



ALBERTA'S CENTENNIAL 2005

Children, Youth and Education History

Children and Youth at Home

- In rural Alberta, chores have always been a part of daily life for children. In the early part of the twentieth century a seven-year-old child was considered old enough to milk the cows. Other chores included: watering the horses and cattle, mucking out the barn and filling the mangers with hay and chop.
- City children helped out at home by splitting wood, hoeing potatoes, weeding the garden and watering the lawn. Some took after-school jobs delivering papers to make pocket change.
- Some outdoor games from the 1930s included: fox and goose, last couple out, red light, statue, in and out the windows, kick the can, run sheep run, red rover, pom pom pull away and ante ante I over.

Children and Youth at School

- During the Great Depression, some children and youth stayed home from school in the winter because parents could not afford to purchase or make warm clothing.
- A list of school rules from the 1930s directed students to "be regular, obedient, polite, honest, trustworthy, ready to help and at all times be a good sport."

Alberta's Schools

- McDougall House, Government Centre for southern Alberta, was built in 1908, and was called Calgary Normal School/McDougall School.
- McKay Avenue School, built in 1904 in Edmonton, was designated as a Provincial Historic Resource in 1976.
- Alberta's oldest schoolhouse is located on the same grounds as McKay Avenue School and was in use prior to 1904. The school was restored in 1982 and is currently a museum.



Edmonton Bulletin newsboys, 1946. Courtesy of the Provincial Archives of Alberta

Signposts of Alberta History

- 1903: Alberta College opens on Jasper Avenue in Edmonton. It is one of Canada's largest and oldest arts institutions.
- 1905-1945: Teacher training is provided by three normal schools in Calgary, Camrose and Edmonton.
- 1908: The University of Alberta holds its first classes, with 45 students registered.
- 1911: \$1.5 million is spend on education by the provincial government and 283 new schools are opened.
- 1919: A teacher's yearly salary is less than \$2,000.
- 1932: Grade six subjects include: memory work, accuracy, agriculture, physiology and household or manual arts. Students are also graded on "attitude towards school work."
- 1933: The Banff Centre for Continuing Education is founded by the University of Alberta, Department of Extension and offers a single course in drama. Today, the centre is a highly respected arts, cultural, and educational institution and conference facility.
- 1942: The first faculty of education in Canada at the University of Alberta awards diplomas to 43 men and women.
- 1980: The Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund is created with \$100 million from the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, to encourage education excellence.
- 2005: The University of Calgary's Faculty of Education celebrates 100 years of teacher training in Alberta starting with the opening of Calgary Normal School in 1905.

Celebrate our past. Imagine our future.



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