

WELLS-BARKERVILLE
Save Our Schools



a Pictorial Summary of
the Wells-Barkerville-Bowron
Save Our School campaign
2002





Some of the many Wells and Cariboo residents who packed the May 29 public meeting at Correlieu School.



Launch of hunger strike, July 2002. Quesnel Mayor Steve Wallace at right.

Hunger strikers' calendar and people fasting in solidarity

Tuesday, July 16, 2002: Claire Kujundzic, Wells; Lynda Strutt, Wells.

Wednesday, July 17: Claire Kujundzic, Wells; Lynda Strutt, Wells; Susan Musgrave.

Thursday, July 18: Claire Kujundzic, Wells; Susan Musgrave; Jordana Feist, Wells.

Friday, July 19: Claire Kujundzic, Wells; Susan Musgrave; Judith Desbrisay, Taharti, south of Nazko.

Saturday, July 20: Claire Kujundzic, Wells; Tory Bowman, Wells.

Sunday, July 21: Claire Kujundzic, Wells; Kate Enewold, Thrums/Castelgar; Liz Ball, Castelgar; Jo Herejk, Squamish.

Monday, July 22: Claire Kujundzic, Wells; Kate Enewold, Thrums/Castelgar; John Yates, Wells; Judy Campbell, Councillor, District of Wells; Jo Herejk, Squamish; Jenny Wai Ching Kwan, MLA, Vancouver-Mt. Pleasant.

Tuesday, July 23: Claire Kujundzic, Wells; Kara Haack, Barkerville; Maureen Bayless and Dawn Steele of Vancouver Save Our Schools; MaryAnn Murray, Vancouver; Jo Herejk, Squamish.

Wednesday, July 24: Claire Kujundzic, Wells; Susann Gooding, Wells; Mayor David Hendrixson, Wells; Derek Evans, Director of Naramata Centre; Jo Herejk, Squamish.

Thursday, July 25: Claire Kujundzic, Wells (challenges Premier on CBC Almanac to come to Wells); Susann Gooding, Wells; Mayor David Hendrixson, Wells; Gary Champagne, Wells; Linda Champagne, Wells; Maureen Bayless of Vancouver Save Our Schools; Jo Herejk, Squamish.

Friday, July 26: Claire Kujundzic, Wells (admitted to Emergency, George Baker Hospital, Quesnel; later discharged); Susann Gooding, Wells; Mayor David Hendrixson, Wells; Dorothea Funk, Wells; Maureen Bayless of Vancouver Save Our Schools; Margaret Holler, Langley; Debbie Ralph, Langley; Shannon Bell-Wyminga, Nazko; Dr. Adrienne Ross, Vancouver; Cathryn Wellner, Wells/Horsefly.

Saturday, July 27: Claire Kujundzic, Wells; Susann Gooding, Wells; Mayor David Hendrixson, Wells; Marylee Banyard, Nelson, BC; Murray Syrnyk, Langley, BC; Mary O'Leary, Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA.

Sunday, July 28: Mayor David Hendrixson, Wells; Jocelyn Banyard, Vancouver; Antonia Banyard, Vancouver; Clinton Swanson, Vancouver; Steve Swanson, Vancouver; Mary O'Leary, Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA.

Monday, July 29: Mayor David Hendrixson, Wells; Kate Enewold, Thrums/Castelgar; Heather Spears, Wells/Denmark.

Tuesday, July 30: Mayor David Hendrixson, Wells; Dave Jorgenson, President, Wells & District Chamber of Commerce; Dawn Steele, Vancouver Save Our Schools.

Wednesday, July 31: Mayor David Hendrixson, Wells; Dave Jorgenson, President, Wells & District Chamber of Commerce; Judith Desbrisay, Taharti, south of Nazko.

Thursday, August 1: Mayor David Hendrixson, Wells; Maureen Bayless, Vancouver Save Our Schools; Arifin Graham and Wiluya Graham, Victoria.

Friday, August 2: Mayor David Hendrixson, Wells; Christine Pilgrim, Keremeos; Pat Greenwell, Alberta.

Saturday, August 3: Mayor David Hendrixson, Wells.

Sunday, August 4: Mayor David Hendrixson, Wells; Kate

Enewold, Thrums/Castelgar.

Monday, August 5: Mayor David Hendrixson, Wells.

Tuesday, August 6: Mayor David Hendrixson, Wells.

Wednesday, August 7: Mayor David Hendrixson, Wells; Judith Desbrisay, Taharti, south of Nazko.

Thursday, August 8: Mayor David Hendrixson, Wells; Gay Houston, Hills, BC.

Friday, August 9: Mayor David Hendrixson, Wells; Gay Houston, Hills, BC.

Saturday, August 10: Mayor David Hendrixson, Wells.

Sunday, August 11: Mayor David Hendrixson, Wells.

Monday, August 12: Mayor David Hendrixson, Wells; Kate Enewold, Thrums/Castelgar; Jo Herejk, Squamish; Jim Sinclair, President, BC Federation of Labour, Vancouver; Mayor Steve Wallace, City of Quesnel; Quesnel City Councillor, Mike Doyle.

Tuesday, August 13: Mayor David Hendrixson, Wells; Jo Herejk, Squamish; Jim Sinclair, President, BC Federation of Labour, Vancouver; Mayor Steve Wallace, City of Quesnel; Quesnel City Councillor, Mike Doyle.

Wednesday, August 14: Mayor David Hendrixson, Wells; Jo Herejk, Squamish; Jim Sinclair, President, BC Federation of Labour, Vancouver; Mayor Steve Wallace, City of Quesnel; Quesnel City Councillor, Mike Doyle.

Thursday, August 15: Mayor David Hendrixson, Wells; Jo Herejk, Squamish; Jim Sinclair, President, BC Federation of Labour, Vancouver; Mayor Steve Wallace, City of Quesnel; Quesnel City Councillor, Mike Doyle.

Friday, August 16: Mayor David Hendrixson, Wells; Jim Sinclair, President, BC Federation of Labour, Vancouver; Neil Worboys, President, BC Teachers' Federation; Nancy Knickerbocker, media relations officer, BC Teachers' Federation; Claire Kujundzic, Vice-President, Wells & District Chamber of Commerce, Wells; Mayor Steve Wallace, City of Quesnel; Quesnel City Councillor, Mike Doyle.

Saturday, August 17: Mayor David Hendrixson, Wells.

Sunday, August 18: Mayor David Hendrixson, Wells.

Monday, August 19: Mayor David Hendrixson, Wells.

Tuesday, August 20: Mayor David Hendrixson, Wells; Judith Desbrisay, Taharti, south of Nazko.

Wednesday, August 21: Mayor David Hendrixson, Wells; Edna Park, Quesnel; Sharlene Logan, Quesnel; Bev Romeril, Quesnel; Linda Doerksen, Quesnel; Adele McIntyre, Quesnel.

Thursday, August 22: Mayor David Hendrixson, Wells.

Friday, August 23: Mayor David Hendrixson, Wells.

Saturday, August 24: Mayor David Hendrixson, Wells.

Sunday, August 25: Mayor David Hendrixson, Wells. (blood pressure drop, increase in pulse rate and leg cramps force Dave to end his fast)

Monday, August 26: Tuesday, August 27: Maureen Bayless, Vancouver Save Our Schools; Luis Alberto D'Elia, Edmonton, Alberta.

Wednesday, August 28: Dawn Steele, Vancouver Save Our Schools; Claire Kujundzic, Wells.

Total person-days on hunger strike: 134



Above: BC Federation of Labour President Jim Sinclair meets with Wells residents and joins hunger strike; Right: with Wells parent Carrie Johnston in front of the historic Williams Creek Schoolhouse in Barkerville.



Claire and Susan Musgrave on hunger strike, July 19



MLA Jenny Kwan joins hunger strike for a day and meets with Wells residents and children.



BC Teachers' Federation President Neil Worboys with Claire Kujundzic and Wells Mayor Dave Hendrixon; joins hunger strike.



cardboard schoolbus with crying children “driven” by John Yates in Quesnel’s Billy Barker parade.



Top right: Quesnel School Trustees meeting August 28, 2002: Dorothea Funk, Judy Campbell and Dave Jorgenson listen while other Wells residents and media look on.

Centre right: Quesnel Mayor Steve Wallace addresses Trustees; to his left are Claire Kujundzic, Trustee Karen Andrews who stood in solidarity with our delegation, and Dave Jorgenson.

Bottom right: Karen Andrews rises to move a motion of non-confidence in Chair Louise Scott.



Children and parents on strike at Wells-Barkerville Elementary School on the first day of "school", Sept. 3, 2002



*Top left: children lined up for "school".
Top right: P.E. class: school "Olympics", including weightlifting \$6 billion and "jumping through hoops".
Centre left: "can-can-can you save our school..."
Centre right: John Yates lays down the law as the ghost of Judge Begbie in the silent movie play "The Pirates of Pens & Pencils" performed by the children while BCTV camera rolls.
Bottom: Children, parents and supporters gather outside of the Wells-Barkerville School at 8:25 a.m. and sing "We Shall Not Be Closed".*

Parents must pay to keep elementary school open

By Wendy McLellan
Education Reporter

QUESNEL — With only days before the new school year begins, Quesnel school trustees have agreed to consider reopening Wells-Barkerville Elementary — for a price.

For the past two months, trustees have refused to discuss reopening the school despite pleas from Wells residents who believe that losing their only school will destroy the community.

But at the school board meeting Wednesday night, chairwoman Louise Scott said Wells school could be reopened if the community agrees to pay part of the cost.

The board is willing to pay the same amount to educate children at the Wells school as it would to teach them at the elementary school 80 kilometres away. The community would have to pay the difference.

"Basically what we're saying is if you can come up with the additional money, the board will consider possibly reopening the school," Scott said yesterday.

She said the community will have to come up with about \$100,000 to cover the difference, but Wells residents believe the cost difference will be much lower with their proposals and they are to meet with board officials today to try to reach an agreement.

It is the first ray of hope in months for Wells residents. The community has been trying since last May to convince the school district not to close their school. Until Wednesday, trustees had rejected every proposal.

"I think we can do this," said Wells parent Dave Jorgenson. "We're ready to talk. But we need to have our kids in the school. We're not going to send our kids to school on the bus."

Parents have insisted they won't put their kids — some as young as six — on a bus and send them



Natasha Lepine, 6, and her brother Bryan, 9, have ordered books for home schooling but they may not have to open the boxes after all. School trustees might reopen their school — but only for a price.

to a school an hour away. Many have already registered their children for home schooling rather than leave the community.

The district has proposed that the 18 Wells students start school next week at Barlow Creek Elementary, 80 kilometres away, while residents develop an acceptable plan to pay for their local

school. Parents have refused.

Wells acting Mayor Judy Campbell said the community may have to give the district \$10,000 to cover the additional cost of educating the children at the town's school.

"I think we can deal with it through community fundraising," Campbell said. "But you might ask why we'd have to do that."



Artist Claire Kujundzic started a hunger strike in an effort to keep the local elementary school open.



Reba Escott, 9, presented flowers to school board chairwoman Louise Scott prior to a presentation by parents.

Karen Andrews, a Quesnel school trustee who voted against closing the school, said the district should have developed a proposal months ago rather than taking a six-week summer holiday.

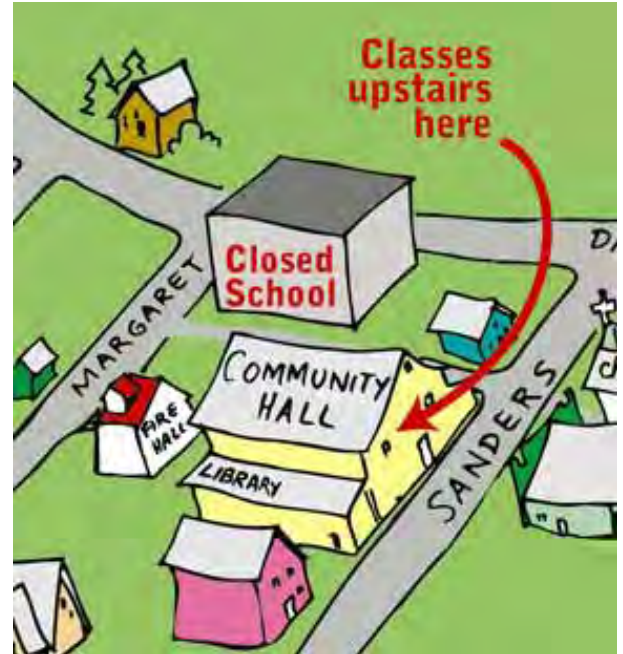
"It's a week before school starts and we're here?" she said. "What are we doing to these kids?"

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Photos by Colin Price — The Province



Sept. 17, 2002: Classes resume temporarily in the Wells Community Hall; SD28's Gary Graff speaks to students in while parents look on.



The legendary Fran Dowie and Tommy Hawkin perform a benefit for the children of Wells, October 2002.

Back to school! ribbon cutting at Wells-Barkerville School, April 28, 2003



*Top left: Mayor Dave Hendrixson speaks before ribbon-cutting;
Top right: Trustee Rose Danby;
Above: hunger striker Claire Kujundzic and Chamber of Commerce
President Dave Jorgenson.*



PAC VP Carrie Johnston



*Cariboo hunger strikers' dinner Nov. 14, 2003 in Quesnel:
Edna Park, Claire Kujundzic, Wells Mayor Dave Hendrixson, Quesnel
Councillor Mike Doyle, Quesnel Mayor Steve Wallace, Neva Hohn, John Yates.*