



Margaret Clark Reid.

# McLean High School

Margaret Clark Reid was the first high school teacher in Maple Ridge. She had arrived out from Edinburgh, Scotland, with a Master of Arts degree and had first gone to Mt. Lehman. When the school inspector told her that she could get a better salary in Port Haney, she moved. It was during this time that she was courted by John B. Martyn, whom she married in 1917.

*Text of the Community Heritage Committee plaque at the Municipality's Peace Park:*

In 1922, McLean High School was built between 8th Avenue (224th Street) and 9th Avenue (225th Street), and consisted of two rooms and a laboratory. It was the first school in the district that was built to accommodate high school students. Prior to McLean's construction, high school students had been taught first in the municipal hall in Port Haney and then in the old Maple Ridge School on Laity Street. By the mid 1930s, McLean High had overflowed into the 1909 Haney Public School building nearby, the Manual Training building, and even into the old 1882 Maple Ridge School again. The district tried to raise funds for a new high school by referendum in 1937 but taxpayers turned it down – particularly because the plan included a new fangled extravagance, the indoor gymnasium.

In 1939 the students rebelled at their situation, and staged a protest march from the Ridge (south foot of Laity Street) to McLean High. They made headlines in provincial and national papers and evidently made their point with the district's voters. The referendum was re-submitted, passed, and the new Maple Ridge High School opened in 1941.

On Father's Day, 1953, MRHS burned to the ground. Principal Welland tried to enter to save records, but the firemen stopped him just minutes before parts of the building caved in. The Maple Ridge Volunteer Fire Department, with the assistance of the BC Forest Products' Fire Department, fought to save a small part of the wall adjacent to the old McLean High School in order to prevent it from burning down as well. Even though the newer Maple Ridge High was completely destroyed, McLean High survived. It served as temporary quarters while the already planned MRSS was rushed to completion.

The McLean High School was later converted into the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Motor Vehicle Branch building.



**Opposite Bottom**

**First McLean High School Graduating Class, 17 June 1925.**

**Top row:** Fred Sparling, Charles MacLachlin, Albert Poole, Gertrude Jackson (Later Mrs. Nelson), Beth Brown (later Mrs. George Mussallem), Jeanne MacFarlane, Vera Graham, Jenny Aho, Ellis Brock, and Cecil Blois.

**Front row:** Helvi Aho, Miyoko Tamura, Mary Drewry, Emma Thorsteinson, Edith Harrison, Laverne Brock, May McInray, Alma Sayers (later Mrs. Fraser Morris), Rose Mosher, and Verda Hooper.



The new Maple Ridge High School opened in 1941. It burned to the ground in 1953.



# MEADOWRIDGE SCHOOL

*Proud to be a part of the history of Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows.*



1984: Maple Ridge agrees to lease parents the old GVRD reservoir site on 230th St.



July 1985: Official sod turning prior to school construction.



September 1985: Meadowridge opens as a collection of portable classrooms.



1990: Permanent site acquired on 240th St. and construction begins on new school.



September 1992: New school opens, expanding to 69,000 square feet of academic space by the end of 1993.



1996: Board Chair Ani Bharwani and Headmaster Graham Hookey celebrate opening of new gymnasium.



2006: New playground unveiled.



February 2008: Latest school expansion is complete bringing total facility to over 100,000 square feet.



May 2008: Students create community garden on old school site on 230 St. now Pioneer Park.

Meadowridge was founded by a dedicated group of parents who saw a need for better educational choices in the community. In September of 1985, we first opened our doors on 230th Street as a small collection of mobile classrooms. By 1993 the school had moved to a new 10-acre site on 240th street with a 69,000 square foot facility. In the spring of 2007, Meadowridge became an accredited IB World School. Following the completion of a major facility expansion in early 2008, Meadowridge is now comprised of over 100,000 square feet of academic space on 16.3 acres of land.

We extend our thanks to the founding families of Meadowridge School, and to all of the families since who continue to support and guide our evolution into one of the finest academic institutions in the province. We take pride in our contributions to the development of our young people and our region, and we look forward to continuing our role as a strong community partner in the years to come.



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