

Courtland Avenue P.S. Celebrates its Quasquicentennial

By Denise Eppel and Dana Urosevic-Strickland, Courtland School Council Co-chairs

In 1890, Courtland was built as a four-room school house, in the village of Berlin and the county of Waterloo. It was the third ward school built in the area, then referred to as "The Sandhills".

Miss Edith Matheson was appointed first sub-principal of the school, followed by Miss M. B. Tier, and in 1893, Kindergarten was instituted under the direction of Miss S. Ayres.

War time brought many changes including women's rights, daylight saving time, income taxes, and in 1916, our city name was changed from Berlin to Kitchener.

The sixties saw much change for Courtland.

In 1965, a \$500,000.00 renovation and expansion, to convert Courtland into a senior public school, was undertaken. The renovation included the demolition of eight rooms and the addition of six new classrooms, as well as rooms for music, art, industrial arts, home economics, and science. A double gymnasium was also built with showers and change rooms. There were 382 registered students at the time.

Our values today aren't much different than they were in Courtland's past -- our students enjoy the small school atmosphere, the ethnic diversity, the supportive and experienced staff, the many opportunities to participate in clubs and teams, and the "very cool architecture" of our beautiful, old school. Courtland staff work closely with students, families, and the community to ensure our students are successful in education and in life. The staff also encourages and promotes our core values: loyalty, citizenship and hard work. Our collective values have us reaching for excellence in our academic, athletic, artistic and outreach in the community; together, we strive to make Courtland the best school in the region. We are not just building team at Courtland, we are building family.

On May 8-9, 2015, we will celebrate our 125th, and everyone is welcome to attend. Beginning on Friday (7-10 pm), students will entertain us with their artwork, music and acting talents. Be sure to check out our historic displays in the classrooms. On Saturday (1-4 pm), visit old classrooms, meet old teachers or catch up with old and new friends over a coffee in our café. Be sure to stay for the opening of our time capsule (2pm).

Our goals for the event are to:

- **celebrate the staff, students and community members** who have graced the hallways of our amazing school.
- **create an historical archive** for the school. We are looking for memorabilia (pictures, shirts, plaques, awards, etc.) to display at the event. If you or someone you know went to Courtland and has memorabilia to share, please call the school.
- **raise some much-needed funds for a new gymnasium floor.** If you would like to make a donation, please call the school at **519-578-4690** or visit the **Waterloo Education Foundation Inc. website at: <http://www.wrdsb.ca/wefi>**.

Courtland Avenue Public School is proud to have been a member of this community for 125 years, and we look forward to many more years of continued service.

We thank our students and staff for their efforts in planning this wonderful event. If you would like more information, please visit our website at <http://crl.wrdsb.ca/> ■

