

FAIRBRIDGE FARM SCHOOL BURSARY

Conditions

- ◆ To be eligible, students must be enrolled in a university, college, or vocational school.
- ◆ Financial need will be the main factor for consideration.

Please submit the following:

- ◆ Applicants must either attend an information presentation in the CSS library OR write a one page essay on some aspect of British Child Migration as it pertains to the Cowichan Valley Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School.
- ◆ Submit two current reference letters
- ◆ Provide a letter of introduction that explains a little about yourself and your field of studies.

ONE - BURSARY - \$500

**Please apply on SPECIAL APPLICATION FORM
Include FINANCIAL NEED FORM**

Contact Person

Pat Skidmore
5444 Dunster Rd
Nanaimo, BC V9T 4M8
patskidmore@shaw.ca

778-888-6614

The Fairbridge Alumni Bursary Society Committee would like to know a little more about you. On a separate piece of paper, please provide us with a letter of introduction explaining a little about yourself, and your field of studies.

If you are awarded a bursary, we would like your permission to publish your name in the Fairbridge Canada Association's Gazette?

Yes _____ No _____

I certify the information given is true:

Signature: _____

Date: _____



Fairbridge children getting ready for work at the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School Circa 1940s.

Visit the Fairbridge Canada Association website:
<http://www.fairbridgecanada.com/>

TO ENSURE YOUR BURSARY APPLICATION IS COMPLETE, USE THE FOLLOWING CHECKLIST:

- 1) Have you completely filled out page 3 and 4 of this form?
- 2) Did you attend the talk given on the *Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School*, at CSS or did you include a 500 word essay on some aspect of British Child Migration?
- 3) Have you included **2 current reference letters** with your application, or have you instructed your references to mail or email their letter of reference to:
Counselling Secretary
Cowichan Secondary School
csscounsellingsecretary@sd79.bc.ca
- 4) Have you provided a letter of introduction explaining a little about yourself, your needs and what your field of studies will be?
- 5) Send in proof of your tuition payment by the deadline: October 15th.

- ◆ Application received after this cannot be considered.
- ◆ Incomplete application packages will be given less priority than complete applications and may also result in disqualification.

HAND YOUR BURSARY APPLICATION AT THE OFFICE BEFORE THE SCHOOL'S DEADLINE

WITH ATTENTION TO:

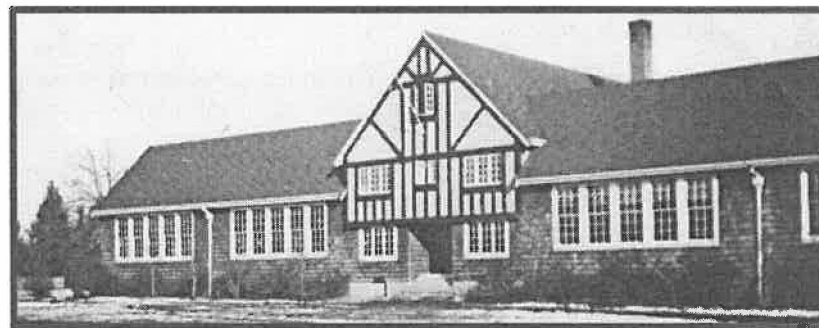
**Counselling Secretary
Cowichan Senior Secondary School**

**Fairbridge Alumni Bursary Society
Founding Directors**

Philip Field, John Cowans, Keith Hamblett, John Hardy, Thomas Speed, Richard Speed and Eunice Nickolls.
Registered Charity number 0884593-21
Incorporated October 17, 1989



Fairbridge Farm School Bursary



The Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm Day School **Circa 1940**

Photo courtesy of Fred Harding, a former British Child Migrant sent to the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School in the Cowichan Valley in November 1938.

Fairbridge Alumni Bursary Society

Who are the Fairbridge Alumni?

A unique historical event occurred near Cowichan Station, just south of Duncan, on September 25, 1935. It was the arrival of forty-one British Child Migrants at the *Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School*. This was the first of seventeen parties to arrive at the farm school from England. By the time the Fairbridge Farm School closed in 1951, a total of 329 children (97 girls and 232 boys) had spent their childhood at this farm school. Over 95% of the children were not orphans.

However, this Farm School was just one aspect of British Child Migration to Canada. The first child migrants arrived in 1833 and the final group of six children arrived at this farm school in 1948, giving Canada a 115-year history of accepting child migrants for their labour. Over 120,000 children were sent to Canada during this time.

The Fairbridge Alumni Bursary Society was set up to provide assistance to those in need who seek to improve themselves by furthering their education and as a legacy to the 329 children who attended the *Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School*.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR A BURSARY?

All graduating Cowichan Secondary School students are welcome to apply.

You must plan to be enrolled in a vocational or training school, college, or university after graduating high school.

HOW TO APPLY:

Fill out pages 3 and 4 of the application form and:

Attend the information session on the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School and British Child Migration to Canada on:

In the School Library

OR

Include a 500 word essay on some aspect of British Child Migration as it pertained to the *Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School*.

The Counselling Secretary, has **Information Sheets**, which gives a choice of essay topics, plus a list of websites and books you can look at for information on *the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School*.

THE BURSARY AMOUNT

There will be one \$500.00 Fairbridge Farm School Bursary

WHEN TO APPLY

The application deadline is determined by Cowichan

Secondary

See page 4 for the CHECKLIST

****IMPORTANT NOTICE**** **THE BURSARY SCHEDULE**

Once you have been accepted at your choice of schools AND have paid your tuition for the term, please send your **PROOF OF TUITION PAYMENT** by the deadline of October 15th.

Patricia Skidmore
Fairbridge Alumni Bursary Society
5444 Dunster Road
Nanaimo BC V9T 4M8
patskidmore@shaw.ca

NOTE: Students awarded a Fairbridge Farm School Bursary who wish to defer their studies for one year can discuss their schedule with Patricia Skidmore.

APPLICATION FORM

Fairbridge Farm School Bursary

Last Name:

First Name:

Permanent Address:

Telephone:

Email:

If you are related to a Former Fairbridgian, someone who attended the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School, please include their name and your relationship to them.

Please tell us the Post Secondary school or institution that you will be attending:

The Program you are enrolled in:

To ensure your application package is complete—you will need to have two professional people provide **current reference letters** for you.

Please provide your references' names, addresses and phone numbers below.

1)

2)

Your two references can give you their letters to include with your application package, or they can send them directly to the school:

Attention:
Counselling Secretary
Cowichan Secondary School
csscounsellingsecretary@sd79.bc.ca

tel: 250-746-4435 ext 212
fax: 250-746-1561

Ensure that your references are aware of the school's deadline:



Fairbridge Farm School Bursary

Fairbridge Alumni Bursary Society

Information Sheet



*Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm Day School late 1940s
Photo courtesy of Ken Armstrong (...arrived at the Farm School in 1946)*

A unique historical event occurred in British Columbia near Cowichan Station, Vancouver Island on September 25th, 1935. It was the arrival of 41 British children, the first of seventeen groups sent from the United Kingdom to the *Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School*. By the time the Fairbridge Farm School closed its doors in 1951, a total of 329 children — 97 girls and 232 boys — had started a different life in Canada.

Over 95% of the children sent to the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School were not orphans. Some of the children were just 4 years old when they arrived, but most of the children were between the ages of 8 and 12 years old. The farm school closed in the early 1950's and the minor children still at the farm school were sent to foster homes.

For some it was seen as the very best of luck, but for others, being removed from their country and their families and all that was familiar to them, at such a young age, left lifelong scars.

It is important to Directors of the Fairbridge Alumni Bursary Society that the students applying for the **Fairbridge Farm School Bursary** have some idea of the background and history of the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School. As part of the application process for the \$500.00 Fairbridge Farm School Bursary, we are asking that students, choose ONE of the following:

- 1) **Attend the information session on the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School and British Child Migration to Canada at Cowichan Secondary School.**
OR
- 2) **Write a 500-word essay on some aspect of British Child Migration with the focus on the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School. (<http://fairbridgecanada.com/>)**

Remnants of the former 'Fairbridge Village' can still be seen along the horseshoe shaped Fairbridge Drive, about 5 miles south of Duncan. A total of 18 cottages were built, to house up to 12-15 children in each. Many of the Fairbridge cottages remain, and today they are used as single-family dwellings.

The Fairbridge Chapel is also located along Fairbridge Drive. The Fairbridge Chapel Heritage Society was established in October 1987. This Society looks after the ongoing restoration, preservation,



maintenance and administration of this important historic site. (See the website at <http://fairbridgechapel.com/>)

Here are five essay topics to choose from.

A list of websites and books are included below.

1. Imagine that you are a young child between the ages of 8 and 12. You have been removed from your family and placed in an institution to await immigration to a new country. You don't know why this has happened or even where you will be going, but you suspect that you will not see your family ever again. Then - for some - siblings were further split up and members of the same family were sent to the Fairbridge Farm Schools in two different countries - Canada and Australia. How do you think this would make you feel? (Note: 329 British Child Migrants were sent to the Cowichan Station Farm School between 1935 and 1948, but over 120,000 British Child Migrants were shipped to Canada between 1833 and 1948.)
2. Write a brief history of the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School. You can find some information at the website (<http://fairbridgecanada.com/>) and more information can be found on Google.
3. Write a brief history of the Fairbridge Chapel. (<http://fairbridgechapel.com/> for information and contact numbers.)
4. Visit the Cowichan Valley Museum and Archives in Duncan - find out when they are open to the public. They have a new display on the *Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School*. Do a photo essay on what you find. (Contact the museum at: cvmuseum.archives@shaw.ca)
5. If you have your own topic on British Child Migration that you would like to research, please contact Pat Skidmore: patskidmore@shaw.ca to discuss your topic.

Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School and British Child Migration

Information on the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School and on British Child Migration can be found from the following:

Local Archives:

The Cowichan Valley Museum and Archives holds some of the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School photographs and memorabilia and their new display gives an overview of the farm school.
Contact email: cvmuseum.archives@shaw.ca

Or visit the Museum and Archives at:

130 Canada Avenue

Duncan, BC

<http://www.cowichanvalleymuseum.bc.ca/archives/index.html> Tel: 250-746-6612



Websites:

1. Fairbridge Canada Association <http://www.fairbridgecanada.com>
2. Fairbridge Chapel <http://fairbridgechapel.com/>
3. Home Children Canada <https://www.britishhomechildren.com/>
4. Middlemore Atlantic Society <http://www.middlemoreatlanticsociety.com/>
5. Pier 21 <http://www.pier21.ca/>
6. The British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa: <http://www.bifhsgo.ca/>
7. History of Fairbridge Fintry <http://www.fintry.ca/history/fairbridge.php>
8. Child Migrants Trust <http://www.childmigrantstrust.com/>
9. Home Children <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/home-children/index-e.html>
10. Young Migrants to Canada <http://retirees.uwaterloo.ca/~marj/genealogy/homeadd.html>
11. Patricia Skidmore <http://patriciaskidmore.com/>

Books:

Many of the books listed below are available from the Vancouver Island Regional Library while others are available on Amazon.

- 1) Bagnell, Kenneth. *The Little Immigrants: The Orphans Who Came to Canada*. Toronto: The Dundurn Group, 2001.
- 2) Corbett, Gail H. *Barnardo Children in Canada*. Woodview, Ontario: Homestead Studios, 1981.
- 3) Humphreys, Margaret. *Empty Cradles*, London: Doubleday, 1994. (Also titled *Oranges and Sunshine*. The DVD is available at the library.)
- 4) Isherwood, Tom. *The Best I Remember - A Cruel British Tragedy*. Library and Archives Canada, May 22, 2021. (Former Fairbridgian arrived in 1947.)
- 5) Joyce, Arthur. *Laying the Children's Ghosts to Rest. Canada's Home Children in the West*. Regina: Hagios Press, 2014.
- 6) Kohli, Marjorie. *The Golden Bridge. Young Immigrants to Canada, 1933–1938*. Toronto: Natural Heritage Books, 2003.
- 7) Mackay, Roddy. *Abandoned Children of Britain 1850-1950: A Forgotten Child at Fairbridge Farm School*. Independently published (Dec 28, 2019) (Former Fairbridgian – arrived in 1941.)
- 8) Skidmore, Patricia. *Marjorie Too Afraid To Cry: A Home Child Story*. Toronto: Dundurn Publishing, 2013. (NOTE: Marjorie was sent to the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School in 1937. She turned 11 on the journey.)
- 9) Skidmore, Patricia. *Marjorie: Her War Years. A British Home Child in Canada*. Toronto: Dundurn Publishing, 2018.
- 10) Toms, Evelyn Donnelly. *Childhood Interrupted. A Child Migrant's Journey*. Independently published (April 29, 2021) (Former Fairbridgian – arrived in 1945)
- 11) Young, Beryl. *Charlie: A Home Child's Life in Canada*. Toronto: Key Porter Books, 2009

Please note – this is by no means meant to be a complete list of websites and books. Further exploration can be done by searching the following: British Child Migration, Fairbridge Farm School, Kingsley Fairbridge, the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School, or Home Children.

British child migrants were sent to the West Indies, America, South Africa, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Zimbabwe (former Rhodesia).

2010: February 24, a Formal Apology from Britain's Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, to all British Child Migrants sent to the colonies over this 350-year period. Brown stated that it was the "British government's fault for failing in the first duty of a nation, which is to protect its children."

2010: February: Canadian Immigration Minister, Kenney: "There's no need for Canada to apologize for abuse and exploitation suffered by thousands of poor children shipped here from Britain..." (<http://www.cbc.ca/news/world/story/2010/02/24/britain-home-children-apology.html>)

2017: February: In a motion unanimously passed by members of the House of Commons, Bloc Québécois MP Luc Thériault prevailed on the House to recognize the injustice, abuse and suffering endured by the British Home Children as well as the contributions of these children and their descendants within Canada.

2017: On February 27, the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, based in England, began its public hearings into the abuses so many children endured after being deported to the colonies.

2017: July: Nigel Haynes said that when he was director of the Fairbridge charity from 1993 until 2008 he had been too busy with the charity's work to research the archives, where there was ample evidence of child sexual abuse.

2018: February 7: House of Commons motion M-133, passed in Parliament declaring September 28 as **National British Home Child Day**.

2018: March 1: the Independent Inquiry report was published, giving evidence that the Fairbridge Society in England knew of the sexual abuse claims from child migrants in both Canada and Australia back as early as the 1930s. The Panel recommended that HMG establish a Redress Scheme for surviving former child migrants, providing for an equal award to every applicant. This was on the basis that all the children were exposed to the risk of sexual abuse.

2019: January 31: As a result of the findings of the Independent Inquiry the British Government announced that each eligible former child migrant was to receive a payment of GBP £20,000. The catch – they had to be alive on March 1, 2018.

"Too Little Too Late" was the response from many.

2021: June 8: CBC has identified several people known to have discriminatory or racist views honoured by UBC. Pressure mounts for a review of some of the degrees. Former Fairbridge principal, H. T. Logan's 1965 honorary degree from UBC is on the list for possible review.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/ubc-honorary-degree-revocation-1.6056161>



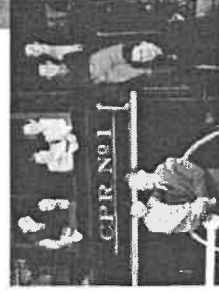
1935, September, the first group of children to be sent to the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School.

Several of the children were just 4, 5, and 6 years old.



1937, September 22: the fourth group arrived in Vancouver.

Photograph by a Vancouver Sun Newspaper Reporter



1948: May - the final 6 children arrived at the Farm School.



Aerial view of the Farm School - circa late 1930s.

Pamphlet compiled by Pat Skidmore, updated November 2022. patiskidmore@shaw.ca

A Brief Timeline of British Child Migration



Children at the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School circa 1940s.

British Child Migration has a 350-year history.

The Beginning: In 1618, King James I ordered a group of unemployed young people to be sent to the American colonies.

1619: The Virginia Company took one hundred children from the city of London, England to Jamestown, Virginia to supply labour to the plantation owners. Some of these child migrants were as young as ten-years-old. They were seen as a burden to the taxpayers.

1620: January, opposition to child migration voiced, stating that the first group was sent illegally.

1620: January 31, the Privy Council authorized child migration. It was no longer illegal.

1622: The Council for New England also asked for children to be sent to them. And so the shipping of 'unwanted' children to the colonies had begun. This practice carried on until 1974.

1833: The Children's Friend Society sent approximately 230 British children to Upper Canada between 1833-1836. This society was accused of kidnapping, however, by this time kidnapping of Great Britain's youth appears to have become commonplace.

1869: Maria Rye was in the forefront of this wave of British child migration to Canada. Rye escorted her first group of girls in October of 1869.

1870: May, Annie Macpherson took 100 boys to Canada.

1875: February, the British government sent Andrew Doyle to Canada to report on the child migration program. His report was unfavourable: "Some of the places indeed, are worse than a Board of Guardians would consent to place a child in England." (For more see Patricia Skidmore, *Marjorie Her War Years*, Dundurn, 2018, p 23-24.)

1875: July 5, an Order in Council was passed denying the accuracy of Doyle's Report. Child migration continued.

1882: Dr. Barnardo sent children under the Annie Macpherson's scheme. Then on August 10, 1882, Barnardo accompanied his first group to Canada.

1924: A British parliamentary delegation under Margaret Bondfield, was sent to Canada to report on the welfare of the British child migrants.

The provincial child welfare associations opposed the practice almost without exception as professional childcare became more sophisticated.

1925: The Bondfield Report found child migration was liable to abuse for the younger children. Britain withdrew its support. The Canadian government put forward an Order in Council, with a 3-year ban on unaccompanied children under 14 years of age from entering Canada.

1926: As many as 4,000 children still sailed to Canada, but the number declined by the 1930s.

1928: The ban on British Child Migration to Canada was made permanent. The Immigration Department of the Federal Government encouraged no publicity on children still being brought into Canada.

1934: On June 14, the Prince of Wales (later Edward VIII) launched an appeal to raise £100,000 to establish more schools in the British Empire on model of the Fairbridge Farm School established in 1912 near Pinjarra in Western Australia.

1934: The *Prince of Wales* donated £1,000 towards the Fairbridge Farm Schools.

1935: September, the Child Emigration Society, later known as the Fairbridge Society, opened the *Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School* near Duncan on

Vancouver Island, BC. The ruling of no unaccompanied child migrants under the age of 14, passed in council in 1925, was disregarded. Canadian Immigration officials based in London vetted the children first. They rejected 75% of the first 175 children put forth. Forty-one children arrived on September 25.

1944: Isobel Harvey, Superintendent of Child Welfare. "Report on study made of Fairbridge Farm School during the month of August 1944." Harvey's Report listed the shortcomings of the farm school: "...one might imagine they were residents of an orphanage in the last century."

1948: May: The last group of six child migrants arrived at the *Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School* on Vancouver Island, BC.

Between 1935–1948: A total of 329 children were sent to the *Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School* on Vancouver Island, BC. The average age of the children sent to the Fairbridge Farm School was 10 years, although some were as young as 4 years old.

More than 95% of the children sent to the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School were not orphans.

Between 1833 and 1948, it is estimated that over 120,000 children were sent to Canada.

Library and Archives Canada is compiling a list of the British child migrants, taken from ship lists that date back to 1865.

www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/home-children/index-e.html.

1956: Ross Report: The report blacklisted several institutions that housed British child migrants in Australia, including both the Fairbridge Farm Schools. The blacklists for the two Fairbridge Farm Schools were quickly lifted, and they remained open. Children were sent to and housed in these farm schools, known to be unsafe, for a further 25-30 years.

1970s: British Child Migration continued to Australia until the early 1970s. Two Fairbridge Farm Schools remained opened into the 1980s.

I have compiled a list of over 110 individuals and agencies that made it their business to ship British children to Canada between 1833 and 1948.



A Vancouver Island Coach Line Bus arriving at the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School. Circa 1935.



Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School Chapel



Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School Dining Hall



Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School Day School