John Pritchard School / Lord Kitchener School

1490 Henderson Highway

49.947079, -97.086130

Originally named Lord Kitchener School when it opened in 1915, the school was renamed in 1965 in tribute to the role played by settler John Pritchard on whose property the school was located.

In May 1915, the cornerstone of Lord Kitchener School #1 was laid. Students from the other three area schools, East Kildonan, Rosewell and Polson were also in attendance for this occasion.

Located at the corner of East Kildonan Road (now Henderson Highway) and Ferry Road (now Whellams Lane) on property originally owned by pioneer John Pritchard, this three-storey, red brick building contained five large classrooms and an auditorium. It also had two basements and three entrances.

Although the new structure was impressive, one of the School Trustees thought the building was too fancy and wasn't needed as there weren't enough students in the District who would attend. This later proved true as enrollment declined the following year and the school didn't even open. Students had to attend Lord Wolseley School further south. During that one year, the building was neglected, which resulted in a great deal of damage occurring when the pipes froze. Residents in the area demanded the school re-open the following year and the School Board agreed.

The school was named for Field Marshal Horatio Herbert Kitchener, 1st Earl Kitchener, (June 24, 1850 – June 5, 1916). Born in Ballylongford County Kerry, Ireland, Kitchener was a senior British Army officer and Colonial Administrator who won notoriety for his imperial campaigns, most especially his scorched earth policy against the Boers. He established concentration camps during the Second Boer War which resulted in the deaths of approximately 18,000 to 28,000 men, women and children, mainly from disease epidemics. He later played a central role in the early part of the First World War.



Lord Kitchener (1850-1916) – Source National Portrait Gallery London, England

Kitchener was credited in 1898 for winning the Battle of Omdurman and securing control of the Sudan, for which he was made Baron Kitchener of Khartoum. As Chief of Staff (1900–1902) in the Second Boer War, he played a key role in Lord Roberts' conquest of the Boer Republics. He then succeeded Roberts as Commander-in-Chief, by which time Boer forces had taken to guerrilla fighting and British forces imprisoned Boer civilians in internment camps. Kitchener's term as Commander-in-Chief (1902–1909) of the Army in India saw him quarrel with another eminent Proconsul, the Viceroy Lord Curzon, who eventually resigned. Kitchener then returned to Egypt as British Agent and Consul-General (*de facto* administrator).

In 1914, at the start of World War I, Kitchener became Secretary of State for War, and a Cabinet Minister. One of the few to foresee a long war, lasting for at least three years, and with the authority to act effectively on that perception, he organized the largest Volunteer Army that Britain had seen and oversaw a significant expansion of materials production to fight on the Western Front. Despite having warned of the difficulty of provisioning for a long war, he was blamed for the shortage of shells in the spring of 1915 (one of the events leading to the formation of a Coalition Government) and stripped of his control over munitions and strategy.

On June 5, 1916, Kitchener was making his way to Russia on *HMS Hampshire* to attend negotiations with Tsar Nicholas II when the ship struck a German mine 1.5 miles (2.4 km) west of Orkney, Scotland, and sank. Kitchener was among 737 people aboard who died.

Lord Kitchener School was built at an initial cost of $75,000 on the land purchased in 1912 from Herbert Whellams, a local Market Gardener. The first Caretaker, Mr. F. Nelson, originally lived in Room 8 on the second floor. Cooking was not allowed in the room so it had to be done downstairs in the staff room.

The elm trees planted in front of the school were donated in 1927 by Herbert Whellams.

The school opened on September 1, 1915, with one class of forty pupils in Grades 1 to 4, under the instruction of Miss Daisy Jackson who also served as Principal. Born in the Rural Municipality of South Dufferin, Manitoba (near Carman) on January 18, 1889, Miss Jackson grew up in the Winnipeg area, residing there her entire life. She retired as a teacher in 1928, having given up her Principal position two years earlier. She married and moved to the St. Vital area of Winnipeg. Miss Jackson died on March 19, 1973.

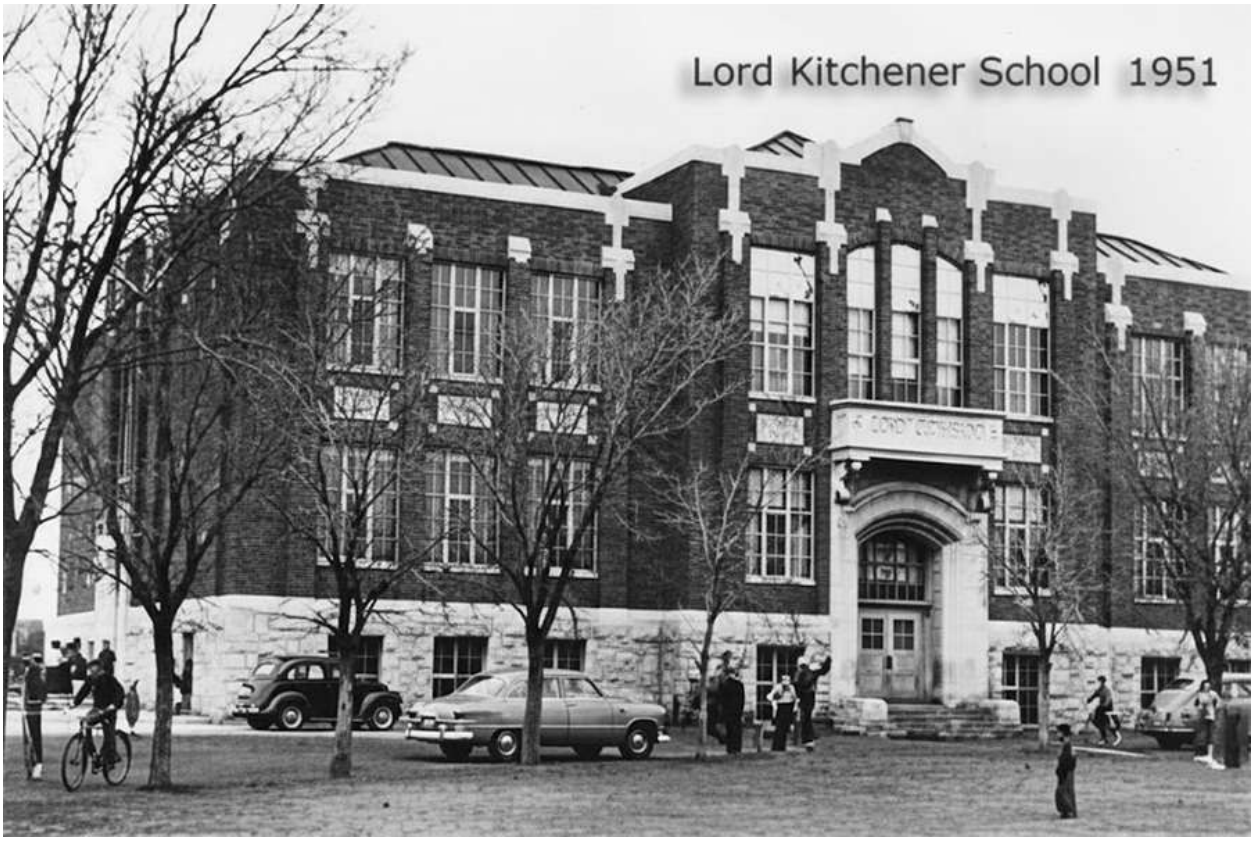
Mr. H. H. Hooper was appointed as Principal in 1926 at a salary of $1,300 per annum and held that position until he retired in 1956.

In 1925, a tornado blew off part of the roof of Lord Kitchener School but the damage was easily repaired. By 1928 classes were held for students in Grades 1 to 8 and enrollment was at 170.

In 1948, with 438 students attending the school which had been built to accommodate 369, overcrowding was a serious issue. The North Kildonan School District approved the addition of a three-room wing to the school.

Another misfortune occurred in 1949 when the boiler exploded, leaving a large hole in the ceiling of the furnace room. Also, that year, as a result of a dispute, the Municipality was divided into two School Districts: North Kildonan School District No. 2116, of which Lord Kitchener was a part of, and McIvor School District No. 2323.

A four-room addition to the south wing of the school was constructed by architects Prain and Ward (now MCM Architects) in 1952 at a cost of $55,000. Referred to as Lord Kitchener School #2, this was the new junior high school for students in Grades 7 to 9. The addition also included teachers' rooms, washrooms and a room for the oil heating unit. The first students were welcomed in January 1953.



Lord Kitchener School 1951 – Source RETSD John Pritchard School -About Us-History / digitally restored by Eric de Schepper 2026

A north wing was constructed in 1956, adding three more rooms to the building.

In the fall of 1965, while celebrating its 50th Anniversary, a decision was made to rename the school **John Pritchard School** to honour the pioneer on whose property the facility was built.

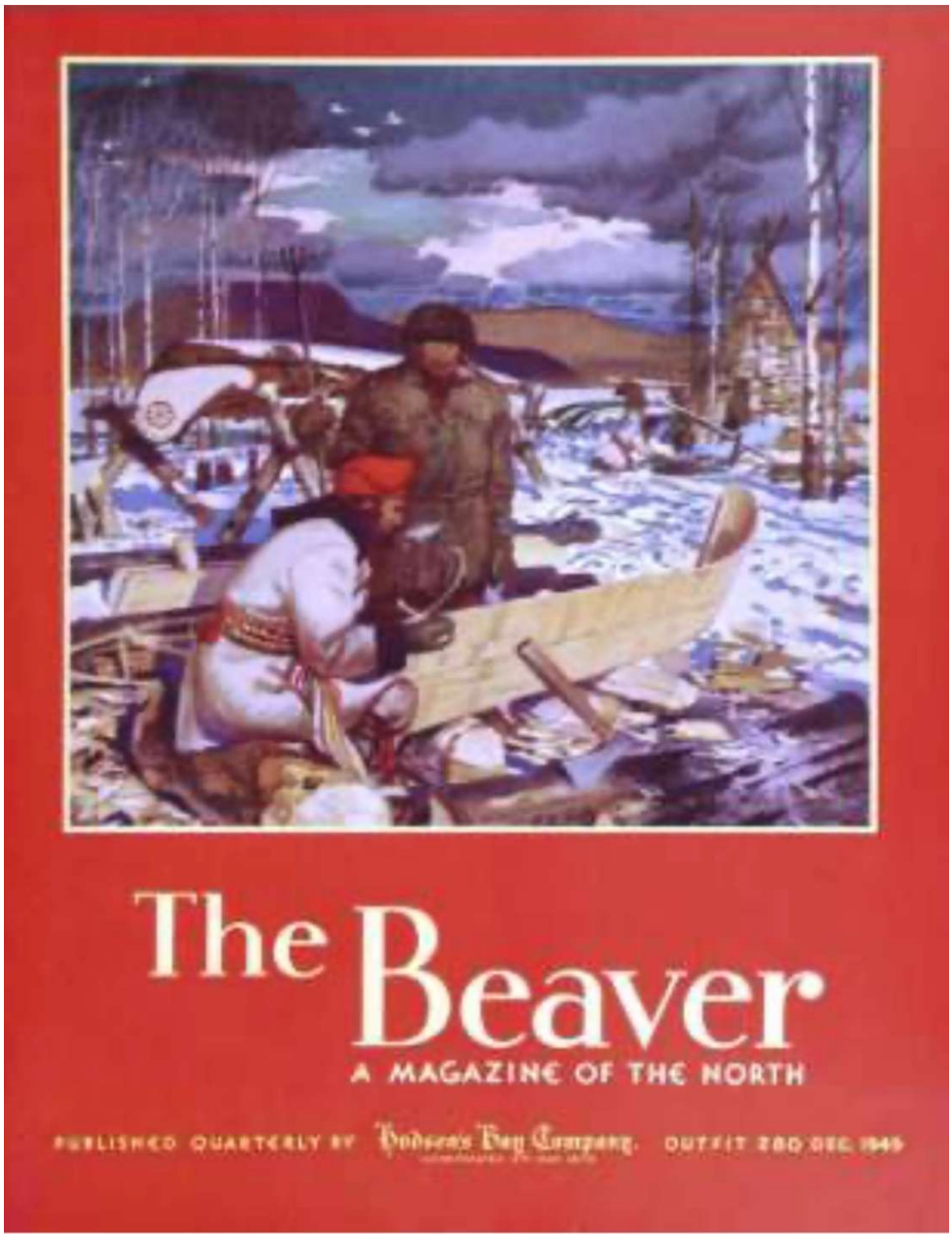


Lord Kitchener – John Pritchard School – Source Manitoba Legislative Library

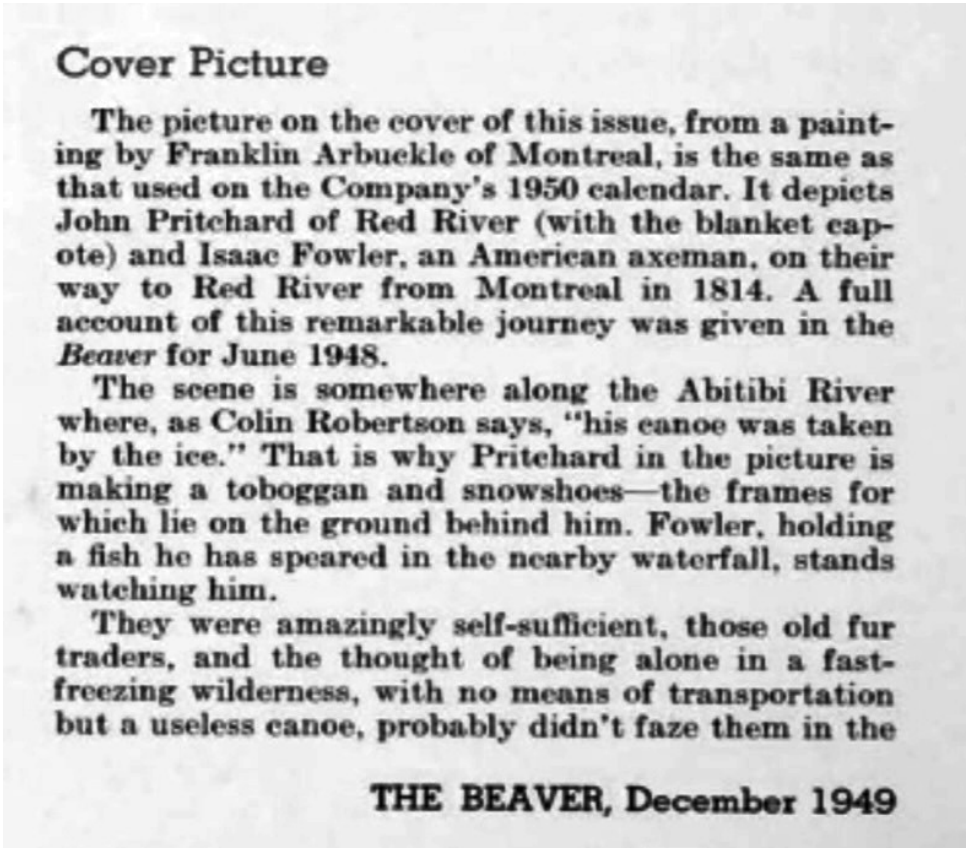
John Pritchard was born in Shropshire, England on January 1, 1777, the fifth of thirteen children born to Mary Harries and Samuel Pritchard. He came with his family to Canada in 1801, arriving in Montreal, Quebec. In 1802 he travelled to the Red River Colony before the arrival of the Selkirk Settlers. He was employed for five years as a clerk for Forsyth, Richardson and Company, a partner within the short-lived New North West Company (also known as the XY Company) who were involved in the fur trade. He was stationed near Lake Winnipeg in Manitoba until 1804. Following the union of the XY Company with the North West Company, Pritchard continued his service as a clerk on the Souris River. He was also stationed at various posts such as Nipigon, Souris River, Pine Fort and Rivere Qu'Appelle.

Pritchard had a country wife, Marie Sauvagesse, with whom he had two sons, William and John.

Pritchard served under Captain Miles Macdonell who was the leader of the Selkirk Settlers. In 1814 he was branded a coward for refusing to resist the use of force by Miles Macdonell, an event that led him to leave the North West Company and align himself with Lord Selkirk. Demonstrating his unwavering commitment to the Red River Settlement, he returned to the area during the winter of 1814-15. This shift in allegiance from the North West Company to Lord Selkirk reveals the intense rivalries within the fur trade.



John Pritchard kneeling – Source The Beaver Cover December 1949- Canadian History Archive



Cover Picture

The picture on the cover of this issue, from a painting by Franklin Arbuckle of Montreal, is the same as that used on the Company's 1950 calendar. It depicts John Pritchard of Red River (with the blanket capote) and Isaac Fowler, an American axeman, on their way to Red River from Montreal in 1814. A full account of this remarkable journey was given in the *Beaver* for June 1948.

The scene is somewhere along the Abitibi River where, as Colin Robertson says, "his canoe was taken by the ice." That is why Pritchard in the picture is making a toboggan and snowshoes—the frames for which lie on the ground behind him. Fowler, holding a fish he has speared in the nearby waterfall, stands watching him.

They were amazingly self-sufficient, those old fur traders, and the thought of being alone in a fast-freezing wilderness, with no means of transportation but a useless canoe, probably didn't faze them in the

THE BEAVER, December 1949

The Beaver December 1948 cover info – Source Canadian History Archive

On May 11, 1815, Pritchard married Catherine McGillvary McLean and they had ten children together.

The North West Company fought against the Metis in the Battle of Seven Oaks on June 19, 1816 and Pritchard was one of the few survivors.

Pritchard was one of the original founders of the Buffalo Wool Company. This company was formed to collect wool after the annual buffalo hunt. It would be carded, spun and woven into shawls to be marketed in England. Unfortunately, the cost of production was a lot more than what the shawls could be sold for, so the venture failed and the company folded.

Although the Red River Settlement existed under the control of the Hudson's Bay Company, they were unwilling to provide any education to the settlers. Pritchard saw a need for a school, so he established the first log cabin schoolhouse on his homestead, which was known as "the Elms". Pritchard taught Sunday school and day school to the children of the Hudson's Bay Company employees, accommodating both day students and boarders.

Pritchard was appointed a Special Constable by Governor Simpson in 1823 and served as a Councillor of Assiniboia from 1822 until 1848. Years later the Hudson's Bay Company granted Pritchard a life annuity for the services he performed in the interest of religion and education. When Pritchard was unable to continue teaching, his son Samuel had the school moved to Middlechurch on the west side of the Red River where it occupied two rented buildings.

Pritchard died on October 14, 1855. Archival holdings related to him can be found in the Manitoba Legislative Library.



John Pritchard Esquire buried in 1885 in St. John's Anglican Cemetery 135 Anderson Ave. Winnipeg, Manitoba – Source Donna Cudmore 2016



John Pritchard location is # 24 – Source map of cemetery St. Johns Cathedral website

The Winnipeg economy took off after the Second World War. The returning soldiers wanted to establish homes and families, and North Kildonan became an attractive suburbia. To accommodate the increase in population, three more rooms were added to the school. Rapid population growth in North Kildonan continued in the 1950s, necessitating two more additions to the school - a four-room structure known as Building #2 added in 1953, and another three rooms added to Building #2 in 1956.

A disagreement with the North Kildonan School District Board resulted in its dissolution in 1954, and school affairs were conducted for the next two years by an Official Trustee appointed by the Department of Education.

In 1967 a large addition was built onto the school, which included a two-storey wing of classrooms (now known as Manitoba Hall), a large gymnasium/auditorium (Manitoba Gym), and an audio-visual room (now the office). About this time the School Board officially changed the name of the school to John Pritchard School. Some residents agreed with this move, after all, the school was put up on land that had originally belonged to John Pritchard, the man who started the education system in Kildonan. Others felt that Lord Kitchener School had established its own history through its war heroes and veterans and the old name should have remained for second generation students.

By the late 1970s upgrades were badly needed to many areas of the building in order to improve its structural safety. An addition was opened in February 1977 that added two science rooms and a lab, industrial arts shop, music room and multi-purpose area, along with a room for the Custodian. Renovations were also undertaken to remodel the stairs and hallways, paint the classrooms and renovate the staff room. The total cost of these changes was $554,595 with Mr. J. MacDonald as architect and B.F. Klassen Construction Ltd. as the builders.

A further addition was needed in 1985, this time a primary wing named Jackson Hall, in honor of Daisy Jackson, the first Principal. This ended the need for classrooms in Building #2 and it became a storage area for the Maintenance Department.

Mr. Garry Bowles was appointed as Principal in 1989. Under his leadership and initiative, the school ushered in the era of technology. The computer lab called the "Apple Orchard" was established in the Manitoba wing, along with a lab in the library and a CAD lab in the industrial arts shop.

The Senior I Composite Wall and Honour Walls in both the Jackson and Manitoba wings were also new additions to pay tribute to the students' accomplishments, both past and present. A new display sign was installed in the front yard to announce what events were taking place within the school.

Picnic tables were installed in the front yard and display cabinets were added to the interior. Also, a new gymnasium floor made of hardwood was installed in the Manitoba Gym at a cost of $60.000. A weight room was added and the entire gymnasium was upgraded to include a scoreboard clock and net. These additions and improvements brought John Pritchard School into the twenty-first century.
The carpet floor in Jackson Gym was replaced with a modern composite floor in 2002.

After several years of serving as a storage area, Building #2 was torn down in October of 2003. The extra space was used to extend the playground and the parking lot. The Parent Advisory Council worked hard to replace the old, obsolete play structure with a modern and colourful one.



John Pritchard School – Source Eric de Schepper 2022

Due to restructuring of schools in the River East-Transcona School Division, John Pritchard School became a Kindergarten to Grade 5 facility in the fall of 2014.

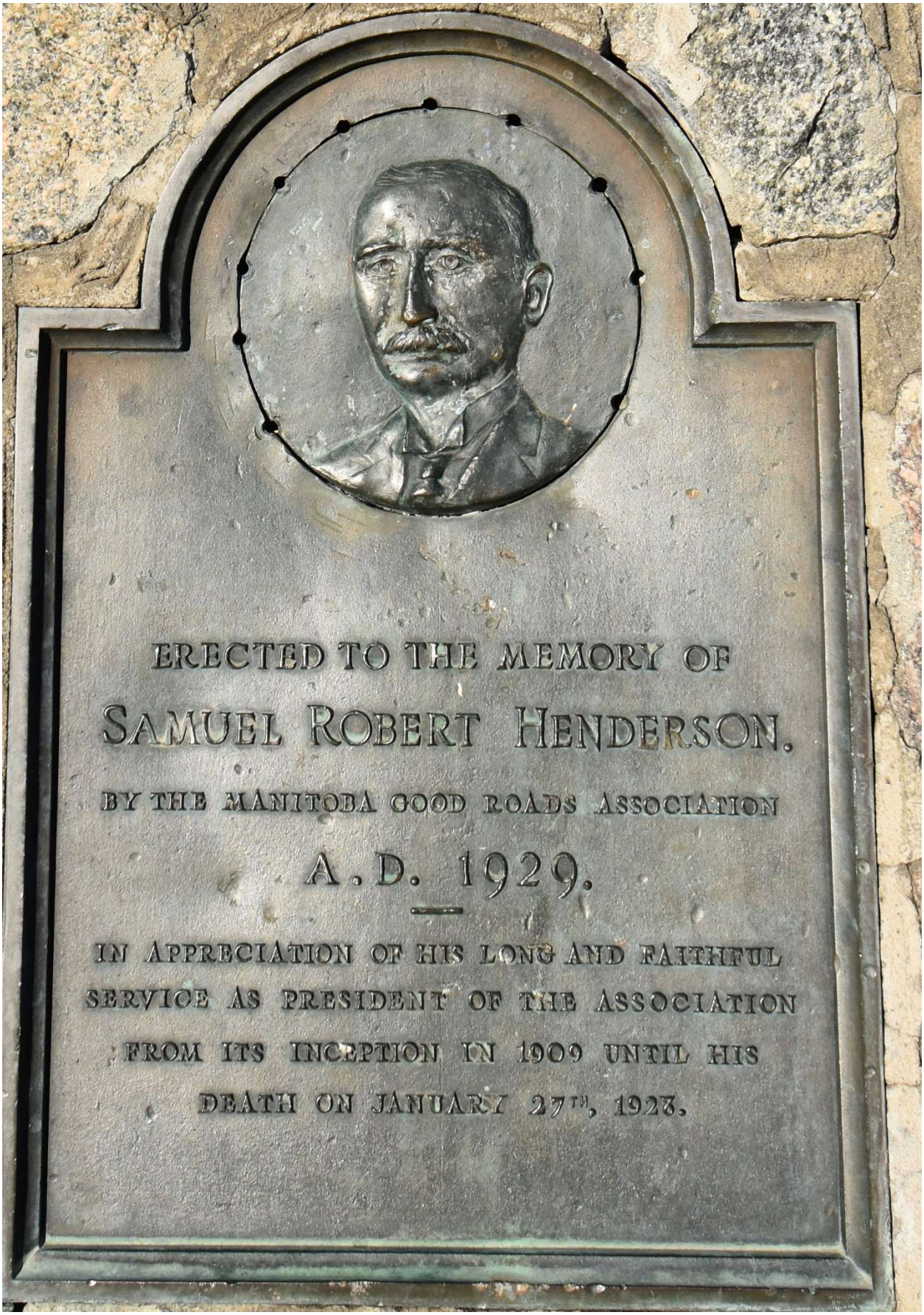
John Pritchard School held its 100th Anniversary in October of 2015.



John Pritchard School – Source Eric de Schepper 2022



Cairn of S.R. Henderson on the property of John Pritchard School – Source Eric de Schepper 2022



Plaque on the cairn – Source Eric de Schepper 2025

Sources:

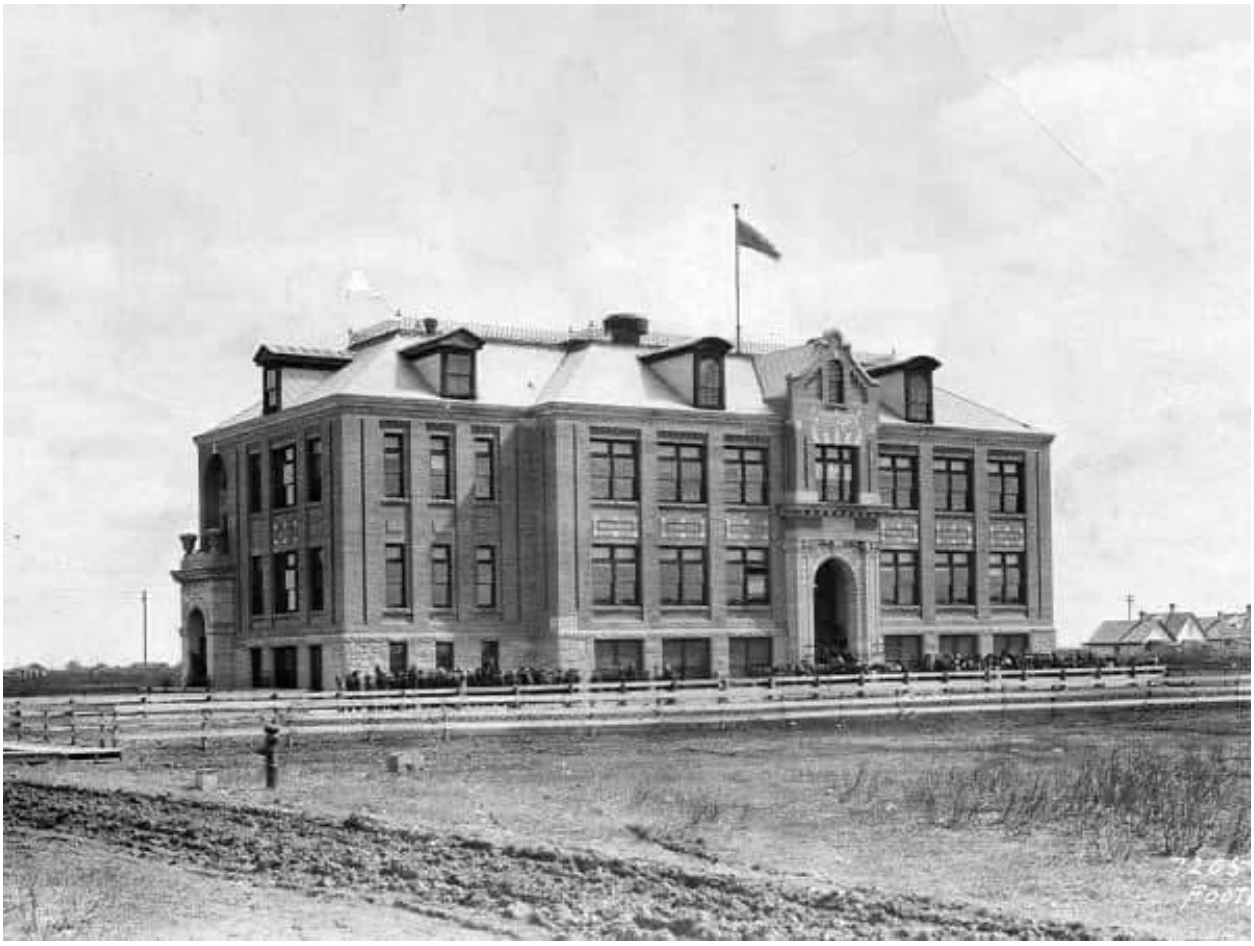
The Herald
The Winnipeg Tribune
The Winnipeg Free Press
The Manitoba Legislative Library
The Hudson's Bay Company Archives
Lord Kitchener School Class Photo Cover – 1962/63
Fiftieth Anniversary of the Mennonite Settlement in North Kildonan by Karl Fast (1978)

ÉCOLE GEORGE V SCHOOL

265 Grey Street

49.907786, -97.091057

Located at the corner of Chalmers Avenue and Grey Street, George V School was built in 1916, with an enrollment of 235 students. As World War I was taking place, there was initial reluctance to build the school, even though the northeast portion of Elmwood was growing and a new facility was necessary.



George V School – Source Winnipeg School Division 1915 digitally restored by Eric de Schepper 2026

Named after King George V, who ascended to the throne in 1910 and reigned for 26 years, the three-level brick building had seven classrooms. The architect was J.B. Mitchell and the Contractor was Worswick Bros. The cost of the building was $50,000.



A rare beardless young King George V circa 1885 – Source Wordpress.com



King George V (1865-1936) – Source Royal Collection 1911

Annie E. Templeman was the first Principal. Born at Bexley, England on January 31, 1876, she was married with one daughter. She moved to Winnipeg around 1907 where she taught and was Principal of the Carter Avenue School (1909-1916) at 985 Talbot Avenue before coming to George V School in 1916. She was a member of the Professional Women's Club and the Women's Musical Club. She died on November 5, 1937.

In 1948 an addition to the school was built, with Fraser Macdonald as the Contractor. Seven more classrooms and an auditorium were added at a cost of $143,000.



Ecole George V School – Source Eric de Schepper 2025

In 1951 the school expanded further with two additions to the original building. Building No. 2 was then built to accommodate the growing population of more than 700 students. Peter Leitch Construction was the Contractor and the single-storey cottage-style school measured 162 feet by 60 feet. The cost of adding seven more classrooms and a gymnasium was $137,000.



Ecole George V School with the addition – Source Eric de Schepper 2025

The original building was temporarily closed in 1978 due to structural problems, and students attended classes in Building No. 2 or were bused to Sir Sam Steele School on Chester Street while renovations took place. The Winnipeg School Division wanted to demolish Building No. 1 due to the costly repairs required, but opposition from parents convinced the School Division to make the repairs to the school and keep it open.

In 1987 a French Immersion Bilingual program was added and the school became known as École George V School. In 1991 a linkway was constructed that joined both structures.

Students and staff are always looking for ways to connect to the community, and in 2013 five classes participated in the Winnipeg Music Festival. The upper grades performed in the Orff Ensemble category and achieved gold for their performance. The school's group was the largest in attendance and performed "Thus Spake Zarathustra" (Op.30) by Richard Strauss on the soprano recorder, as well as the anti-bullying song "Way Down South" by Carole King, using a variety of percussion instruments, voice and movement.



Ecole George V – Source Eric de Schepper 2025

Today the school provides both English and French Immersion programs from Nursery to Grade 6, with a population of 300 students. The school also houses a divisional ABC program and a Special Education Centre.



The stone sign – Source Eric de Schepper 2025

Sources:

Winnipeg School Division: Celebrating 150 years: 1871 – 2021
The Herald