



A Short History of the Sturgeon School Division

The Province of Alberta was founded within the Dominion of Canada in 1905. The system of education which had been in force in the Northwest Territories was continued and provided education up to the grade eight level.

By 1935, Alberta was more widely settled and with the rapid advancement of the age of technology, there was a demand from industry and the public in general for higher education. Due to the poor financial state of many of the rural school districts following the depression of the 1930s, it was necessary for the Provincial Government to take action. Consequently, in 1936, legislation was passed which provided for the establishment of school divisions.

The Sturgeon School Division, consisting of five sub-divisions, was formed by Ministerial Order on January 1, 1939, the five trustees having been elected shortly prior to its formation.

The following five trustees were sworn in at the first organization meeting held on December 6, 1938:

Sub-division No. 1	Mr. J. G. Dusseault
Sub-division No. 2	Mr. Angus L. McGillis
Sub-division No. 3	Mr. Harry Speers
Sub-division No. 4	Mr. John E. Holmes
Sub-division No. 5	Mr. M. D. Tkachuk

Mr. Speers was appointed Chairman of the Board; Mr. J. E. Holmes, Vice-Chairman; Mr. E. Meaden was appointed Secretary-Treasurer; and Mr. J. J. LeBlanc was the provincially-appointed Superintendent of Schools for the Division.

At the time of its inception, the Sturgeon School Division consisted mainly of one and two-room schools with a few larger schools. Gradually the idea of centralizing the schools around major villages became popular, but the progress of this re-organization was interrupted by the commencement of World War II.

One of the alternatives to centralization during this period was the formation of dormitories. One such dormitory was established in Bon Accord in 1943.

Following the cessation of hostilities, centralization was resumed and the dormitories were finally closed by 1949.

Between January 1, 1947 and June 1, 1948 St. Albert School District No. 3 (RCP) and the Legal School District No. 1738 were included in the Sturgeon School Division. In 1947, the Thorhild School Division No. 57 and the Westlock School Division No. 37 were formed which resulted in Sturgeon losing a total of 30 sub-divisions to these new school divisions.

With the acquisition of “New Town” status by the Town of St. Albert in 1957, the St. Albert School District was excluded from the Sturgeon School Division. In 1959, the people of the Amelia School District requested and were granted permission to become part of the County of Thorhild.

In 1955, due to a re-organization of the boundaries of the municipalities and the school districts and in preparation for introduction of the County System in the Province, the Vimy School District was lost to Westlock.

With the formation of the County of Sturgeon in January 1961, Sturgeon School Division ceased to exist and the School Committee of the County assumed the responsibilities for the administration of education formerly vested in the Divisional Board.

Pursuant to a plebiscite requested by the electors, the area reverted to Municipal District and School Division status on July 12, 1965.

By Ministerial Order dated October 13, 1966, the number of sub-divisions within the Sturgeon School Division was reduced from five to four, following the exclusion of the seven sub-divisions comprising the Legal centralization. This resulted in a reduction of the Board membership to four Trustees.

On September 6, 1977 following public petition, Sub-division No. I of the County of Thorhild was transferred to Sturgeon School Division, increasing the number of trustees to five. In October of that year, following some re-arrangement of the sub-divisions, and at the request of the Minister, seven trustees were elected. This brought the community of Redwater into Sturgeon School Division.

Since the re-formation of Sturgeon School Division in 1965, numerous changes have taken place within the area. In the spring of 1989 the Board of Trustees, in keeping with the philosophy of the ward system, resolved to make electoral boundaries and attendance boundaries co-terminus wherever feasible.

In September 1966, some high school facilities within the Division were closed and high school students were sent to St. Albert and Edmonton to complete their education. By September 1970, all high school students were being educated in St. Albert and Edmonton. In 1977, the Division constructed Sturgeon Composite High School which offers a comprehensive selection of academic, complimentary and Career and Technology studies (CTS) programming.

In the fall of 1972, the Morinville Hutterite Colony School joined the Sturgeon School Division.

In the years 1976 - 1979 an increase of 2,400 students (from 2,300 to 4,700) was experienced. Since 1979, enrolments remain relatively stable at approximately 5,000 students.

During the 1981 - 1982 school year, the City of Edmonton annexed a portion of the south-east corner of the M.D. of Sturgeon which included the Horse Hill School which, as a result, was transferred to the Edmonton Public Schools in July 1982. This annexation, coupled with a down-turn in Alberta's economy, resulted in a 'dip' in enrolments during the period 1983 to 1986.

In September 1994, Guthrie School at Lancaster Park, Canadian Forces Base Edmonton, became part of Sturgeon School Division.

In September 1995, Oak Hill School in Bon Accord also came under the Division's jurisdiction. Oak Hill School had been previously administered by Sturgeon School Division from 1979 until 1990.

In the fall of 1996, the School Division launched one of the first educational wide area networks in Alberta, *Route #24*, that introduced the Internet and a variety of related technology as an instructional tool to enhance student learning. In January 2000, the Division upgraded to a wireless network with the assistance of an Innovation Grant from Alberta Learning.

In November 1995, the Division opened an alternative education program, the Sturgeon Learning Centre, to provide educational learning opportunities for senior high students and young adults.

In July 1997, the alternate school programs were expanded to include the Morinville Learning Centre, which was originally developed in partnership with the Greater St. Albert Catholic Regional Division. Sturgeon School Division assumed full responsibility for the Centre in 1999. In 1999, the Sturgeon Learning Center celebrated the graduation of its first group of students who had successfully completed the Alberta Diploma requirements.

The Redwater Learning Center was established in September 2003 and served local students until its closure in 2010.

Significant building projects that occurred during the latter half of the 1990's included the modernization of Bon Accord School in 1998, the building of the Morinville Colony School in 1999 and the replacement of Guthrie School in Lancaster Park, Edmonton Garrison was completed in 2003.

Over the past number of years, (between 2003 and 2009), several renovations of the Central Office were undertaken to enhance work areas for key departments providing services to schools. This provided space for professional development of staff and a significantly enhanced the area for Technology Services.

A modernization of Namao School was completed in 2010.

In September 2012 as per the St. Albert and Sturgeon Valley School Districts Establishment Act, Sturgeon School Division was charged with the responsibility of providing public education to students resident to the Towns of Morinville and Legal. Classes in Morinville started out in the local Community Cultural Centre (grades 1 – 4) and the Parish Hall (Pre-School – Kindergarten). In June 2012, the Government of Alberta transferred George P. Vanier School in Morinville from Greater St. Albert Catholic School Division (GSACRD) to Sturgeon School Division. The school was renamed Morinville Public Elementary School and opened its doors in September 2012. As of school year 2014-2015, more than 500 students (Pre-School – grade 7) called Morinville Public School home.

A major modernization of Sturgeon Composite High School is projected for completion by the end of School Year 2015-2016.

Past and Present Trustees

ALLEN, Hugh	1952 - 1954	McDONELL, John	1965 - 1983
AUSTIN, Reg	1965 - 1974	McGILLIS, Angus	1939 - 1944
BAUMAN, John	1980 - 1995	MAHE, Paul	1951 only
BEVINGTON, Don	1961 - 1965	MARTINEAU, Ferd	1945 - 1950/1965 - 1966
BEVINGTON, Joyce	1977 - 1989	MESSIER, Ladis	1951 - 1954
BILECKI, Olga	1974 - 1977	MILLER, Wendy	2004 -
BORLE, Ed	1957 - 1960	MILLIGAN, Richard	1989 - 1998
CHAUVET, Paul	1945 - 1954	MILLIGAN, Robert	1998 -2010
CLEMENT, C.	1960 only	MYCHASIW, Michelle	2013 -
COMO, Roy	1962 - 1964	NOBERT, Alphonse	1961 only
COURCHESNE, Ed	1961 - 1964	NOWAK, Tracy	2007 -
CUNNINGHAM, Toby	1945 - 1956	PASICHNEY, William	1944 - 1946
DEEDMAN, William	1965 only	PAUL, Harold	1969 - 1977
DUSSEAULT, Joseph	1939 - 1944	PORTER, Bruce	1951 only
EVERITT, Keith	1977 - 1986	PORTER, Shelly	2010 – 2013/2014-
FEATHERLEY, Misty	2013 -	REYNOLDS-KUIPER, Dorothy	1986 - 1992
FLYNN, Willie	1956 - 1965	REYNOLDS, Linda	1992 - 1998
FORCADE, Lionel	1955 - 1959	ROSS, Neil	1947 - 1951
FRAZIER, Penny	2004 -2007	ROSS CARLETON, Micky	1986 - 2004
FUNDYTUS, Careen	1995 -2010	RYE, Lawrence	1961 - 1965
GARON, Leo	1940 - 1943	REMILLARD, D. (Mrs.)	1955 - 1957
GERVAIS, Therese	1995 - 2004	SIMONOWITS, Robert	1995 - 1998
GRAY, Brent	2010 - 2013	ST. ONGE, Harvey	1966 only
HOLE, Lois	1967 - 1979	SPEERS, Harry	1939 - 1950
HOLMES, John	1939 - 1948	STEVENS, Joyce	1983 - 1992
HORNER, Gail	1998 - 2007	TKACHUK, M.D.	1939 - 1940
HOOD, Don	1977 - 1980	VAN DE WALLE, Walter	1958 - 1965
HRYNCHUK, Fred	1998 -2010	VENESS, William	1953 - 1955
JENKINS, Archie	1955 - 1960	VISSCHER, Cathy	1992 - 1995
JEWELL, Terry	1980 - 1995/1998 -	WALKER, Stanley	1961 - 1965
KLUFAS, Harry	1980 - 1986	WALL, Ruth	1977 - 1980
KLUTHE, Lawrence	1965 only	WARD, Jim	1977 - 1980
KOHLE, Elizabeth	2007 -	WILSON, George	1965 - 1969
KONSORADA, Nick	1965 only	WILSON, Lloyd	1956 - 1960
KRIEGER, Daryl	2010 - 2013	ZUIDEMA, Peter	1980 - 1998
LESBURG, Albert	1965-1967		
McCUE, Arthur	1951 - 1955		

Past and Present Superintendents

DICK, Michele	2007 -
MILLER, Evan	2000 - 2007
ROBERTSON, J. Kenneth	1998 - 2000
HOGARTH, John	1994 - 1998
THIESSEN, Roy D.	1986 - 1994
TAYLOR, Anthony	1985 - 1986
HEPPLER, Walter	1979 - 1985
ROBINSON, Frank	1970 - 1979
KUNST, A. E.	1964 - 1970
SWAN, J. F.	1955 - 1964
SCOTT, R. J.	1939 - 1942 & 1945 - 1955
ERICKSON, E. M.	1942 - 1945
LE BLANC, J. J.	1938 - 1939 & 1942

Past and Present Secretary Treasurers

PAULIK, Iva	2013 -
PARASYNCHUK, Karen	2002 - 2013
PILSNER, Marlene	2000 - 2002
ISBISTER, Andrew	1997 - 2000
LLOYD, Murray	1984 - 1997
KRAUSKOPF, Charles	1965 - 1984
NOBERT, Alphonse	1962 - 1965
MEADEN, E.	1938 - 1962