



Christopher Cleave Wright

b.1911

Chris was born in Kamloops, the son of Frank T. Wright, a rancher, and Anges M Cleave, a registered nurse. Sporadically he attended six different elementary schools, but most of his early education was by correspondence and home schooling. He attended Kamloops High School.

After graduation in 1929 Chris worked briefly in the Bank of Montreal and then at Tranquille Sanatorium for the tubercular, where he learned the “people skills” that served him well in future years.

Chris attended Victoria Normal School in 1932, then taught for three years in the one room Darlington School between Barriere and Little Fort. For the following six years, he was principal of Chase Superior School, teaching grades 8–12. During these first ten years of teaching, Chris completed in BA, first class in English and Latin, at UBC, graduating in 1944.

From 1943 to 1954, Chris taught at Kamloops Junior Senior High School. In 1954 he married Eve Bradley. That year he became principal of Armstrong Junior Senior High, in a brand new building that had just replaced an out-dated and inadequate three-room secondary school. These were five very happy and successful years.

In 1959 Chris became a District Superintendent of Schools, stationed at Smithers, but serving the Smithers, Burns Lake and Vanderhoof School Districts’ “a great learning experience.” In 1962 he transferred to Creston as Superintendent of two Districts, Kootenay Lake and Creston. During his five year tenure, he helped the two districts go through an amalgamation process and expand boundaries eastward to include Yahk.

In 1967, Chris successfully applied for a transfer to Salmon Arm. “We felt that this was coming home, built our house and planned to stay.” Chris’ first task was to complete the amalgamation of the Salmon Arm and Enderby School Districts to form Shuswap School District #89.

After six and-one half mostly happy and productive years, retirement came in 1974. Since then Chris has had time for his own interests: gardening, travel, St. John’s Church, and the New Democratic Party.

Chris’ wife and very dear friend, Eve, died in 1999; in 2000 Chris moved to Kelowna, but still very actively supports the Shuswap and the Shuswap Foundation. Chris and Eve were Foundation Founders in 1996.