very sad because of someone called Hitler. Maybe I'll do my next speech on him.

January 1940

We are to have a Red Cross period — and the girls get to knit string to make facecloths for the brave soldiers overseas. The boys get to collect things.

March 1940

Mom and Dad said they would buy me a bicycle if I came in the top three — but it's always Marion Berryhill, Audrey Jones and Anita Krisman. I told Miss Cook and she said she thought I could do it.

May 1940

We made maps of North and South America with flour and salt. We had to put in all the mountains and rivers — and then paint them. My board was put up on the wall because I didn't get the paint all blurry at the borders.

June 1940

Miss Cook is the best teacher I ever had. I got my report card and I stood third! Dad says he'll buy my bicycle when we move — we are going to have a house with more yard and a real fireplace.

Bye Laura Secord — we're moving up in the world.

Isabel Dowbiggin
Winnipeg



Laura Secord Boys' Glee Club, 1939-1940

I took my first rather timid steps up the impressive stone staircase to begin my education at LAURA SECORD in 1942. That doesn't seem so long ago! The names and faces seem so real. Mr. Baragar will always be remembered as a stern and imposing gentleman with a big heart for kids. I have since come to understand why Miss Potter was so upset with me drawing tanks and aeroplanes when I should have been paying attention to her efforts to teach English to a very large class of youngsters. She would perhaps laugh to hear that I went on to a successful thirty-year career in our Navy. It was successful for we didn't have to fight any one in that time!

In those days the various school choirs were a big thing. I remember being so proud to have been auditioned and accepted into a choir when I was in Grade 2. We had to be good because the Honour of LAURA SECORD was at stake! I remember the instructions vividly... "You must stand straight and tall... and whatever you do, don't pay any attention to the people who come to hear you." When the night of the big competition between schools came I remember being overly excited... and when it was our turn to go on the stage to sing I waved to my Mother. Horrors, I have never forgiven myself, because I was sure that it was because of my lack of discipline that we didn't win. If I recall the song was "Sleep, baby, sleep, Thy Father minds the sheep".

Those imposing front steps with the huge stone bannisters also remind me of the strict instructions I did not follow. We were not to slide down the bannisters during the summer holidays. I hadn't even thought of sliding down them! But I did after that! I took to walking over to the school to look at them. I don't recall seeing anyone else slide down them. In time I could no longer resist; seeing no-one... I slid! You can guess that when school re-opened in the Fall the first thing our Grade V class was asked was, "Who slid down the bannisters?" I was too frightened to admit to my transgression, but thanks to a little girl with a red dress I didn't have to spend the rest of my life with that on my conscience!

I look back with more than a little nostalgia to my years in LAURA SECORD, and also remember with gratitude those sterling significant teachers who were so steadfast in teaching us those valuable attributes which in time meant so much to our ability to take our places as responsible citizens of Canada.

Clifford J. Crow
1939-1946
Victoria, B.C.



Cliff Crow, front row, 4th from left



Murray Crow, 1943, Student Prince School Play



LAURA SECORDIAN BALLAD

We have the best school in this town.
 Yea, Laura Secord!
 For we're the school of the Orange and Brown
 Yea, Laura Secord!
 We have teachers and pupils too
 That will carry the name of our school right through
 Until at last they get to "U".
 Yea, Laura Secord!

We play hockey, baseball etcet.
 Yea, Laura Secord!
 And what we set out for we always get.
 Yea, Laura Secord!
 In the business world, we will show
 Other people the way to go
 We may not be fast but we aren't very slow
 Long live Laura Secord!

Laura Lites
1939



SCHOOL YELL

NEW

Ita, vero, sumus, est,
 Of all the schools we are the best,
 Do we know it — well I guess,
 We belong to the L. S. S.
 Yea LAURA SECORD!!!

OLD

Strawberry shortcake, alligator pie,
 V-I-C-T-O-R-Y.
 Are we in it, well I guess,
 We belong to the L. S. S.
 L-A-U-R-A S-E-C-O-R-D!!!

Laura Lites
1939



DIRECTIONS FOR MAKING A BAD PUPIL

Size: 14 - 16 years

Requirements:

1. About 5 ft. 6 in. or 1 7/8 yds. of material
2. All the trimmings

Materials which may be used:

1. Boy
2. Girl

Method:

1. Cut out all fairly good qualities.
2. Baste and stitch together a constant forgetting of books and a disinclination towards homework.
3. Then set in a goodly number of lates.
4. No more pleasing effect on the teacher can be gained than by dropping your pencil every few minutes.
5. If you wish to hasten the climax of your work, you could add a shuffling of feet.
6. Trim with a great deal of talking, so that the final result will be a very ruffled teacher.

The finished product.

P.S. Don't anyone take me seriously, or you'll soon be searching for a new school.

J. Smeltzer, Laura Lites
1939

My love affair with "Laura" began in first grade (Sept., 1939) and spanned nine years, rich with vivid memories of energetic teachers, lasting friends, and superb schooling. They were War Years, and so are laced with patriotic images: teachers collecting War Savings Stamps (at 25 cents each, an "investment" in world freedom); collecting and rolling tinfoil balls — for the "war effort" — as we sat eating our sack lunches in the front hall on days too cold to walk home; knitting squares, or whatever shape they ended up being at the hands of inexperienced knitters, for servicemen's afghans and competing to see who could do the most; assembling for Armistice Day ("Poppy Day" then) to honor the dead from the "war to end wars" — knowing that some kids' dads were in the new one.

But beyond the threatening reality whose real meanings were beyond us, school was mainly wonderful. In first grade, Miss MacIntosh taught us to read by acting out the letters; I can still see and hear her panting for the "h". We had a store to learn arithmetic and got as much credit for creative coloring as for staying within the lines. We had wonderful choirs; I still wonder how first-and-second graders could learn all those words in time for the Music Festival in the spring; and we often won, too! We had speed-skating teams, partly because the playground was a rink from November to March (or was it May?); the auditorium net was usually up for lunch-time volleyball practice if you could eat quickly.

Oh, I could go on and on, tracing memories for each year. . . . Suffice it to say, then, that "Laura" provided the best possible school experience for me and the impetus behind my own choice of profession — teaching! So happy birthday, Laura Secord dear — may you live to be 100 and well beyond.

Ann Meinzen Hildebrand, Ph.D.
Kent State University
Kent, Ohio
1939-1948



THE LAST WILL
AND TESTAMENT
OF THE 1940
GRADUATING CLASS

We, the graduating classes of 1940, do hereby bequeath to our honorable successors our many virtues and our goodly vices, our ability to work and to play.

We give to the new seniors our inexhaustible supply of chewing gum, our favorite hiding places for the missing pen and book, our excellent reasons for the neglect of homework, and our recipe for a quiet snooze during the study period.

Although our successors are endowed with a surplus of brains we pass on to them our vast intellectual knowledge and the sleepless nights that accompany such mental activity. With great pleasure we

leave them the science problems we couldn't solve, the algebraic formulae we couldn't understand, the French accent we couldn't acquire, and the History dates we couldn't remember.

For all embryo prima donnas and maestros in these classes we reserve memberships in school bands and glee clubs.

For future budding authors we leave the school's literary effort, namely: the *Laura Lites*.

To members of the new class we pass on our friendships. We bequeath to them a spirit of good fellowship and the qualities that make for class success.

We leave to every boy and girl long long days in which to be happy, and a few days in which to scribble tests.

In witness whereof, we have herewith subscribed our names and affixed our seal this Fourteenth Day of June, 1940.

The 1940 Graduating Classes,
Laura Secord Junior High School

Laura Lites, Graduating Edition, 1940



Laura Lites, Vol. 9, June 1947



LAURA LITES, 1947

Pig Latin, this year same as last had a bit of a fling — so I leave you with Eba oodga.

Laura Lites, Graduation Issue, June, 1947

This year blue jeans — rivet studded, natch — are your tickets to society. The pockets are the girls' pride and joy — talk about junk! They are almost as bad as the boys for that. Teachers, who were wondering what would be the next thing the kids would think up to torture them, found their answer in bubble gum — watch that whopper! (Aw heck it broke!).

Talking about clothes, aren't those sack dresses the thing, so easy to make and lovely to look at if you have one of those terrific studded bolts. You can stud them yourself with staples, paper clips and such. Make them out of leatherette. 'See you Saturday night at the canteen' was a favorite saying around the school all year. This just showed how popular the canteen was. Be seeing you there next year, dipping — by the way, jitter-bugging is a thing of the past. I suppose you have noticed the brush cuts again this year (Oh, come now, you must have), which reminds me — what do you think of the bangs epidemic? Don't say it! Braids piled helter-skelter on top of your head are the fashion again this year.

Stomp, scuff, slop, clatter "What's that?" cries the startled individual — "Oh nothing," says the tired teacher, "classes are just changing." What with cleats on boys' shoes, not to speak of the hob-nailed shoes; girls' loafers, Indian moccasins, and canoe shoes etc., it is no wonder that the schools sound like grand central station. The force of gravity does not seem to work well at all with these new type of footwear.

Well, Frankie and Van are still alive and kicking, but who cares when Al Jolson is around. His recordings of "Mammy," "April Showers," "The Anniversary Song" have swooned the gals from coast to coast.

Sloppy joes are on the way out, but are still favorites with many of the crowd. What say? Just a note on Zoot suits: they came; they conquered, they went — aren't we glad!

Aren't those pixie glasses really tricky? Have you tried painting the rims of yours with your favorite nail polish, to match your lipstick and fingernails? The result is decidedly pleasing.

Kilroy was here, and Open the door Richard are rather stale now but it wouldn't do not to mention them.

Grade 1 - Miss Black — Fred Baragar, Principal, escorting me, (to show me the way) to my new grade 1 classroom in the basement (having transferred in from Wolseley School soon after fall classes had begun) — and the trepidation I felt in getting lost the next day, and late for class, too.

Initiation? Doug Thompson and John Shane sat on either side of my desk, and found my seat most convenient to clean off their shoes which bore the remains of their trek through the horse manure deposited on the road by the milkman's trusty steed.

Grade 2 - Miss Kobrinsky — "promoted" to the main floor.

Grade 3 - Miss Ritchie — back to the basement. Learning to write, and with the latest invention — the ball-point pen (with a penchant to leak). Humiliations: (1) of wetting my pants in class, and the kindness of Miss Ritchie escorting me to the distant washroom and rinsing out my wet underthings. (2) Having to traverse the vast open space that bordered Mr. Thorp's shops area, enclosed between two separated distant doors, to reach the girls' washroom — that fear, plus usually being subjected to ridicule if seen by one of the boys in shops classes.

Grade 4 - Miss Fowler — safely back on the main floor, again. Learning those uncomprehensible times tables . . . and sneaking into the cloakroom on the guise of getting a handkerchief, to hide in the ventilation shaft — a frequent escape to avoid those daily arithmetic drills. Being accelerated mid-way through the year to grade 5, along with a few other pupils — a move based more on reducing class size, I think, than because of any excellence in academic achievements.

Grade 5 - Mrs. Parker — (two female Parkers taught grade 5 classes at this time — mine was reputed to be the nicer). I had been absent with illness at the time our small grade 4 group was transferred into the grade 5 class — so she never associated me with my peers. What a struggle this grade proved to be! Totally uncomprehensible homework, never accomplished; feigning illnesses to class, having to obtain notes of explanation and placation from Mom. Awareness of being one of the only kids still having to wear those sensible brown oxfords and warm

ribbed stockings. The thrill of being chosen monitor to prepare tea and cookies each afternoon for the teachers in the third floor staff room and caring for their aspidistra.

Grade 6 - Mrs. Watt — A great teacher — appeared to have a “tough” exterior. Dubbed her car “Kathleen” (or something else, for that might have been her name). My first recollection of doing artwork at school, and amazing myself with my visual creations, while secretly envying Elinor Van Baalen’s obvious natural artistic talent. Mr. Baragar asking the boys in class to confess to the sin of throwing snowballs at recess — and all but one Wayne Ballantyne (of dubious innocence?) silently pleading guilty — then all, but the one, walking that endless journey to Baragar’s office to take the dreaded strap as punishment for this infraction of school rules.

JUNIOR HIGH

Grade 7 - Mr. Caverley — Big time, now — third floor. First male teacher. Morning assemblies. Stuffed birds, perched high on ledges encircled our home/science room. Some boys even talked back, disrespectful, to the teacher. And, at the back of the room, Bruce McGeer (if he hadn’t been thrown out of class by now) was the moving target for Fred Caverley’s speedily flung chalk and chalkbrushes.

Grade 8 — the teacher’s face and name eludes me — maybe Mr. Buchanan? Creatures, who’d been nothing but dolts or pests in the past, captured my all-consuming interest. With all the attendant and errant fantasies of an ugly duckling, I noticed boys. And they noticed my prettier girlfriends — Ferne Fellowes, Sue Staples, Val Oliver, Eleanore Haywood. My most notable academic achievement this year was to memorize the full and proper title of our reigning Monarch Elizabeth II (which, as an act of mercy to the ready, I shall not now recite).

Grade 9 - Miss Holtby — Miss Holtby wished to continue with her social studies class on into the music class period, and five or so of us arose and exited to attend our art class option. The “rush” in having placed third in class academic standings at Christmas-time. To know I was up there along with “brains” Faye Lobel and Carol Borowski, meant zilch, but . . . to be in a position of rubbing heads with rival buddies Bruce Heppenstall and Roger Shick, proved the culmination of my teenage dreams.

AND OTHER THINGS . . . LIKE

— My adoration for Mr. Baragar — a “father-

figure” through 8+ years, although I had a Father of my own at home.

— Competing, annually, for the speedskating team, and one year actually making it . . . only to blow my/our moment of glory in the race. We were ahead of the others, I was last of the 4-man team to do the required 4-laps. With Mercury-like speed I maintained the lead, counting each lap, letting up my pace only as I crossed the finish line to what I thought was triumph. The others raced by me . . . and then I realized — I’d miscounted the laps. Too late, I lamely looped the oval one last time, towards oblivion.

— The blossoming romance between teachers Miss Ritchie and Mr. Gray, which eventually led to matrimony — and thinking maybe teachers had “feelings” too.

— Finding the secret, narrow passage-way behind the door in the outer wall, on the main floor, that led at the end to an open room with stairs leading up to a loft, where it appeared somebody must reside, for a single mattress made up as a bed, lay on the floor.

— Mr. Baragar, invited guest to our dissertations before the class, commending my presentation, but taking exception to my choice of topic — the motorcycle rider.

— Threading the Maypole in the late 1940’s, (while still a tad), at the schools’ celebrations of Winnipeg’s Silver (25th Anniversary, in the Osborne Street Stadium (now reincarnate as Great West Life).

Sandra J. Gall (nee Robert)
1948-1956
White Rock, B.C.



1950



Science Room, Miss Robertson, 1950



Skating Team, 1957

I attended grade six as a student at Laura Secord School in the year 1952-3.

I worked at Laura Secord as a teacher (grade six) from 1964-68 and taught in the same classroom I had been in as a student.

One of my students found my old health book from student years with my name (maiden name of course) written in. I guess the health course changed slowly in those days!

Looking forward to the reunion.

Margaret (Knowles) Plaxton
1952-1953, 1964-1968
Winnipeg



THE WOLSELEY TREE

The famous Wolseley tree was planted in 1859 by Mary Ann Good. Fifty years later when the city wanted to cut it down in order to build a road, along with her friends and neighbours, Mary Ann Good defended her tree. The City Council allowed it to stay, winding the road around the tree. In 1957, when the City Council decided that the tree would have to be cut down, a group of ladies surrounded the tree and prevented its removal. The tree was allowed to remain, but on July 18, 1960 it was removed because acts of vandalism had finally killed it.



MY FOND MEMORIES OF LAURA SECORD SCHOOL

I remember when Mr. Baragar left the school and there was a party outside for him. A stage had been built behind the school. All the students from Kindergarten to Grade 9 (at that time) gathered with great excitement for the presentations and ceremonies. One of the presents; if I remember right; was a television!

I recall one day about 1958 or 1959 how excited all

the boys were. There had been a spring cleaning spree in the school and they were throwing out what seemed to be hundreds of toy rifles which had been used for marching practice during the war. How we wanted to get our hands on 1 or 2 of them, but had been instructed to STAY AWAY and LEAVE ALONE!

Starting school was rough on my friend Allan Sansome and myself. We both failed Grade 1. It was a very lonely feeling the 1st day of my 2nd year in Grade 1 when the students I had spent my 1st year with were led to their Grade 2 rooms. My friend Allan went to another Grade 1 room leaving me all alone in the room — what a lonely feeling. When I passed Grade 1 that year it was a very special & exciting feeling. In the long run it worked out well for if I hadn't failed my wife and I may have never met.

Before the electronic buzzers were installed students used hand bells to tell the students to go in. One day it was my brother's turn and being the brother that he was, he let me shake the bell at the main entrance to the school making me feel pretty special and making it one of my biggest thrills. From what I remember he was in Grade 6 and by the time I got to Grade 6 the electronic buzzers were in service so I would have never rung the Bell had it not been for my brother.

I didn't just learn at school during the day but on Friday evening when grades 4, 5, and 6 could go for various classes such as Square Dancing, Coin Collecting, First Aid, Drama and others. The students sure enjoyed these extra interest classes and an open house at the end where they demonstrated what they had learned.

In grade 4 I had Rheumatic Fever and missed 4 or 5 weeks of school. I did some work at home which my friend Allan Sansome would bring me. Once back at school Mrs. Wichman, my teacher, spent many recesses helping me catch up. Every couple weeks we saw films in the 2nd floor hall, everyone sat on the floor to watch. After my illness I felt a little special because I had to sit on a chair much to the envy of the other students — my wife included. Thanks to Mrs. Wichman's help and patience I passed Grade 4. I will never forget her.

One of the best known adults at Laura Secord wasn't even a teacher, he was Wally the man who looked after the skating rink. He must have tied thousands of skates when he was there and put many cords of wood in the old stove around which everyone would warm up and throw bits of snow on it to watch it sizzle and melt.

As I write these fond memories of Laura Secord more and more memories come to mind and I can picture many people and scenes from the past. Thank you Laura Secord.

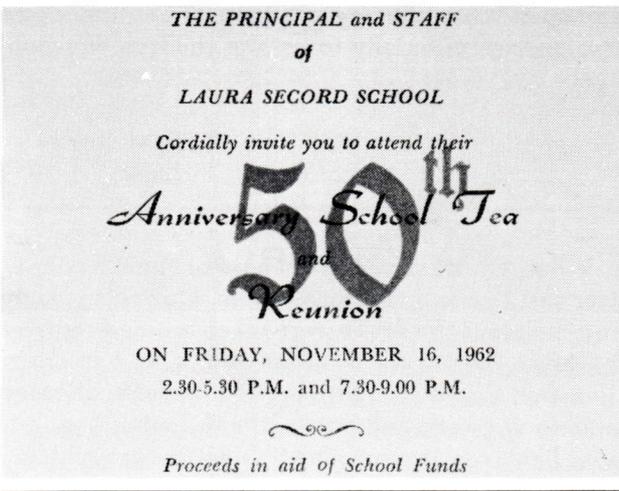
Rick Stobart
1956-1964
Winnipeg



1960, Mrs. Plant

In September, 1960, Laura Secord School became an elementary school. Junior high students began attending Gordon Bell High School (Mulvey School).

Susan Borgstrom (Stobart)
1962-1969
Winnipeg



One of the biggest influences on a child's growth and development in his/her years at elementary school. How fortunate I was to have attended a school like Laura Secord to help mould my own growth and development. Most of my childhood memories centre around Laura Secord and my experiences while I attended the school. The teaching staff were (and no doubt still are) "the tops" and I have fond memories of each of my teachers during those years.

It is also very special to me that many of the friends I made starting in Kindergarten, are still friends with whom I keep in touch. In looking at old classroom photos, so many memories come to mind and I often wonder what has happened to a lot of the other children I befriended, and then lost touch with.

The field days were always so much fun and the little bits of colored ribbon handed out could not have been more special if they had been made of gold. The tunics we had to wear bearing the Laura Secord crest were always worn proudly and certainly must have made life easier for our mothers in knowing what clothes to put on us in the morning!

Laura Secord's physical appearance has changed throughout the years, but its heart remains. And that heart is made up of little bits of all of us who were fortunate enough to attend Laura Secord and I'm sure that heart will continue to grow as future students pass through its doors.

Laura Secord School and I are contemporaries. I was born in a house on Basswood Place. Often, Mother wheeled me in my carriage past the school as it was being constructed.

As Principal, I followed exceptionally capable men. I had worked with Mr. Baragar and Mr. Fraser on many committees.

It was a sign of the times that when Mr. Baragar telephoned to congratulate me on my appointment to Laura Secord, that he said "If it had to be a woman, I'm glad it was you!"

Over the years Winnipeg Schools have been noted for their absorption of students of infinite diversity in ethnicity, colour and creed. This integration required a compassionate understanding of the difficulties inherent in their adjustment to a new or different way of life. Nowhere did I find this compas-

sion more evident than at Laura Secord. It was not imposed from above. It was just there.

Laura Secord was a "state of the art" school when it was built. Classrooms were spacious, the central court was unusually attractive and the hallways wide and bright. However, older students will remember that schools of its vintage were usually painted drab colours, beige, gray and brown. Floors constructed of wood or concrete, were often dusty and/or noisy. Generally, each classroom was filled with six rows of eight seats which were fastened to each other by two sets of runners.

Several of the large schools built in the early 1900's contained huge lofts and large suites built in this top floor for live-in custodians. As the practice of having resident custodians fell into disuse, such suites and lofts fell into disrepair.

One day a workman left unlocked one of the doors to this desolate area. The small entrance was discovered by some bright, curious grade six girls. They proceeded to set up a "play house" in the abandoned caretaker's suite. As the area was very old, they could have been in considerable danger. Some time later, their aerie discovered, they were suitably contrite and promised fervently never to so endanger themselves again. They are now young women. I wonder if they still remember participating in "The Mystery of the Narrow Staircase."

For many decades Laura Secord has been in the vanguard of the Community Club movement without consciously moving in that direction. Over the years, many activities were added. Numerous staff members assisted. The school secretarial staff provided invaluable help. Hundreds of parents volunteered their services. Countless meetings were held. The Parks Board supplied drinks and a shelter. The School Division provided limited access to the school. No funds were available. Local merchants were canvassed and responded generously. City firms gave discounts on food and equipment. Nominal fees were charged at events. The amount of "leg" work was incredible.

Considering its humble beginnings, the plans for expansion by the present association boggle the mind. "Tall oaks from little acorns grow."

M. A. Gunter
Principal, 1961-1976
Winnipeg



OUR SCHOOL LIBRARY

The library is a great source of interest to the students at present. Many books have been added such as: collected plays, histories, and story books. We have some fine encyclopedias, namely: "The World Book", and "The Book of Knowledge". The books that we now have are, in themselves, very informing, but we choose to think of them as just the foundation on which to build a bigger and better library.

Girls from Grade 9 classes have been appointed as librarians, and under their supervision, pupils are allowed to come in and obtain information for their various school tasks.

Unfortunately only a limited number of students can come in during a single study period, as the library is in the teachers' dining room. We find that this is not altogether satisfactory, and hope very sincerely that we may have a classroom set aside for this one purpose in the near future.

Another reason why we need this special library room is that the room we have now can not accommodate many more books, and we certainly could not have regular library periods in it. We feel that periods such as these would be a great advance in our curriculum, but again we could not have these until we have many more books. They are especially needed in the Science, Fiction and Biography Sections.

We would like to solicit your support in making this community project as we feel that a well-equipped school library is a benefit to all living in this district, especially to us, the children of school age.

F. Midforth,
Laura Lites, 1939

When school closed at the end of June, Room 24 was just like any other classroom. During the summer holidays the desks were taken out and replaced by seven beautiful oak tables and forty-two chairs to match. Gradually, with the addition of book cases, a magazine rack, and plants, the room has begun to look like a real library. The final touch was achieved by hanging pictures, two of which are oil paintings

loaned by Mrs. Chatwin. From either side of the clock these paintings add dignity and elegance to the library.

On the shelves there are 610 books of fiction and 682 of non-fiction. These have come from three sources:

(a) Books which were in the Laura Secord library before September 1940. These had been housed in the dining-room on the second floor.

(b) Books bought jointly by money obtained from the Winnipeg School Board and from the Laura Secord Library Fund.

(c) Books donated by the students of this school. These amount to 456 fiction and 78 non-fiction. Among the non-fiction is a 31-volume edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica.

We have 145 magazines, some of which are monthly or weekly periodicals. These which we will receive regularly, include: Pictorial Education, National Geographic, Canadian Geographic, Popular Mechanics, Girls' Crystal, Girls' Own.

The balance of the magazines were in the original library or have been donated by students since September.

Extensive work is required to put a library in working order. Grade nine students are doing this under the direction of Mrs. Flatt. As soon as sufficient work has been completed to allow books to be taken out for home reading, this will be done.

In the meantime classes are time-tabled to the library for at least one class-period a week. At this time they use the reference books to locate material concerning their lessons in history, literature, science, geography etc. — or enjoy quiet reading of the books or magazines.

Shirley Paterson,
Laura Lites, 1940



LIBRARY

In 1962 volunteers were organized by Miss Gunter to work in the library. On Wednesday mornings a group of parents, under the leadership of Mrs. Ruth Mollison mended books and on Thursday mornings worked on the picture file. Later Mr.



Newsome made a simplified cross-reference version of the Dewey Decimal System and the Library committee catalogued books. With encouragement from Mr. Newsome and financial assistance from the Library Service Centre, Laura Secord became a demonstration library. Mrs. Mollison then worked with Miss Nan Florence to instruct other volunteers within the Winnipeg School System.

As well as volunteering in the library, Laura Secord's 'Library Ladies' worked on the White Elephant Sale to raise money for the school. The Laura Secord Baragar Memorial Library was opened on November 30th, 1965 when the Baragar Special Collection was added to the library.

Since then the 'Library Ladies' have continued to come to Laura Secord not only to volunteer their time in the library but they played an active part in the publishing of a cook book for the 60th Anniversary of Laura Secord. Three of the original members of the Library Committee, Mrs. Irene Stobart, Mrs. Shirley Kakowchuk and Mrs. Betty Dick are still volunteering their time on Wednesday mornings in the Laura Secord Library.

Memories from Kathleen McLean who taught at Laura Secord School September 1964, retiring in June 1972 after a period of eight years. It was the most gratifying period of my career. What a challenge teaching thirty-five or more pupils in Grade One!

Our principal Miss Gunter had a well organized school and staff. She motivated her staff in such a

way she was able to get the best results.

I recall having the Superintendent, Supervisors and principals observe as I taught my Grade One class to read. They were surprised when my pupils read from the *Readers Digest* in March. The visitors were thrilled and I was proud.

I was a pilot for "Phonetic Keys" and the "Harris Clark Series". This was an interesting experience as both methods were accepted as part of the reading curriculum.

At that time the staff had hall, lunch and playground duties. Teas and concerts too were part of our routine.

It was a sad time for me when I had to retire at sixty-five years of age. I missed those dear little six year old children. I am thrilled when I hear reports of my former students as they contribute successfully to society.

Kathleen B. McLean
1964-1972
Calgary, Alberta

One of my outstanding memories of times at Laura Secord School was the wonderful co-operation I received from Miss Gunter and the Senior teachers and staff when I planned "trips and parties" for my Kindergarten classes. One such occasion perhaps stands out especially.

I had taken my classes to visit a kindergarten class at LaVerendrye School in Portage la Prairie, and invited them to visit us in return.

They came, and we visited the Firehall, then came to Laura Secord, where, with the help of Miss Gunter and staff, in particular, the Librarian, Mrs. Vipond, the Grade six teachers and the Teachers' Aid, we had a series of programs and were served lunch. We fed nearly ninety, five year olds and six adults — peanut butter sandwiches and cupcakes with hot chocolate, a marshmallow on top, for the children — and open face buns, jellied salads, cupcakes and tea for the adults. Ten loaves of sandwiches and 240 cupcakes disappeared like magic! Then we divided into three groups. Our librarian, Mrs. Vipond read a fireman story three times, grade six boys showed a farm animal film three times; we had a sing song in another room. As well as nursery rhyme songs, we sang an original song "Welcome to LaVerendrye" also our centennial song, "Winnipeg's Birthday." So ended a busy, but happy day!

Sarah (Steel) McLennan
1965-1975
Killarney, Manitoba

I attended Laura Secord from 1971-1973 and 1975-1979. I was in a different school between 1973-1975. I remember how happy I felt when I returned to Laura Secord. I had fallen very far behind and my teacher was kind enough to help me catch up by spending extra time with me. I had many crazy dreams as a child and my teachers treated each dream like it could become a reality. I was taught to believe in me. I am currently at the University of Winnipeg working toward a double major in my Bachelor of Arts degree (Religious Studies and Sociology). After I'm finished I will be attending the University of Waterloo to finish a double major degree program for Social Work and Divinity. I also graduated as my high school Valedictorian (1985).

I will remember Laura Secord as the base of all my dreams; of all my realities.

Andrea McCann
1971-1973, 1975-1979
Winnipeg



LAURA SECORD HAS GALA ETHNIC FESTIVAL

Ninety Laura Secord kindergarten and Grade 2 students entertained parents and teachers with folk dances as part of a gala ethnic festivity on April 13, 1976.

Multi-culturalism buzzed throughout the school during the Ethnic Evening while parents and students roamed the corridors and classrooms absorbed in cultural novelties.

Over 25 countries were represented and displayed by students from Grades 1 through 6. Travel posters decorated walls, British flag-like footprints guided visitors downstairs to the White Elephant sale, and tasty treats prepared by mothers greeted weary travellers at the sidewalk cafe in the gymnasium.

The afternoon kindergarten class began the dance program at 7:30 with a British action song — "Noble Duke of York," followed by a Philippine dance — "Apat Apat."

Other folk dances presented were the English "Green sleeves," the German "Kinderpolka," the Czech "Wheat dance," complete with drums ended the program. After 8 o'clock the dances were repeat-

ed for latecoming globetrotters.

Performers were dressed with ribbons and some wore costumes made of paper streamers. Tourist guides in the individual rooms often wore their country's costume.

In the Ukrainian room elaborate Easter eggs, ceramics and woodcarvings were carefully displayed and little "Cossacks" were busy designing more patterns for embroidery. Spirited traditional music accompanied the craftsmen.

Rose Clyde, chairman of the ethnic event said the evening was a tea with a different flair. The usual bake sale and white elephant sale were included but stress was on involving everyone — parents, teachers and students.

She said the children supported the ethnic theme and worked hard to make it a success. Students were not limited to choosing their nationalities nor remaining in their age groups. Multi-age grouping was encouraged.

The Ethnic Night was one in a series of events in this year's multi-cultural theme. Ethnic dances were taught during the phys. ed. activity period and dance itinerants and others were brought in to speak about their respective countries.

The multi-cultural theme was culminated this month with a "Hands of Friendship" concert, an operetta presented by students from Grades 3 through 6.

Our Schools, 1976

January '69 to June '79 —

Ten years at Laura Secord saw many changes yet over all it remained the same school. The principals and staff reacting with the students and community are what provide the special flavor to a school. For me, Laura Secord meant sound, conservative teaching, a caring kind of discipline and exciting interaction with the community.

Through the many years of Miss Aileen Gunter's careful guidance "Laura" achieved an enviable reputation in Winnipeg. It stood solidly for the old virtues of honesty and integrity, yet was not afraid to experiment with new ideas. How many remember the trip to Minneapolis, when the staff was exposed to many new ideas as to the way a school might function?

During my ten years we saw the school population top 600 and many specialized services added. Art, music, "phys. ed.," nursery-kindergarten, enlarged

library, drama, French, were all part of the pattern. Who can forget the operettas, the concerts, featuring our own pupils, the contests, the Field Days?

Probably one of the best features of school life was the active interest of a great many parents. They coached the teams, put on the school fairs, raised money for many good causes and often suffered sore feet and aching backs for the sake of "Laura"! Prominent among these helpers were the "library ladies". They put in endless hours doing all the necessary mechanical jobs to keep the library system working. And they're still doing it, I know!

It was a never-to-be-forgotten privilege for me to be associated with the school through the regime of Miss Gunter, Mr. McKee and Mr. Grubert and to know as friends many fine teachers along the way, far more than can be named here. Probably the most important accomplishment of Laura Secord School was the profile it provided of what a Public School ought to be — stimulating, caring and far-sighted.

Mrs. Dorothy Vipond
1969-1979
London, Ontario

THE PRINCIPAL and STAFF

of

LAURA SECORD SCHOOL

Cordially invite you to attend their

Anniversary School Tea
and
Reunion

Thursday, April 20, 1972

7:00 - 10:00 P.M.

Proceeds in aid of School Funds



MOMENTS
AROUND 1:15 P.M.

"Patrols attention! To your corners!" And so begins our daily routine. In step with each other we go,

four to the east, four to the west with captains attending, enroute to our faithful posts. Left foot, right foot, Whoops! right foot, left foot. I hope Mr. Filipowich isn't watching from his classroom window.

Great! I get a double corner today. Kids are flocking from every direction towards me as I hold out my arms at semi-perfect 45 degree angles. Should I step off now! No. We're not supposed to interrupt the traffic. "Line up in two's," I'm constantly reminding as if it weren't the millionth time they were waiting to cross. Look both ways. OK, now! I step out past the parked car, the flag ever so light in my right hand, my left arm swinging, swinging, swinging back and forth, back and forth. The flag gets heavier and heavier but I must keep it straight from the shoulder. More and more kids. My belt slips off, down my arm but I'm not supposed to stop. My arm muscles are trembling as the flag stoops lower and lower. The captain appears as the last of the group crosses the street and my heart pounds faster. My partner and I stare each other down and somehow silently decide we can finally return to our curbs. At last, my rubbery arm can rest. The captain, now at my side, speaks in a kind but cruel manner, "You should try to keep your arm up and tighten your belt. There's a police car parked down the street. They're probably judging us, so no talking, and remember — your arm." The captain leaves to attend the next corner. Remembering her words, I dare not even breathe out of turn.

It seems like it's been forever, but the captains have finished their rounds and have finally met at the cables. They wave their arms frantically. "Patrols atte-e-en-n-shu-u-un-n!", I yell at the top of my lungs and the patrols leave their posts. Is everyone in line? We wait for the captains' signals. "Left, left, left," Whoops! Shuffle, shuffle, "Left, left..." Is Miss Gunter watching now? "Patrols Attention! Right 'dress. Eyes Front. 'bout Face. Dismissed!"

Kim Therrien (nee Niemi)
Graduate - 1976
Winnipeg

Imagine my surprise one May morning in Germany, when the telephone rang at 5:30 A.M. Superintendent Bill Donald was calling from Winnipeg to say I had been selected for Laura Secord School a few minutes earlier and would I accept the position?

There was never any doubt! I had never been in the building but its reputation for both students and staff was well known.

Laura Secord has always enjoyed a reputation for quality education. Its traditions developed over many years with care and respect and a history of the finest in caring professional staff have combined to provide a learning environment for boys and girls that we're all proud to be a part of. Just walking through those heavy front doors into the front hall when classes were changing gives one a happy sense of energy and ordered accomplishments.

Long before it became politically fashionable, Laura Secord was a community school in the fullest sense. Parents and Community encouraged by the staff looked upon the school as a source of ideas, as a problem-solving agency, as a provider they could be part of, as a meeting place, and a spot to have a cup of tea and communicate. The "library ladies," the dedicated classroom volunteers, the community club and sports helpers, the staff from the Resource Centre, in the basement, and the coaches and volunteers, often teachers, who drew the community into the school weeknights and weekends in a never-ending stream all added to its value. Laura Secord was the only school I had ever known where the executive of the Parent-Teachers and Home and School were also the executive of the Community Club. It was like being in a small town when you went to the Community Club on Saturday night and found both teachers and parents and their children living and working together with obvious enjoyment.

What are my impressions of Laura Secord ten years ago? They are bright and happy memories of well ordered movement in spacious halls of gleaming floors, much oak woodwork, and hidden stairwells — of stained glass windows, court yards, iron stairways and high ceilings echoing with enthusiastic pupils and caring teachers — all kept amazingly spotless by hard working caretakers who never seemed to run out of energy, loved the "kids" and had that happy knack of making you feel you were doing them a favour when you asked for one more job to be done.

A community working together, staff, children, parents and interested citizens, many whose own children had grown up through the school and wanted to return some of the benefits they had received to a younger generation, are what makes Laura Secord a very special place. A community boasting of the highest concentration of group-homes in the

city, resident families of forty and fifty years standing, a new young professional class eager to restore fine old homes and many new Canadians eager to make their dreams of a better life come true, gives the school an untold wealth of resources to draw upon. At Laura there was a place for everyone, acceptance and mutual respect were and are the order of the day.

Finally, as when you ask former students what they remember best, the answer is always "the teachers." There are few places left in modern society where professional staff will make a particular place their life's work. At Laura this has been true not only with principals, but with classroom teachers, specialists and secretaries. This dedication has made them along with all those other fine educators who passed through on their way to new experiences, a tremendous source of sound values, of stability and enthusiasm, intent always on equipping students with those skills that will allow them to grow successfully in their chosen field. New ideas were never considered because they were current and fashionable, but rather after they had proven their worth and filled a particular need. At Laura, what is best for those bright, inquisitive and eager students is still what counts.

Bill McKee
1976-1978
Winnipeg



THE CURSE OF ROOM 9

Although my tenure at Laura Secord was brief (1977-78), I taught at the school long enough to fall prey to the "curse" of Room 9. It seems for a while, every teacher who taught in that room became strangely affected. It couldn't be properly described as illness, but each teacher suffered similar physical symptoms which included nausea, weight-gain and a bloated stomach. It was only after I began to notice such symptoms in myself, that I was informed that the two previous teachers in that room had fallen victim to the same malady. I later learned that my replacement teacher had suffered the same fate as well.

No-one has ever admitted it, but I suspect Room 9 is now used as the Nutrition Room because of a

natural reluctance on the part of the staff to be assigned that classroom.

As for myself, I'm pleased to relate that my symptoms disappeared after I left the school. The curse was a blessing in reality since it resulted in the birth of my only son, Lane. It somehow seems fitting that he has attended Laura Secord School since kindergarten and will in all likelihood in a few years graduate from the very school which he attended from the very beginning.

Joanne Ledohowski
1977-1978
Winnipeg

It seems like I attended Laura Secord School eons ago, although it has only been seven years since I left. It is amazing the difference between grade four and grade eleven. In grade four you think you know everything, but you can't be positive because all the adults around you keep telling you that you don't. In grade eleven you're positive you know everything because you've stopped listening to anything adults tell you.

Although I have gone to a great many places and seen a great many things since I left L.S. there are three basic rules I learned while I was there that still apply today:

- 1.) The closer you live to the school (I was a block away) the more frequently you will be late.
- 2.) No matter how unobtrusive you are you cannot make it all the way to lunch hour without the teacher noticing that you have gum in your mouth.
- 3.) Every year, during the first cold snap, some kid will put his tongue on the fence just to see if it really sticks, and then, is very surprised when it does.

I would now like to take this opportunity to make a confession. I hope that by bringing it out into the open I will be able to relieve myself of the tremendous guilt I have been carrying around with me for eight years. Once in grade three April and I walked behind Geoffrey Gibson on the way home from school and generally made ourselves as obnoxious as two grade three girls can be. Now I suppose after a block of this Geoffrey had had enough because as we all came close to my house, he turned around and punched me in the nose.

Now I, of course, was amazed that anyone would have the nerve to do that to me. When I had recuper-

ated, I promptly informed him that I was going to tell my mother, which I did. Because I was a girl and generally much cuter than Geoffrey, everyone believed me when I said that he just came out of nowhere and hit me. And then he got in trouble, which at the time I loved, but have since come to regret. So, Geoff, if you read this I hope you can find it in your heart to forgive me and not hate me for my most grievous error.

Ingra Schellenberg is a grade 11 student at Grant Park High School in Winnipeg. She attended Laura Secord from Sept. 1978 - June 1980.

My years at Laura Secord will always be memorable ones. All my elementary school years were spent there from nursery to grade six. So having attended Laura Secord for eight years certainly has created many memories. Many which I will always treasure. Some which I can recall are the times when Laura Secord would put on a musical production. The time and effort we would put into them was great. And in the process more new friends would be made. All left to say is that I am glad I went to Laura Secord. My years there will always be remembered and treasured.

Sandra Tuzzolino
1974-1982
Winnipeg



LAURA SECORD CELEBRATES 70TH ANNIVERSARY WITH OPERETTA

1912-1982

In 1912, schoolboys wore short pants. Girls wore long dresses and bows in their hair. All stood to sing the anthem 'The Maple Leaf Forever'. These were a few of yesteryear's moments featured in Laura Secord School's "Moments to Remember," an original operetta written by the school's teachers to celebrate the school's 70th anniversary. The operetta, spanning the years 1912 to 1982, was performed in

March by two casts of grades one to six students for the two-evening celebration. The choir and the operetta's two narrators, grade six students, Bryden Smith and Anna Torchia cast as "Dick and Jane," were featured both evenings. Highlighted in "Moments to Remember" were yesteryear dances like the Charleston, the jitterbug and jives as were songs such as "Ma, He's Making Eyes at Me," "How Much is that Doggie in the Window" and "Mickey Mouse." As an extension to the past 70 years, the finale was a futuristic dance set in a classroom. The script writing basically involved a lot of research to find the most popular songs, singers and dances of each decade and deciding which events to include in the musical. We wanted to depict the history of the school using the most popular events in each decade to recall important, good memories that had an effect on us all. As well as the music, we felt that including events like the Pan Am Games and the first walk on the moon, would create a sense of passing time and change. The children really got into the spirit of the operetta. It was the first time some of them had performed their roles in front of an audience. They had rehearsed enough to lose their self-consciousness, and the students in the audience laughed in all the right places, at the "funny lines." After opening with Dick and Jane rumaging in the attic, the action shifted between the attic, which was used as the connecting scene throughout the operetta, school gymnasium and a futuristic classroom with a robot teacher. "MOMENTS TO REMEMBER" presented vaudeville, the 'Dirty 30's,' World War II, Winnipeg's 1950 flood, the moon walk and that age of computers.



MEM'RIES

Recess time. The children of the primary grades are playing in the schoolyard. In the cool shade of the brick building, the smaller girls are threading-the-needle, while the more daring attempt to skip double-dutch. Others throw stones and jump between the freshly-painted lines of the hopscotch squares. Along the metal fence, small groups are discussing, wide-eyed, what dire punishment the principal gave to whom for doing what. The boys are playing soccer in the field or expertly manoeuvring

marbles into cracks in the sidewalk. Shrieking girls tear across the pavement, followed by single-minded boys. The buzzer sounds, and recess time is over.

Recess time at Laura Secord was always a major part of my school years. It was a rare free period in the long, strenuous day of a grade-schooler. It also provided us with an opportunity to demonstrate our social skills. But, most importantly, recess time was our time to make plans for the day "when we grow up." Dreams of the future were built and rearranged in fifteen minute intervals.

The experiences that adults often consider trivial are momentous occasions to children. For example, a second-grade boy spread his arms and jumped off the exit stairs almost sixty times in an attempt to take off. The realization that he couldn't fly was probably the most traumatic of his whole young life.

Grade six camp was a special event for me. The first taste of independence is never an easy one to forget. This trip was even more memorable because of the different skills we acquired. By the end of the week, we knew how to navigate a canoe, identify poison ivy, and locate a remote washroom at two o'clock a.m. in below-zero weather. My cabinmates and I thought that we could add the skill of "building-fires-without-matches" to our repertoire. We sat outside our cabin, taking turns rubbing two pieces of wood together. It soon began to heat up. After approximately two hours, the sticks began to smoke. At almost the same instant, the dinner bell rang. We helplessly regarded each other for a long moment. Then, by silent agreement, dropped the sticks and ran to the luncheon hall.

My favourite memory of elementary school involved my best third-grade friend, Sharon. It was a year of drought in Winnipeg, and that particular day was very hot. Sharon and I, ever-optimistic, tried to perform a thirst-quenching ritual. We determinedly howled through an entire frenzied ceremonial rain dance. After ten minutes, we stopped and looked up. Nothing happened. Disappointed, we trudged inside. After sharing our tragic tale with our sympathetic homeroom teacher, we went to the window and looked out expectantly.

And it began to rain.

Iris Yudai
Graduated 1983
Winnipeg

Laura Secord, a wonderful school named after a terrific lady. What makes it so wonderful are its staff

and the students. How they care and what they taught in their special way. I've been to many schools and not one of them could replace Laura Secord. The students are very helpful, such as when they *volunteer* to raise money just so that a patrol could have a chance to go to Ottawa, and I'm very grateful that they did. I hope the school keeps on standing forever!

Dung Ong
Graduated June 1986
Winnipeg

One of my first memories coming to Winnipeg, was attending Laura Secord School. I seem to recall how big and foreboding it seemed to me as a shy six year old. However, it wasn't long until my first grade teacher had me right into the swing of things, encouraging me to participate as much as possible. Slowly, over the next few years, I worked my way up through the grades learning something new about myself and the world, every day. It is no wonder my shyness disappeared so fast because of all the extra curricular activities that I was encouraged to participate in. Soon I was on the patrol squad, one of the finest in Winnipeg, writing books for the young authors' conference, preparing speeches for debating in. Discovery and tuning my voice for Choir!

When walking down the "Golden Aisle" to receive my Winnits I thought back to all of the good times and experiences I had at Laura Secord. Although I was sad because of departing, I was also happy knowing that I'd been well prepared for Junior High, and was going to succeed. The teachers of Laura Secord will always hold a prized and special place in my heart.

Byron Mackay
Graduated June 1986
Winnipeg

The most memorable memories of Laura Secord School, was when I started to go to school, the school seemed so big to me. I felt small because the kids were bigger than me and the school looked big. I liked the teachers and Miss Moore very much. They helped me get involved in sports, choir, patrols, as well as teaching me school work. I made a lot of friends while being at Laura Secord. My friends and I played soccer at recess and the teachers, my friends and myself were involved in softball, soccer and speed skating. I am 14 years old now. My brothers and sisters all went to Laura Secord School, before I

did. We will all have fond memories of Laura Secord School.

Steven Kuz
Graduated 1986
Winnipeg

Many things have changed since the time I was a student at Laura Secord School. As a student, I was always the smallest in my class. Now I'm taller than *almost* all the students. The desks and classrooms too, seem to have shrunk. Plus, the teachers have all got younger!

As a student teacher, I notice that one thing has not changed at all, the teachers and students care about their school, and about each other. Vive Laura Secord!

Stephanie Harvey
1977-79, 1986-1987
Winnipeg



THE LAURA SECORD HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

The Laura Secord Home and School Association was established in 1947, therefore, our organization has been active for forty years. The Association is made up of parents, guardians and school staff whose main objective is to promote quality education for children of the school because they are our greatest investment in the future.

The Home and School Association acts as a communication link between the parents and the school system. It is a vehicle through which parents can be informed about their children's education and through which they can express their needs and concerns.

The Association has lobbied for the introduction of special programs in this school that have met the changing needs of the children in this neighborhood. The Home and School Association has worked actively with other community organizations to further enrich the social and recreational resources of the community. Over the years, money has been raised through the efforts of parents, teachers and

students to provide additional equipment and to pay for extra learning experiences for the students.

The Home and School Association will continue to work actively to promote parental involvement in the education process in the belief that this will ensure the highest quality educational environment for our children.

Francis Fredette, President,
Laura Secord Home and School Association
1986-1987
Winnipeg



LAURA SECORD SCHOOL SAFETY PATROLS

The function of the School Safety Patrol is to determine a safe gap in traffic, in order to permit fellow students in crossing the streets at or near the schools, safely.

Some of the qualities that should be considered when selecting patrols are leadership, reliability and discretion.

It's one thing to be a patrol, but it takes a special person to be a good patrol. Some of the sacrifices made by patrols that some people don't realize are:

1. They provide this service free of charge.
2. Inclement weather conditions they sometimes work under.
3. Abuse from students, adults and motorists.
4. Standing on a corner while other children are enroute home or playing in the playground.

as well as facing the responsibility of making sure that everyone crosses safely.

It is with great pleasure that I have come to know many members of the Laura Secord School Safety Patrols, who have possessed these qualities and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of them for providing our city with this essential service.

Cst. Rick Joyal
Winnipeg Police Dept.



Balcony (left to right): V. Cutts, A. Huebner, A. Visevic, S. Bowman, D. Danielson, E. Kowalchuk, C. Scerbo.
Back row: D. Filipowich, J. Conkin, K. Black, W. Kohuch, R. Zagrodnik, N. Calof.
3rd row: G. Lafleche, L. Anderson, V. Poulin, G. Sveinson, H. Hildebrand, M. Janzen, R. Penman, E. Scott, J. Jurek.
2nd row: D. Fissel, E. Mitchell, T. Burdy, R. Axent, S. Syms, S. Moroz, N. SieuNarine, S. Swanson.
Front row: S. Hildebrandt, S. Stern, P. I. Moore (Principal), L. Uberig, I. Johnson, J. Olund, C. Cyr.



LAURA SECORD SCHOOL
STAFF 1986-1987



Back row (left to right): L. Uberig, J. Olund, N. SieuNarine, V. Poulin, K. Black, J. Conkin, D. Filipowich, W. Kohuch, S. Bowman, G. Sveinson, D. Danielson, R. Axent.

Middle row: E. Mitchell, A. Visevic, D. Fissel, J. Jurek, L. Anderson, R. Marten, S. Stern, M. Janzen, I. Johnson, K. Holota, G. Lafleche, A. Huebner.

Front row: S. Moroz, C. Cyr, D. Deda, S. Syms, E. Scott, P. I. Moore (Principal), R. Penman, V. Cutts, E. Kowalchuk, C. Scerbo, S. Hildebrandt.



WILL
LAURA SECORD SCHOOL
BE JUST A MEMORY?



*Laura Secord
School, 1970
— Manitoba
Archives*

The Winnipeg School Board has plans to replace Laura Secord School. They would build a new “cardboard box” school. Gone would be the sweeping staircases, the wide, bright halls, the custom designed metal work on the stairs and the stained glass windows.

The present building needs some renovations: some expensive work must be done. Does this mean that fine workmanship and gracious style must be destroyed? We hope not!

Laura Secord School was built in 1912 from designs by Col. J. B. Mitchell who, as commissioner for the Winnipeg School Board for 36 years built 48 schools at a cost of \$8 million. Nothing was too good

for Canada’s children in his view, and furthermore:

It should be known, appreciated and remembered by every parent in this Dominion that education is more important than good streets. . . . and more public money should be spent to thoroughly equip the children for the battle of life, than is now being devoted for that purpose. . . . was his opinion.

Dr. Daniel McIntyre was Superintendent and introduced sewing and woodworking to Grade V pupils. In its time the school provided “the best of contemporary school construction technology.”

Manitoba Historical Society



SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- City of Winnipeg, Department of Environmental Planning
 - Heritage Winnipeg
 - *Laura Lites*
 - Manitoba Archives
 - Manitoba Historical Society
 - *Our Schools*
 - Teachers' Library and Resource Centre, Winnipeg School Division #1
 - *Winnipeg Free Press*
 - Cover designed by Ray Martin, student, 1940-45
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