

# KING GEORGE SCHOOL, CALGARY

# NATURE GROUNDS

1996-2016

## WHAT ARE WE DOING TO HELP THE ENVIRONMENT?

Formerly an asphalt courtyard, the nature grounds now occupies over 1/3 of the area and is used for social and learning opportunities. Complete with mature trees and shrubs; arranged boulders and logs for climbing and imaginative play; archaeology site; butterfly garden; and hand carved seating.

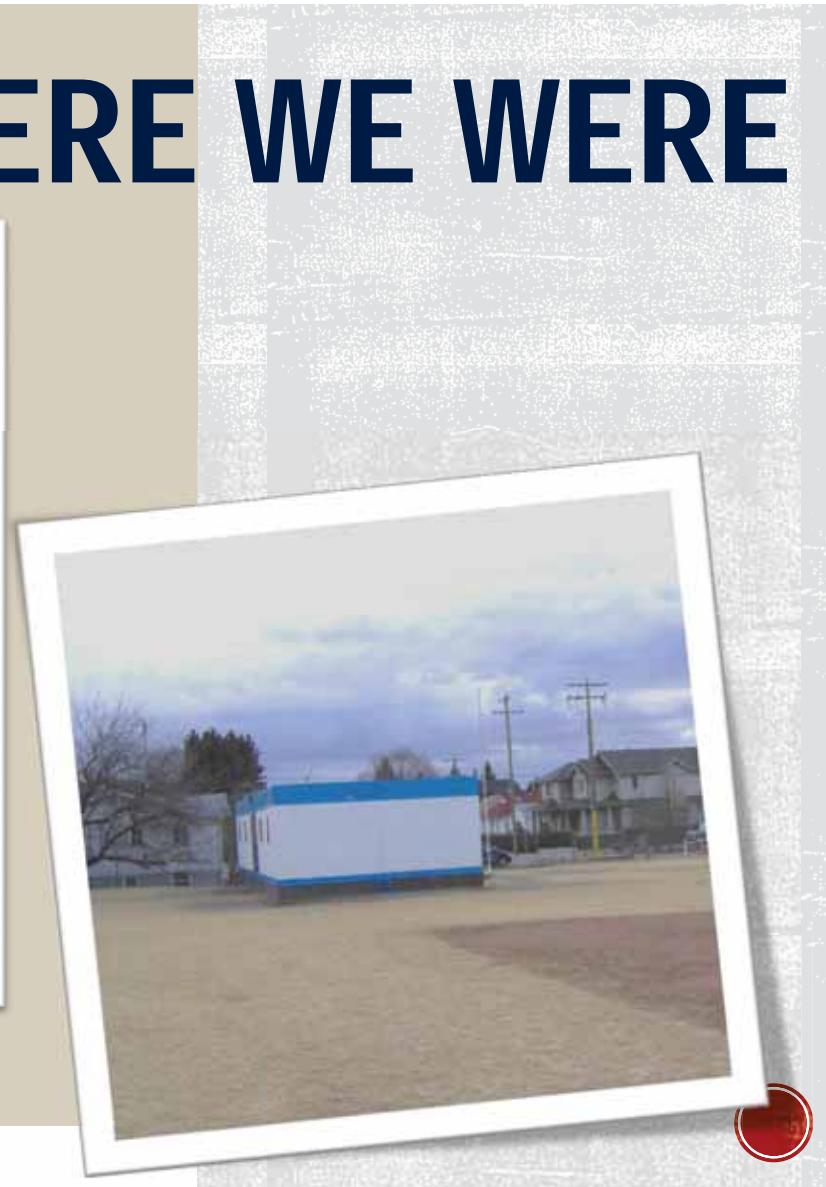


# WHERE WE WERE



Atco trailers used by the cadets

<http://781aircadets.ca/psc-docs/PSC%20minutes%2007%20Sep%2005.pdf>





## 1996 - 1997

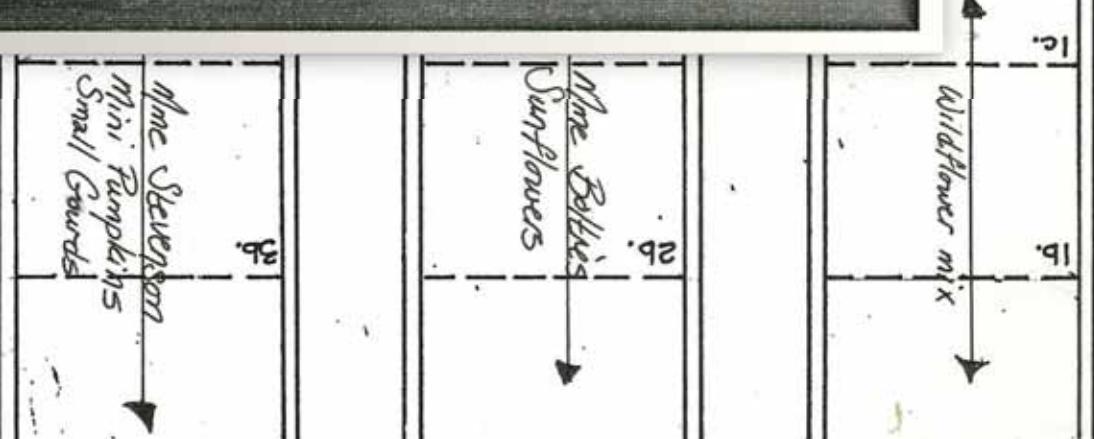
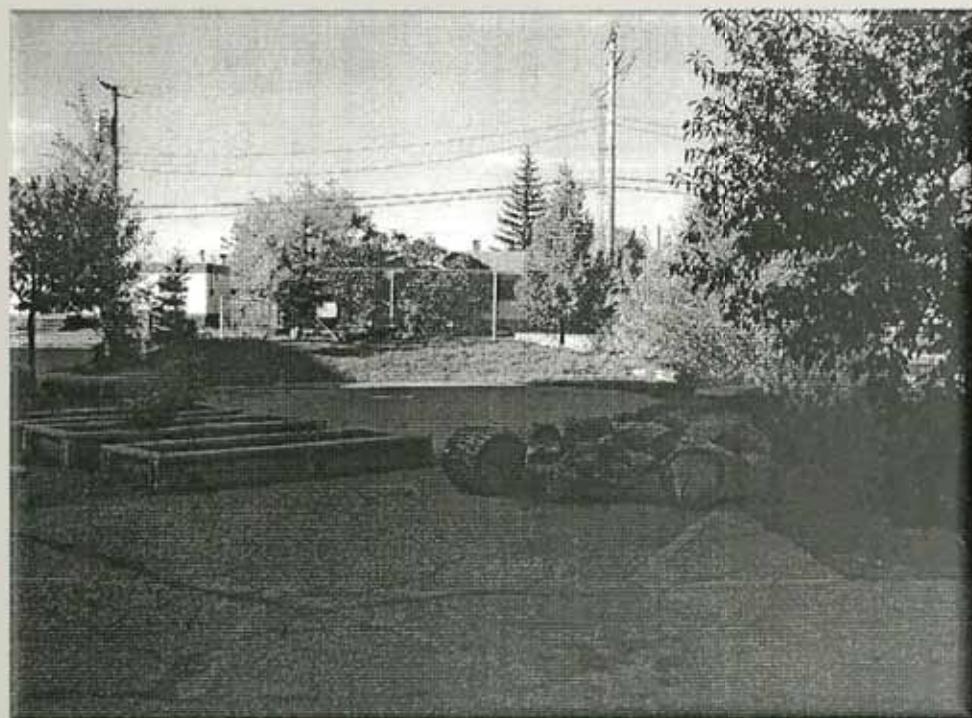
### CREATION OF THE LEARNING GROUNDS

Plenty of asphalt needed to be removed.



1999

Teachers requested to  
have a raised garden bed  
to use for their class.





2006/02/13



# 2005-2007

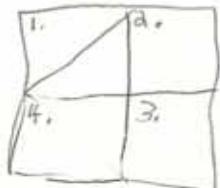
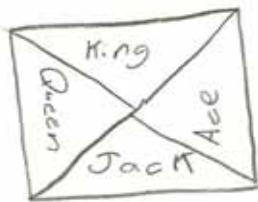
Our school is growing  
and changing!

How can we create a  
more functional and  
beautiful space that  
appeals to both the  
students and the  
teachers?



( What I like/feel about our  
fields.

I like the 4 square  
area.



What I would like to see  
change



## ASK THEM!

Students were surveyed  
in 2007. Volunteers went  
to each classroom to  
discuss the project with  
students.

Drawings were also used  
to further student  
engagement





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playground  
too small  
crowded  
like swings

hot  
empty  
more trees & rocks  
like small spaces  
muddy

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# MAKE A PLAN AND ORGANIZE

**The Master Plan/2009:  
unified play zones & naturalized areas creating a  
dynamic recreation space that enriches our children's  
play and strengthens our school and local community**



## The Process up to NOW

- Committee began spring 2005
- Survey of needs and interests of key stakeholders (kids, teachers, staff) (fall 2007) see tri-fold
- CBE, Parks and community consultation (ongoing)
- "Kid testing" a range of playgrounds (Nov - Dec. 08)
- Decisions on key criteria for our playground (Feb.09)
  - see list of criteria on tri-fold
- Work with 4 potential suppliers on a noncommittal basis (March 09)
- Narrowed to 3 great designs to present to you tonight

# IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Removing the  
old playground.



# IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Climbing rocks  
arrive



# IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Volunteers, young and old.



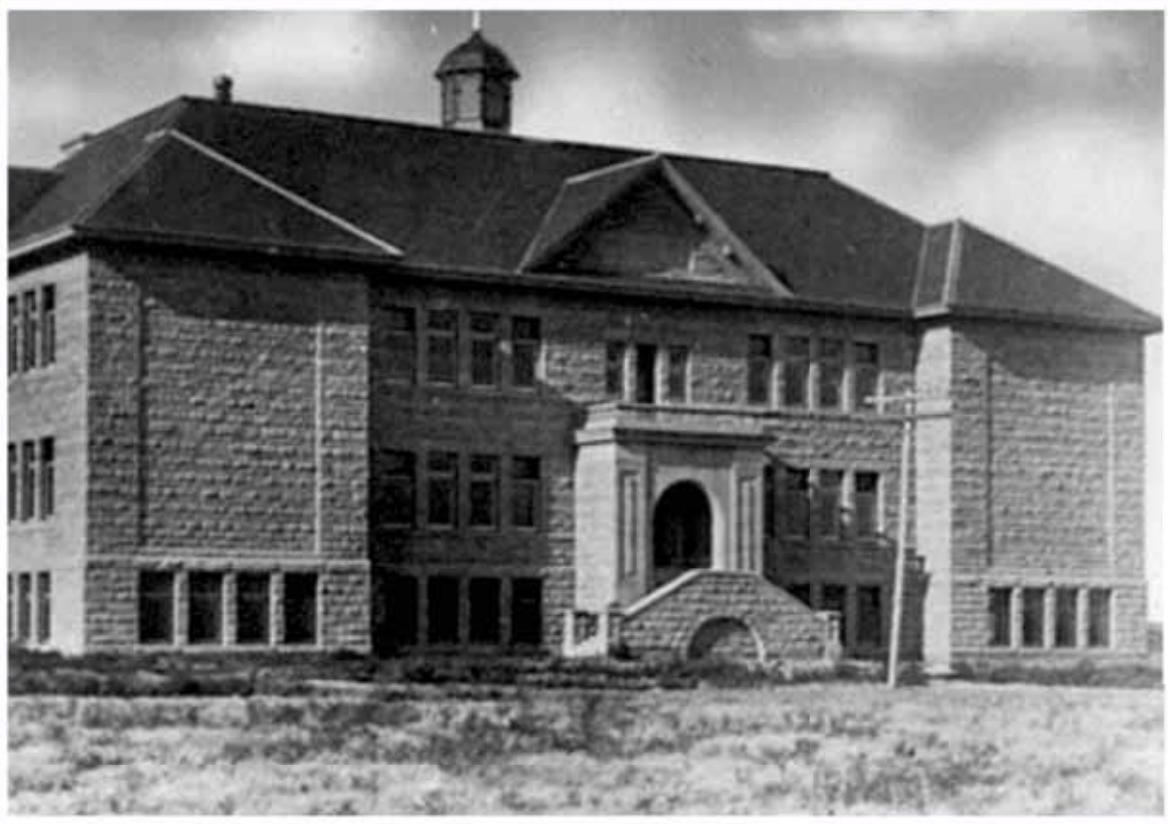
# IT TAKES A VILLAGE



Completed on  
Sunday evening!



# UNDER THE PRAIRIE SKY



King  
George  
School  
celebrates  
100 YEARS

[http://link.brightcove.com/services/player/bcpid2183113682001?bckey=AQ~~AAABPhvTOmE..OCApyahQOxplWOE0vcCZD6lpl0DM8hy\\_&bctid=2513539217001](http://link.brightcove.com/services/player/bcpid2183113682001?bckey=AQ~~AAABPhvTOmE..OCApyahQOxplWOE0vcCZD6lpl0DM8hy_&bctid=2513539217001)

Our school vision for upcoming years sets the theme for the naturalization project and curricular links.



# UNDER THE PRAIRIE SKY



Concrete artist created realistic boulders and bones  
[http://www.artianscapes.ca/about-us/](http://www.artisanscapes.ca/about-us/)

Buffalo jump



# UNDER THE PRAIRIE SKY

## Archaeology site

Students can jump from boulders onto a thick layer of bark mulch and dig beneath to discover a bison skeleton and examples of tools used by indigenous peoples during hunting seasons.





# UNDER THE PRAIRIE SKY

## Erratic Trail

A tribute to the glacial forces that shaped our school grounds; boulders were placed along an asphalt walkway to mimic the foothills erratic trail with animal tracks to be painted along the trail weaving in and around our welcome sculpture.



# UNDER THE PRAIRIE SKY

## Pioneer Picnic Site

Connected to our studies of Alberta's beginnings, a seating area used by classes (and the community) with tables and seating for 24 and flanked by an aspen grove with gooseberry and wild rose bushes that provides shade and wind protection.



# UNDER THE PRAIRIE SKY

Aspen Grove



Students researched native trees of the region.



# UNDER THE PRAIRIE SKY

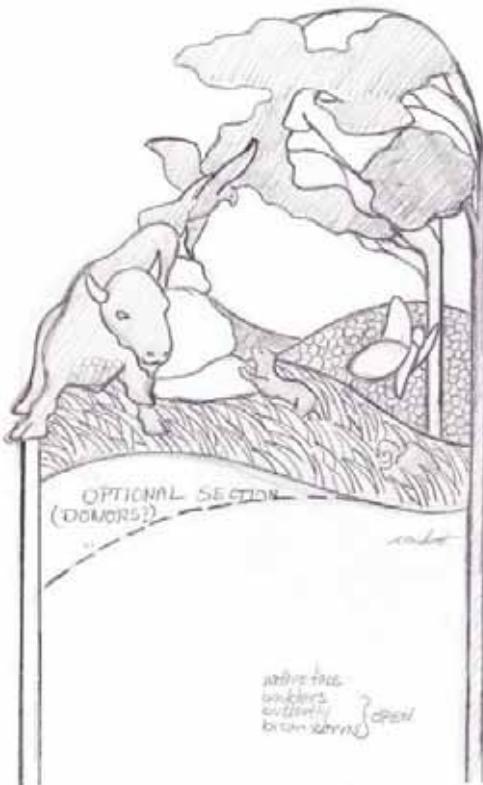
Centennial  
Cottonwoods



To celebrate one hundred years of learning, two commemorative trees were planted.

See you in the next 100 years.





*Students researched elements of the prairies and chose to represent:*

Native spirit, chinook winds, aspen tree, fescue grass, bison, rubbing stone, sulphur chrysalis butterfly, red tailed hawk and weasel.

# NEW GROUNDS, NEW OPPORTUNITIES

## Collaborative metal sculpture

with Geoff Sandhurst.  
Every student hammered  
a metal leaf.

[Click here to learn more about this project:](#)

<http://schools.cbe.ab.ca/b221/pdfs/natura1/Under the Prairie Sky-Sculpture.pdf>



# NEW GROUNDS, NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Geoff Sandhurst

<https://picasaweb.google.com/Sandhurstfamily/UnderThePrairieSkyProgressPublicAlbum#5653100202761326626>



# NEW GROUNDS, NEW OPPORTUNITIES

## Patience Garden

A small tree nursery developed to hold ten donated Larch saplings until large enough to transplant into our Shelterbelt Weather Station.



# NEW GROUNDS, NEW OPPORTUNITIES

## Butterfly Garden

Located in our east learning grounds, grade 1/2 classes, researched and designed an area to attract native butterflies.



# WHAT'S LEFT?

Maintenance

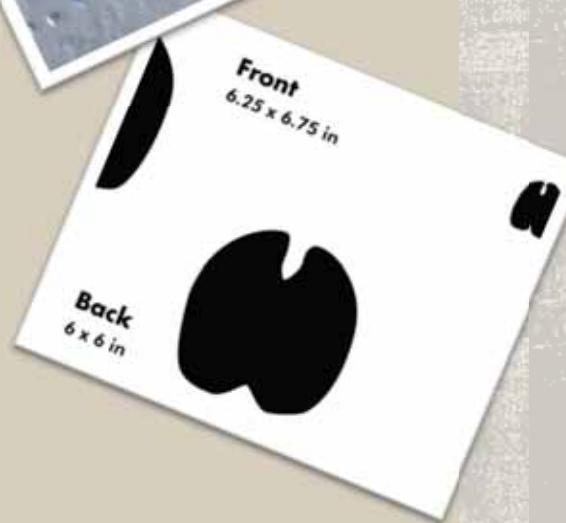
Weeding, composting and  
transplanting



# WHAT'S LEFT?

## Animal Tracks

Imagine animal tracks  
telling the story of our  
metal sculpture...



# WHAT'S NEXT?

Tipi

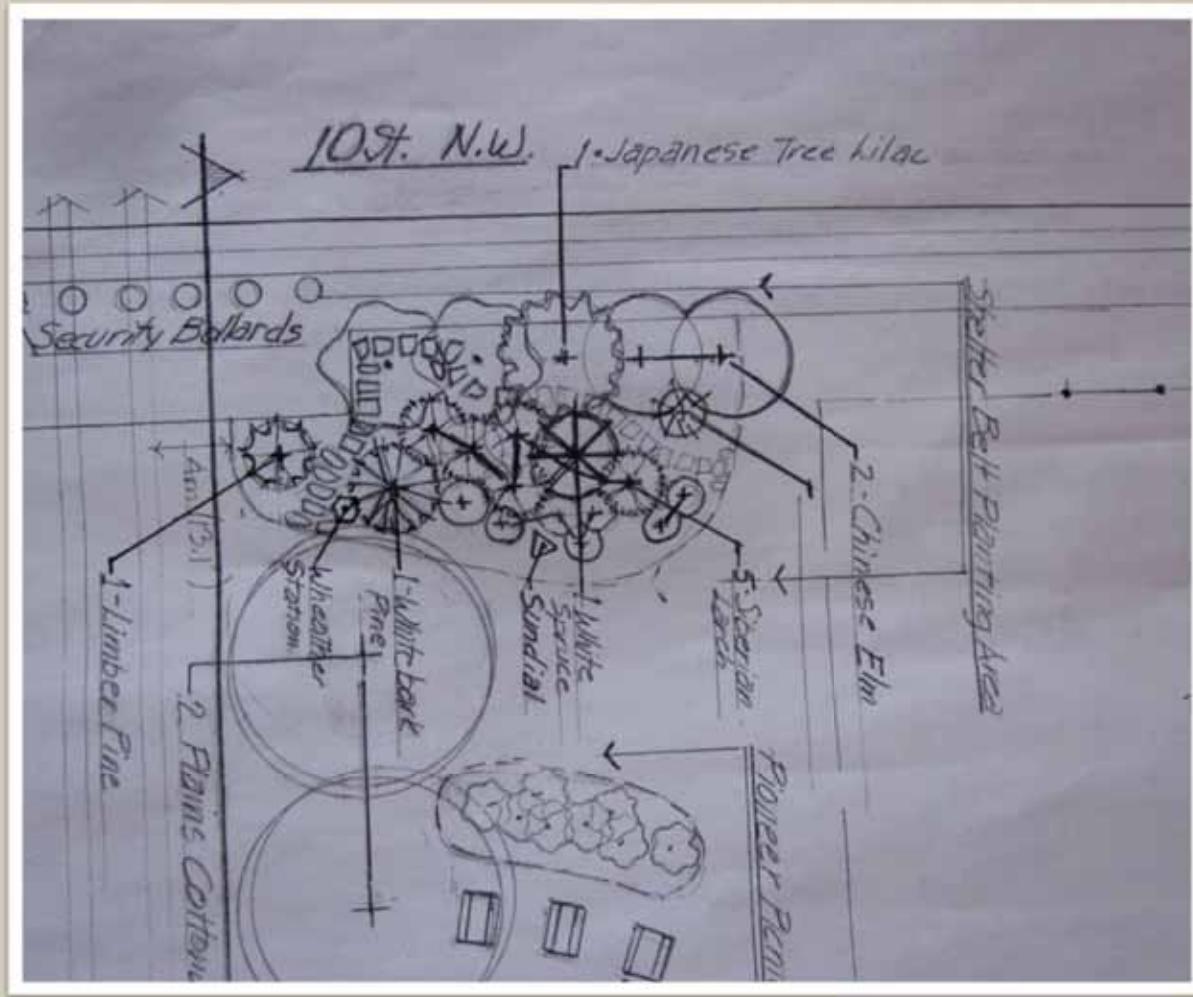
Imagine a tipi in our  
bison wallow area,  
telling the stories of  
our natives.



# WHAT'S NEXT?

## Shelterbelt and Weather Station

Imagine an area where students can study the weather and the impact on our environment.



# WHAT'S NEXT?

**Transplanting larch  
trees from Patience  
Garden to permanent  
location**

Imagine students  
planning natural areas  
and taking care of adding  
to their nature grounds.





## **PERMACULTURE IS...**

**working with  
nature in creating  
a sustainable  
natural  
ecosystem.**





# OUR FOOD FOREST

Permaculture is a design system for shelter, energy, waste, water and food production and provides concepts, tools, techniques and strategies that empower individuals to create human environments that are not only sustainable, but regenerative.



One Hundred Years of  
*Sustainable Living*  
Under the Prairie Sky



# LEARNING CONNECTIONS

## Creative Heritage Project

January to June 2014

Read more about this project...

<http://schools.cbe.ab.ca/b221/pdfs/100%20years/Visual%20Art%20Program%20description.pdf>

"Students will collaboratively and collectively design and compose the story of Alberta, its land and its people. By creating opportunity for students to ask questions, do action research, and study forms of art, students will engage in making decisions about how to use design and artful thinking to express their understanding of Alberta's Heritage in relation to the land."



# POSSIBILITIES

**Innovation and  
ideas for the  
future**

- Permaculture and food systems
- Chefs and nutritionists
- Active living –yoga, nature play, mental health
- Developing a King George community of volunteers – character development
- Historical significance – the future impact of our nature grounds
- Connection to the community – Mount Pleasant, Confederation Park (2017 opening of time capsule)
- Curriculum links





**WE BELIEVE  
IN OUR KIDS,  
OUR SCHOOL  
AND OUR  
COMMUNITY**

*Nurturing a  
sense of giving  
and belonging*

