



**Millarville Community School**

Sheep Creek School #4258 was built in 1928 about 3 km west of the present Millarville Community School. Due to the influx of oil workers, a second school with two rooms was built beside the original school. These classrooms were opening in 1942 after Christmas. The first regular bus service started in 1950 to this original Sheep Creek School.

In 1951, the larger 2 room building of the Sheep Creek School was relocated to the hamlet and moved to Millarville. Two rooms were added with a full basement under the entire building. This “new” Sheep Creek School then became a central



location for students from the outlying areas as the one-room schools slowly disappeared. The school's name was changed to Millarville School in 1973.

In 1976-77 a new gymnasium, junior high classrooms and staff washrooms, a library, a work room and the principal's office were built. In 1982, staff and school council started discussions of possibly applying to become a community school. The school hosted several evenings where community members of all ages and local artists came together to present their ideas of what a community school looked like. A steering committee was formed and at the invitation of the local MLA traveled to the Legislative Assembly in Edmonton. After being seated in the Speaker's Gallery, they observed the proceedings and then met with several of the Ministers including the Minister of Education in the hopes of having their charter approved and being designated a Community School. It was designated as a Community School in 1985, with funding for a Community School Liaison between school staff and community and a Community School Hostess to programs and classes could utilize the school in the evening and on weekends. Sadly, funding for community school projects ceased in June, 1994.

In 1999, a new addition with 4 new classrooms, bathrooms, and change rooms, was added to the north end of the school. This was named Erin's Wing in memory of Erin Nelson, a student who

tragically passed away. The most recent addition in 2001 was the Stars Gymnasium which added a full gymnasium floor while the original gymnasium became the stage and storage rooms.

Several teachers at MCS have been awarded Governor General awards for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History - Pamela Irving (2002), Patti Thorne (2005), and Lorretta Stabler (2005). In 2005 students were very proud of their teachers and the collaborative work that students, community members were doing. They decided to write invitations to Her Excellency The Right Honorable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada, to visit their school. In May, 2006, Her Excellency did pay a visit, arriving in a stagecoach, visiting several classrooms, celebrating in the gym with students and community members and visiting the archaeological site on the school grounds.

Then, Principal Ted Thorne was honored in 2007 as one of Canada's Outstanding principals. Quite a prestigious award as only 32 awards are given annually. New initiatives by Mr. Thorne such as Outward Bound Program (later called Outdoor Pursuits) were attributed to his getting this award.

In 2008, as part of Indigenous studies and acknowledging the Stoney Peoples history of camping in the Millarville area, a 24 ft. diameter tipi was erected on the school grounds. The tipi was donated by a parent and a First Nations Historical Celebration was held to commemorate the Indigenous migration as they made their way from Morley to Eden Valley for the summer camp.



Millarville Community School (MCS) attained International Baccalaureate (IB) World School status in April 2009, offering the IB Primary Years Programme (PYP). It was the first public school in southern Alberta to attain this status. The IB is a globally recognized institution that promotes intercultural respect and understanding. The PYP was a natural fit for MCS, where the values of curiosity, caring, and life-long learning had been at the heart of the learning community for decades. MCS continues to be a leader in celebrating student inquiry and compassionate community action.

