



Clairmont School May 23 1938

Back Row: Barbara Redwood | Marguerite Drysdale | Wilfred Johnson | Joe Tomshak | Laurie Johnson | Gordon Forbes | Les Miles | Leslie Dixon | Bill Semak | June Mercer | Gwen Miles
 Third Row: Albert Tomshak | Donald Thompson | Walter Waldner | ? | Vivian Redwood | Bessie Patterson | ? Patterson | Olga Waldner | ? Patterson | Dave Thomson | ?
 Second Row: Maggie Waldner | ?? | Annie Waldner | Rita Miles | ? Patterson | Tom Conrad | Wallace Conrad | Frank Redwood | ? Semak | ? Bergen | Jean Sheehan | Noreen Sheehan
 First Row: ? Patterson | Ed Tomshak | ? Semak | Mae Miles | ? | Helen Tomshak | Marie Hart | Joan McDonald | ? Semak | Phyllis Redwood | Jack Sheehan | Alan Redwood

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The following from:

A Grande Education:

One Hundred Schools in the
County of Grande Prairie, 1910-1960

Produced by South Peace Regional Archives

CLAIRMONT LAKE SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 3303

Clairmont Lake School District was organized September 10, 1915. First classes were held in various places in the village: the Baptist Church manse, the upper floor of George White's pool hall, and a "little brown shack" on present-day 100th Avenue. The first teacher was Mrs. Bessie Caldwell.

In 1918, a white frame school house was built on NW 24-72-6-W6 on the southwest corner of the town site. A barn, woodshed and the usual outhouses completed the set-up. Inspector Harry Balfour recommended that the outdoor toilets be moved closer to the school and the boys compelled to use them instead of the stable. A big improvement was indoor chemical toilets in 1934.

Wilford McDonald, known as "Mac", taught in 1927, and in 1928, a second room was added, with Grades 1-6 in one room and Grades 7-11 in the other. Mr. McDonald contacted his fiancée, Anne Lawford, suggesting she apply to teach the junior grades. She did and was accepted.

Clairmont lost its status as a village in 1946, with the school now under the Grande Prairie

School Division. In the next 8 years, improvements were made by installing gas in the furnace, water heater, and kitchen range.

In the 1950s, a Home & School Association was organized so parents could be informed of current school activities and needs. They arranged for such improvements as a school nursing program, new insulation in the school, a new floor in the barn, and for the inside of the school to be plastered and kalsomined. They also provided a slide projector, rhythm band instruments, and had the piano tuned.

As the population of Clairmont decreased, it was decided that students would be best served in a larger school. In 1962, the school was closed and the students were bussed to either Harry Balfour County School in Grande Prairie or to Sexsmith.

Today there is a new school on the west shore of Clairmont Lake. The Clairmont Community School is the result of a partnership between the Peace Wapiti School Division and the County of Grande Prairie. This school is built to strict environmental standards and has natural

sunlight in every corner, highly efficient furnaces that draw in outside air and project it up from the floor; electronic SMART blackboards, and in-class sound systems.

A second wing houses the Wellington Resource Centre, named after another early school in the Clairmont district. This space is for day care and pre-school classes, medical services, teaching computer skills and meeting space for non-profit groups. Although it is on a much grander scale, like the old school, it meets the community needs.

Clairmont Lake School site was just east of the old Highway 2 in Clairmont. Take the south entrance into Clairmont on 100 Avenue and turn immediately into the United Church lot. The school was just west of the church.



Above, Clairmont Lake School was established in 1918. The site also contained the barn and woodshed shown on the right. Clairmont School closed in 1962. GP School Division photos ca. 1952, SPRA 063.02.023.1.

Right, Clairmont School students, Grades I-VI, in 1933-34. Photograph taken by teacher Martha Gudlaugson, SPRA 2008.46.29.



Clairmont Lake School children in 1928. Photograph courtesy of Beth Sheehan and Anne McDonald, SPRA 2009.21.01.

Resources: [Turn Back the Pages: Clairmont 1908-1992](#)
SPRA: School Division correspondence files, 1931-1964
List of Electors from Clairmont, 1960
GPPL: Isabel Campbell files, Schools—Clairmont