

## **Bridlewood Community Elementary School**

Located in the Kanata community of Bridlewood, the school opened its doors on September 6, 1987 to 594 students and 31 teaching staff under the guidance of the school's first Principal Wendell Styles.

The name of the school reflected the joint planning of this project by the City of Kanata and the Carleton Board of Education. It was indeed the first time in Ontario that a municipality and school board had joined their properties to build indoor and outdoor facilities for both students and area residents. The City of Kanata contributed \$260,000.00 toward the 5.5 million dollar cost of the project to incorporate a community centre in the school.

The Hon. Chris Ward, Minister of Education, officially opened the school on December 3, 1987.

Bridlewood C.E.S. offers English and Early and Late French Immersion programmes. Initially the school spanned JK to Grade 7; however; in September 1988, the Intermediate component was completed with the addition of 6 grade 8 classes. Bridlewood C.E.S. serves as the Intermediate school for students from John Young P.S. and Glen Cairn P.S. As a new school, Bridlewood C.E.S. was endowed with a rich variety of facilities, notably state of the art Kindergarten rooms, an impressive library, a large double gymnasium, specialty intermediate rooms and a grand central foyer with a unique skylight cascading over a student gathering place, affectionately called "the pit".

Along with the more traditional outdoor amenities came an imposing series of Ontario Hydro towers adjacent to the school which, apart from their aesthetic appeal, brought the school and community countless hours of electrifying debate!

The school moved to quickly establish a solid base of "tradition". School colours (burgundy /white), a school crest and team logo (Bronco) were selected by students and staff. Throughout the initial year and a half of life, B.C.E.S. has developed a strong presence in the C.B.E. through its success in athletics and more academic pursuits. Bridlewood Bronco teams have captured a variety of C.V.A.A/C.A.A. titles in such sports as X-Country Running, Track & Field and Volleyball. The Junior and Senior Bands an extension of the burgeoning instrumental music programme, have performed impressively in the Ottawa-Carleton community. A large number of students have been successful in areas ranging from community poetry contests to Board level public speaking.

Though a relatively new school, Bridlewood's roots even now confirm our commitment to serve the students and residents of Kanata. With the significant help of parent volunteers and the zeal of a thoroughly professional staff, life at Bridlewood C.E.S. is an exciting and enduring experience.