

A Tree Grows at Salisbury

When I first came to teach Grade Five at Salisbury School in 1972, there was a tradition that the Grade Six classes would go on a field trip to Sandilands Forestry Centre in May or June. When the Grade Six classes decided to go on a three day overnight camp trip instead, the Grade Five classes sort of “inherited” the Sandilands trip.

It was always an interesting outing in spite of the long bus ride. There were nature walks, a trek across a rope bridge and a visit to the Tree Nursery. Each student went home with a tiny seedling fir tree.

One year, in the late seventies, after we got back to school and the students were heading home I followed one boy down the hall. Near the office the boy encountered Mr. Peter Klassen, our principal. The boy said, “Here, Mr. Klassen, you can have my tree. I live in an apartment and I don’t have anywhere to plant it.”

Mr. Klassen took the student to the caretaker’s room and got a shovel. They went into the courtyard between Salisbury School and what was then Morse Place Junior High and they dug a hole and planted that tiny tree.

Over the years, I have walked past that courtyard many times and I’m amazed at the tall fir tree it has become.

Lynne Dunford

Teacher from 1972- 2006