



PRINCE OF WALES FAIRBRIDGE FARM SCHOOL

TIME LINE

<u>Year</u>	<u>Event</u>
1885	Kingsley Fairbridge born in Grahamstown, South Africa.
1909	Formation of the Child Emigration Society, Oxford, England.
1912	Kingsley and Ruby Fairbridge arrive in Pinjarra, Western Australia and start the first Fairbridge Farm School on 65 hectares located south of Pinjarra.
1913	January, the first 13 boys arrive at Fairbridge Farm School
1924	Kingsley Fairbridge dies – midnight Saturday 19 July
1934	Plans are underway to establish the second Fairbridge Farm School on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada
1935	The 416 hectare Pemberlea Farm near Cowichan Station, V.I. is purchased on January 1 st and to be named the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School. The first four cottages, Edith Atwood, Silver Jubilee, Queen Mary and Lady Huston as well as the main kitchen, and cook's cottage are constructed and on September 25 th the first party of 27 boys and 14 girls arrive at the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School.
1936	Second party of 16 boys and 13 girls arrive on June 11 th . Cottages: Liverpool, St. George's, Richards, Lord Riddell; Kenilworth Dining Hall, Day School and Howard Mitchell Auditorium, Farm manager's Home constructed. Governor General Lord & Lady Tweedsmuir visit Fairbridge on August 23 rd . Third party of 14 boy and 14 girls arrive on October 22 nd .
1937	Cottages: Strathcona, Lumley, Douglas, Pennant; Principal's House, Office, Cow Barn, Piggery constructed. Forth party of 19 boys and 9 girls arrive on September 22 nd and the fifth party arrives on November 10 th —9 boys and 5 girls.
1938	The Fintry Fairbridge Training School (near Vernon, B.C.) was presented to the Fairbridge Society by the owner, Captain J.C. Dun-Waters in August. Cottages: Dulverton, MacMillan, Hill, Molyneux; Second Wing of the Day School; Manual Training Building constructed. The sixth party arrives on August 23 rd —18 boys and 10 girls and one month later on September 21 st the seventh party of 11 boys and 5 girls arrive. Major J.H. Feilden, Blackburn, Lancashire sent cheque to Principal H.T. Logan in September for \$20,000 for the construction of a school chapel. The eighth party of 13 boys arrive at Fairbridge on November 24 th .

- 1939 The first edition of the *Fairbridge Gazette* is distributed in February.
Cottages: Laybourne, Davidson; and the laundry are constructed.
Fairbridge Chapel under construction and the foundation stone set on September 22nd.
From 1939 to 1945 many Old Fairbridgians and staff join the Canadian armed forces.
- 1940 First service held in the new Fairbridge Chapel on March 3rd.
Fairbridge Chapel dedicated on April 20th.
On May 8th the ninth party of 24 boys and 6 girls arrive and in on July 11th 3 boys representing the tenth party arrive
Hospital, and Arthur Hendry Horse Barn are constructed.
- 1941 Greenhouse constructed.
The eleventh party of six boys arrives from England and then on November 8th the twelfth and last party of 10 boys and 6 girls arrive until after the end of the Second World War.
- 1944 1945 and 1946 the Fairbridge Junior Girls basketball teams win the B.C. championship title. (all three years!)
- 1945 Child migration recommenced with the arrival of the first party on July 29th. This is the thirteenth party of 17 boys and 10 girls.
Cow Barn and Sheep Shed destroyed by fire on August 16th.
- 1946 Cow Barn rebuilt.
The fourteenth party of 9 boys arrived on November 29th
On December 9th a small party of 6 more boys arrive—the fifteenth party.
- 1947 The sixteenth party arrives on May 31st consisting of 26 boys and only 2 girls!
John Howard Mitchell Memorial Library opens on Sunday, October 12th. New stores building set up between the cook's cottage and Dulverton cottage.
- 1948 The last party-number seventeen-of three boys and three girls arrive at Fairbridge on May 25th. In total 97 girls and 232 boys (329 children) came and made Fairbridge their home.
Col. John Stoughton Dennis Jr. Memorial Window installed in the narthex of Chapel and a special service is held on November 4th.
- 1949** W.J. Garnett retires in January and A.H. Plows takes over as Principal of the school.
Farm bunkhouse burns to the ground on July 1st.
Announcement made that no additional children will be coming from Britain and the school will be closed.
Canadian Pacific Railway proposes to bring U.K. farm families to Fairbridge
All Fairbridge livestock and farm machinery auctioned at the "Complete Dispersal Sale on December 6th.
- 1950 Messrs. McBryde and Stevenson rent Fairbridge Farm and bring about 70 cattle from Sardis.
First 3 Scottish families arrive on April 22nd.
Forty-seven boys and girls were placed with suitable families in the area, farm leased and some vacant cottages occupied by families from British Isles.
- 1951 The names of the last 11 boys at Fairbridge are chalked on a basement wall in the Chapel of December 7th, 4:30 p.m.
- 1952** Final group of boys placed with individual families in the area and the school closes.

- 1973 The Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) is informed that a Victoria development firm intends to purchase the Fairbridge village site from the Fairbridge Farm School Society Inc. At the time there were a total of 27 buildings of which 20 were occupied.
- 1975 The Fairbridge Society Inc. sells the property to Bellamy Property on January 1st. Bellamy proposed to subdivide the 75 acres into 120 lots and refurbish some buildings.
- 1976 Fairbridge Drake Society Board provides funding to erect a memorial cairn at Fairbridge beside Koksilah Road.
The J.S. Dennis Memorial window and five other stained glass windows removed from the Chapel for safe keeping in May. The Chapel organ is also removed and taken to Christ Church Cathedral in Victoria.
- 1977 The Cowichan Valley Regional District acquires ½ acre of land, the Fairbridge Chapel and Cowichan Public School as well as another seven acres (site of the Day School and play fields) in August.
- 1978 Fairbridge village site becomes a bare land strata with 39 individual lots (Strata Plan 693 registered on May 2nd. All of the cottages, office, and Principal's home are retained and renovated while the Day School, Kenilworth Dining Hall and Hospital were demolished.
- 1980** The Fairbridge Chapel and adjacent one-room Cowichan Public School (also used as the herdsman's residence) become a registered heritage site on May 27th.
- 1981 The first Fairbridge Strata Council formed on April 21st.
- 1987 Fairbridge Chapel Heritage Society is incorporated on March 2nd.
CVRD closes Chapel to avoid liability as building is deemed to be unsafe for use.
Fairbridge Canada Association holds reunion at village but can't access the Chapel
- 1988 Heritage site is transferred from the CVRD to the Fairbridge Chapel Heritage Society in October and restoration projects begin.
- 2001 Stained glass windows are found at Christ Church Cathedral in January, returned to the Fairbridge Chapel where they were repaired and re-installed. The Col. J.S. Dennis Memorial Window was re-dedicated at a special service held on Sunday, September 9th.
- 2007 The Memorial Tablet to Norman Alsop and Thomas Kemp is returned from Christ Church Cathedral to the Chapel and a re-dedication ceremony is held on Sunday, September 23rd.
- 2009 An old 1940 Victoria Daily Times newspaper article mentions a second memorial window is in the Fairbridge Chapel. Few, if any knew of its existence. This is the centre window above the altar and is in memory of John Taylor who died in 1937 at age 12. The Fairbridge Canada Association Sunday service held at the Chapel on September 13th makes recognition of this memorial window and unveils an information plaque.
- 2012 A new floor was installed in the schoolhouse.
- 2015 The Fairbridge Canada Association held their 80th Anniversary Reunion in September.
- 2016 The bell in the clock tower was turned 180° during the September afternoon tea held for the Fairbridge Chapel Association members by the Fairbridge Strata residents. This is a requirement for old clock bells and should be done approximately every 150 years. The Fairbridge Chapel clock bell was cast in 1876.

- 2017 A number of improvements were made at the historic site including repairing the cement steps and landings, new eave troughs installed on both buildings, painting all trim including around the windows and top of the clock tower as well as the removal of some large Douglas fir trees.
- 2018 The lawns of the historic site were de-thatched and new grass seed applied throughout and the irrigation system repaired.
- The Fairbridge Chapel Society marks its 30th Anniversary of maintaining the Fairbridge Chapel Heritage site.

File: Time Line, FFS October 2006
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