

**eav. 7 Vancouveri Eesti Seltsi Täienduskool – Vancouver Estonian Supplementary School**  
 Archivist's Description

Creator/Compiler Name	Vancouveri Eesti Seltsi Täienduskool
Acronym	VEST
English Name	Vancouver Estonian Supplementary School
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Activity	-1951
Status	Not-For-Profit Organization
Tasks and Areas of Activity	<p>The Estonian school began in the fall of 1950 under the direction of Helmi Tutti and with the cooperation of parents. Later, Linda Vaide joined as an assistant teacher. Classes were held on Sundays at the Augustana Lutheran Church. At first, the main classes were Estonian, geography, history and singing. Textbooks were ordered from Sweden and Toronto. Students participated in events, such as Estonian Independence Day, Mother's Day and the children's Christmas gathering; the school year end assembly took place in May. In 1951-52, a school committee was formed – Mr. Melas, Mr. Muna, Mr. Pikker, Mr. Voore, Ms. Kangro, and Mrs. Linde - who all took care of the finances and the organization of national observances. During the 1952-53 school year, teachers Aleksander Tamm and Eduard Kalkun joined the staff. Some years later, Adele Unt also joined the faculty and taught for a total of 20 years. Linda Vaide was the only teacher who remained at the school from its founding until the restructuring of the school. It seems there were plenty of students for multiple classes, some names are in programmes, but an exact number of students enrolled at this time is unknown.</p> <p>In the 1970s the school was restructured to fit the needs of the young Estonians born in Canada. Classes were held at the church and community centre “Meie Kodu.” Krista Turner writes that in 1980-81 there were a total of 29 children attending and 9 parents (many of them professional teachers) working as teachers at the school. Emphasis was put on Estonian language and singing, the latter taught by Evi Kuusk with assistants Milvi Taylor and Malle Vasara. The children were divided into 7 groups according to age and language skills. Lessons took place on Tuesdays from 4-6pm followed by children's folk dancing from 6-6:30pm. Teaching materials were developed and prepared mainly by the teachers themselves, some were ordered from New York. During the 1980s, the number of students declined continuously, for example in 1986, there were only 20 children enrolled.</p> <p>During the 1980s the following parents took most of the work upon themselves: Marje Suurkask, Krista Tanner, Kärt Selde, Helle Sepp, Juta Kitching, Tiiu Jääger, Malle Vasara, Airi Vaga,</p>

	<p>pastor Thomas Vaga, and M. Puusepp. Rita Kelder and Paul Lepik acted as good substitute teachers quite often. Folk dancing was taught to the children by Susan Muld. Rhythmic gymnastics should also be mentioned, as the group was made up of VES School students and was taught by Helve Ranniste, later also by Helgi Kalkun. The treasurers were Laila Soide and Irje Losin. Imbi Harding directed a music group for a time. Vilma Rannaoja embroidered a banner for the Estonian school flag with a traditional Estonian folk pattern and the school's name. All work was volunteer work and done without monetary compensation.</p> <p>In the 1990s the number of students continued to decrease. Some school years were cancelled. In the 2000s Anne Tork began the school again and directed its teaching programme for a number of years with the help of other parents. By then there were more children who did not speak Estonian, so the school curriculum had to be adjusted accordingly. But they participated in Vancouver Estonians' events and even in the programmes in other cities hosted by the Estonian League of the West Coast (EOLL), as had been done in the past.</p>
Structure	School directors chronologically: H. Tutti, Vollmann, L. Vaide, A. Tamm, E.Kalkun, A. Unt, T. Tutti, T. Jääger, K. Tanner, M. Vasara, M. Suurkask, A. Tork
Information about the Description	Juta Kitching, Krista Tanner, Marje Suurkask