Names chosen for four new public elementary schools

Following a vote at its meeting tonight, the Saskatoon Board of Education has chosen the names for the four new public elementary schools in Saskatoon. The names are:

- Sylvia Fedoruk School – new school in Evergreen
- Ernest Lindner School – new school in Hampton Village
- Colette Bourgonje School – new school in Rosewood
- Chief Whitecap School – new school in Stonebridge

“Our board of trustees has chosen to honour four admirable individuals who have made incredible contributions to our community. The legacy of each of these four individuals represents the priorities of our school division, not to mention that they set an inspiring example for the students who will learn and grow in these new schools,” said Board Chair Ray Morrison.

Public consultation with the new school communities resulted in many names being suggested, along with written and oral submissions from the public. Following research by division administration, board members deliberated and chose the four names.

“Sylvia Fedoruk was not only a pioneering female physicist, but also a selfless community advocate and successful athlete. Ernest Lindner is the father of arts education in Saskatoon Public Schools and a nationally recognized artist. Colette Bourgonje is the epitome of perseverance, having won 10 Paralympic medals and completing much of her training while a teacher with Saskatoon Public Schools. Chief Whitecap was one of the founders of Saskatoon and now, along with John Lake School, both founders are rightfully honoured,” said Morrison.

“As advocates for public education being open to all, we feel these four names represent the diversity, strength and richness we value so much in our students.”

Short biographies for each of the four individuals are included with this release.

Saskatoon Public Schools is the largest school division in the province. It operates 44 elementary schools, 11 secondary schools, two associate schools and one alliance school. It serves more than 24,000 students and employs approximately 2,400 professional and support staff. Learn more at www.saskatoonpublicschools.ca

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Sylvia Fedoruk

Sylvia Olga Fedoruk had innumerable achievements in science, education, athletics and public service both provincially, nationally and internationally.

Born in Canora, Sask. in 1927, Fedoruk attended the University of Saskatchewan, graduating in 1949 with a Bachelor of Arts, and went on to attain a master’s degree in physics. She had a distinguished career in medical physics, specializing in radiation therapy for cancer patients. Fedoruk served as chief medical physicist for the Saskatoon Cancer Clinic and director of physics services for the Saskatchewan Cancer Foundation. She was also a professor of oncology and associate member in physics at the U of S.

Fedoruk participated in the development of the world’s first Cobalt 60 unit and one of the first nuclear medicine scanning machines. The device and techniques she helped develop are still used to treat cancers around the world. She was the first female member of the Atomic Energy Control Board of Canada and served as a consultant in nuclear medicine to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Her vast public service includes a term as chancellor of the U of S. She was appointed as Saskatchewan's first female lieutenant-governor in 1988, serving until 1994. She was also a nationally recognized athlete, competing in track and field, golf, softball and curling.

Fedoruk was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada and received the Saskatchewan Order of Merit. The naming of the Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation on the U of S campus recognizes her contributions to science. Sylvia Fedoruk died Sept. 26, 2012, at the age of 86.

Ernest Lindner

Ernest Friedrich Lindner, a nationally respected landscape artist, made a substantial contribution to the education of many students as a long-time teacher with Saskatoon Public Schools.

Born in 1897, Lindner immigrated to Canada from Austria in 1926. Lindner began teaching art at Saskatoon Technical Collegiate in 1931. In the mid-1930s, he was named head of the high school’s art department. His teaching and leadership influenced hundreds of students during a career that ran until 1962, when he left teaching to devote his time fully to his art.

He was a nationally recognized landscape artist and his work was exhibited across Canada on many occasions during his life. To this day, his work can be found in the National Gallery of Canada. Several of Lindner’s paintings are on display at the Saskatoon Board of Education office and in many schools.

A leader in the local art community, Lindner led the revitalization of the Saskatoon Art Association in 1932 and actively championed the creation of the Federation of Canadian Artists in 1941. Lindner is recognized, alongside Augustus Kenderdine, as influencing the University of Saskatchewan’s Emma Lake Artist Workshops that attracted artists from Saskatchewan, Canada and the United States. Lindner was a frequent participant during the 1950s and 1960s.

Among his many honours, he received an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the U of S in 1972, was elected a member of the Royal Canadian Academy of the Arts in 1977, a Member of the Order of Canada in 1979, and was awarded the Saskatchewan Arts Board’s Lifetime Award for Excellence in the Arts in 1988. Ernest Lindner died in Saskatoon on Nov. 4, 1988, at the age of 91.
**Colette Bourgonje**

Colette Bourgonje is a 10-time Paralympic athlete and a former teacher with Saskatoon Public Schools. Bourgonje, who is Métis, won 10 Paralympic medals during her competitive career. She won six medals in Para-Nordic skiing, including a silver and bronze at the 2010 Vancouver Paralympics when she was the first Canadian to win a Paralympic medal on home soil. Bourgonje competed as a wheelchair racer during three Summer Paralympics, winning two bronze medals at both the 1992 Barcelona Paralympics and the 1996 Atlanta Paralympics.

In the spring of 1980, Bourgonje was 18 and ready to graduate from Grade 12 when she was injured in a vehicle accident near her hometown of Porcupine Plain. That fall, she became the first physically disabled student to enroll in the University of Saskatchewan’s College of Physical Education. Four years later, she was the first disabled student to graduate from the college and the first female student in a wheelchair to graduate from a physical education program at any Canadian university. She followed up with a Bachelor of Education degree from the U of S.

From 1989 to 2010, Bourgonje worked for Saskatoon Public Schools as an elementary physical education and classroom teacher on a half-time basis, while continuing her training and competition schedule. Bourgonje worked at Silverwood Heights, Prince Philip, Brunskill, Lakeview and Fairhaven schools before turning her attention to training full-time.

Bourgonje was inducted into the Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame in 1998 and the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame in 2010. She lives and substitute teaches part-time in the Prince Albert area. She coaches cross-country skiing to physically challenged individuals and is an advocate for being active and pursuing sport.

**Chief Whitecap**

Chief Whitecap (Wa Pa Ha Ska) is recognized as a co-founder of the city of Saskatoon and played a vital role in building the important relationship between the Dakota people and the European settlers.

Chief Whitecap led the Dakota people to the Saskatchewan area in the early 1860s to escape political turmoil in Minnesota. However, the Dakota people had occupied areas of Canada for centuries. By the end of the 1860s, they were living in a territory that reached south and west to the Cypress Hills and north to the North Saskatchewan River.

In 1879, Chief Whitecap and his people settled on a newly created reservation located approximately 26 kilometres south of present-day Saskatoon, where the Whitecap Dakota people established friendships and alliances with the region’s Métis and settler communities. In 1882, Chief Whitecap advised John Lake on the best location along the South Saskatchewan River for the establishment of Lake’s temperance colony that would grow to become Saskatoon.

During the Riel Resistance of 1885, Chief Whitecap ensured that the young community of Saskatoon was protected. He, along with members of his community, travelled with the Métis to Batoche in order to provide guidance. Although he was arrested for treason, Chief Whitecap was acquitted based in part by settler testimony that he had always been honest and loyal to the Crown.

Chief Whitecap, who died in 1889, created a bond between the people of the Dakota First Nation and neighbouring communities.