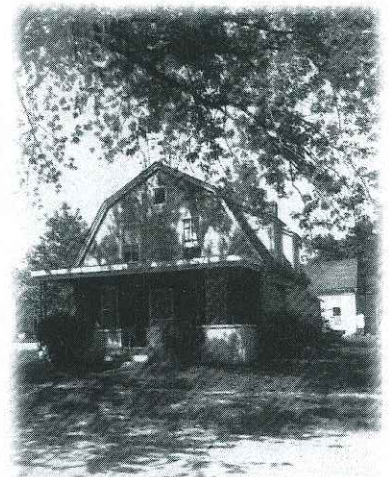


Lake Orion Community Schools

It is said that some time prior to the year 1844, when Canandaigua (Lake Orion) was in its infancy, a private school was run by a man named Collins, in a building which had been Lake Orion's first inn, located west of Elizabeth Street School, on the north side of the street near the railroad tracks.

The first public school was built in 1844 and is now being used as a private residence. It is related that the first teacher was a man named Dolby.



First Public School
Built in 1844

The next school of which there is any record was a one story brick building containing one large room, which was converted into two by a sliding partition. This building was on the site of the present Elizabeth Street School, and was reached from the south by walking up a railed wooden sidewalk, which rose gradually until it was on stilts when it reached the level of the hill. An old pump was located in the southeast corner of the school yard, where the pupils would line up for a drink at recess. The first principal of this school was I. S. Kitchen and his assistant was Miss Clara Carpenter. In 1882 the teachers were J. T. Choate and Miss Soper, with an enrollment of 115.

In 1884 F. D. Hovey became principal, and his assistant was Miss Libby Shurter. George Bates was the next principal. In 1888 the school was graded.

This school became over crowded by 1891 and in the fall of 1893 a new school was completed. It was considered one of the finest in the state. At that time Charles Linabury was principal of the High School, Sarah Harding taught in the intermediate room and Dora Harding, the primary room. No pupils graduated from the high school that year as two grades had been added. The school grew slowly, the enrollment being 139 in 1895, when Professor Bennett was principal. In 1901, when Owen Moyers held the principalship there were four teachers and 146 pupils. Among the succeeding professors where E. C. Kittell in 1904, H. S. Westcott, 1909, J. C. Leavenworth, E. A. Branch and William Ellsworth. The school was placed on the University list in 1912.

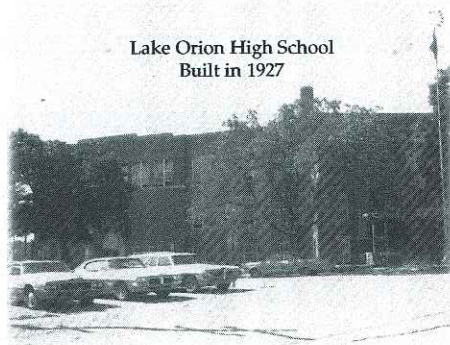


Lake Orion High School
1919

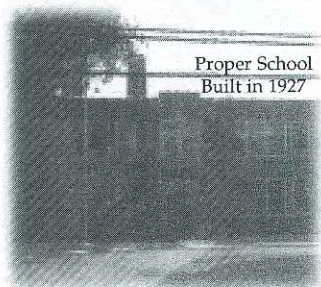
In 1915 it was found necessary to build an addition to this school, which, when completed, accommodated 350 pupils.

In 1920 Lake Orion High School was given the highest recognition possible, that of being placed on the approved list of the North Central Association.

When A. J. Huggett came to Lake Orion as Superintendent of Schools in 1926, the enrollment had again increased so that the old building was entirely inadequate. In 1927 a new high school was built. A new elementary Proper School, was also built in 1927.



Lake Orion High School
Built in 1927



Proper School
Built in 1927

In 1937 John Jacobs came to Lake Orion as Superintendent of Schools. During his administration two rooms were added to the high school building.

In 1942 the Lake Orion School district was enlarged by consolidation with four other districts Prospect, Block, Clark, and Town Corners.

During the World War II years an eight room building was constructed next to the building which was later called the Elizabeth Street Elementary School. These eight rooms were used for the elementary grades.

In 1948 T. R. Hood was named Superintendent of Schools. It was during his administration that the beautiful new Blanche Sims Elementary School was built. This school opened in September 1950, with approximately 850 students in kindergarten through grade six. Mrs. Vena B. Kirkpatrick was the first principal of this school.

This school was named in honor of Miss Blanche Sims, who graduated from Lake Orion High School in 1895 and then taught 50 continuous years in the elementary grades of the Lake Orion School District.



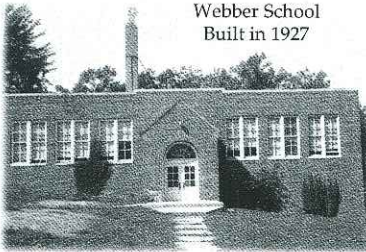
Blanche Sims School
Opened in
September 1950

A. A. Reed came to Lake Orion as Superintendent of Schools in July, 1952. It was during this administration that the district was again enlarged when Proper, Howarth, Carpenter, Eaton and Webber

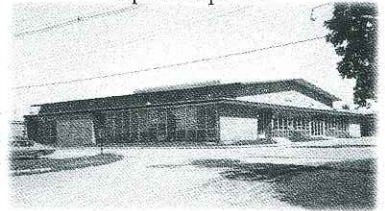
Carpenter School
Built in 1927



Webber School
Built in 1927



Lake Orion High School
Opened Sept. 1957



Schools were consolidated with the Lake Orion Schools. A new high school, built during Mr. Reed's administration, opened in September, 1957.

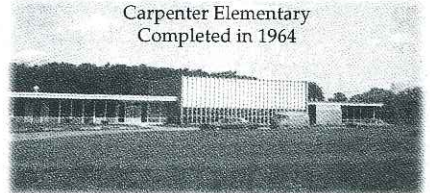
Construction of a new elementary school on the Carpenter site was started in 1955 with the building of four classrooms. In 1961 five additional classrooms, a multipurpose room and offices were added, and in 1964 ten classrooms and several conference rooms were built. This completed the new Carpenter Elementary School.

With the approval of the electorate on July 15, 1963, for a two million dollar building program, a new junior high school was built and additional facilities were added to Proper, Webber, Carpenter, and Blanche Sims School. The new junior high school opened in September, 1965. The old junior high school was renovated and became an elementary building called the Elizabeth Street Elementary School.

The school enrollment in kindergarten through grade 12 had climbed to approximately 4400 when the school opened for the 1965-66 term.

Lewis F. Mundy came to Lake Orion as Assistant Superintendent of Schools in September 1960, and was named Superintendent of Schools, when Mr. Reed retired in June, 1967. The eight-room building next to the original high school built

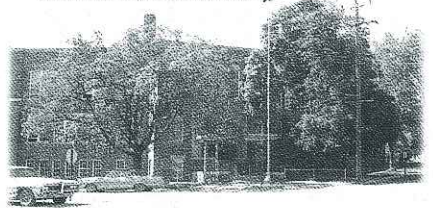
Carpenter Elementary
Completed in 1964



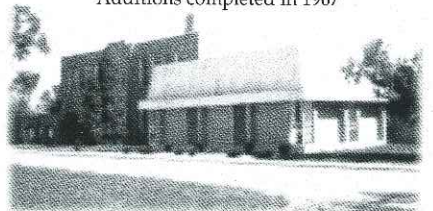
Lake Orion Junior High School
Opened September 1965



Elizabeth Street Elementary



Proper Elementary
Additions completed in 1967



during World War II, was remodeled in 1967 and became a facility for the Central Administrative staff. Under Mr. Mundy's administration, the Lake Orion School District continued to build new schools. The new Webber School was built in various stages, starting in 1955. The building was completed in the fall of 1971.

The building program included a twenty-six station addition to the present high school on Scripps Road, a new junior high school on Waldon Road, the new Stadium Drive Elementary School and the new Pine Tree Elementary School. These buildings were completed during the 1972-73 school year. The new and current junior highs were named Junior High East and Junior High West.

With the opening of these new facilities, the curriculum offerings were expanded at both the elementary and secondary levels of education. Approximately 6,000 students in kindergarten through grade 12 were enrolled in the Lake Orion Schools for the 1972-73 year.

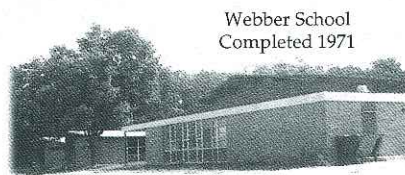
In 1979 Mr. Mundy retired as Superintendent of Lake Orion Community Schools. It was under his leadership that Lake Orion achieved an enrollment of 6,500 students and completed a large building program. Mr. James Hoag served as Acting Superintendent until a successor was selected.

In 1980 Mr. Mundy was replaced by Dr. Paul Rundio as Superintendent and a comprehensive Community Education program was started which has grown to over 7,000 community participants involving all aspects of the community. Dr. LeRoy Mabery was appointed director.

In 1981 through 1983, the Lake Orion school district was greatly hurt by the economic recession or



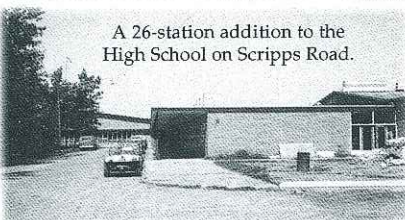
Administrative Offices
1967



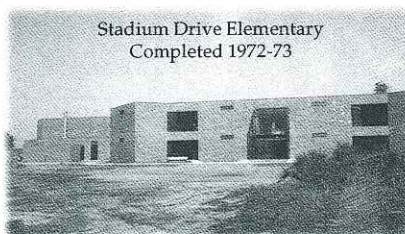
Webber School
Completed 1971



Lake Orion Junior High School West,
under construction in 1972.



A 26-station addition to the
High School on Scripps Road.



Stadium Drive Elementary
Completed 1972-73



Pine Tree Elementary
Completed 1972-73

"depression" in Michigan. There were over a hundred staff reductions and many educational programs eliminated. These were very difficult times.

In the fall of 1982, Dr. Rundio left the school district and was replaced by Acting Superintendent, Fred Ehman. Mr. Ehman was quickly appointed permanent Superintendent. Mr. Ehman's appointment had been preceded by the retirement of Assistant Superintendents, James Hoag, and Michael LaMagna. Fred Snow, Junior High School West Principal, and Barbara Berthiaume, Carpenter Elementary Principal, replaced them as Assistant Superintendents. Mrs. Berthiaume became the highest ranking woman staff member in the school's history.

The school district has been experiencing a declining K-12 population that corresponded to national and state trends. The enrollment in 1984 was 4,700 students. The future K-12 enrollment projections were expected to level off in several years around 4,200-4,300.

The school district, through the community and adult education programs, however, maintained a higher student enrollment. The adult education programs and consortium had 700 full time equated students. This makes the total student enrollment about 5000. The increased adult enrollments coupled with lowering K-12 enrollments caused the district to close the Elizabeth Street Elementary School as an elementary building and convert it to a Community and Adult Education Center in 1982.

In June, 1984, a 3.7 mill increase and a 4.95 million dollar bond issue were approved by the voters. The increased millage allowed the district to restore many educational programs and staff lost during the "depression of 1981-83". The bond issue permitted the school to improve the maintenance and appearance of the current facilities and to make them more energy efficient. The bond issue also allowed the district to modernize its curriculum by adding computers and upgrading its science and foreign language laboratories.

In 1988 Mr. Fred Ehman retired as Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Ehman provided the school district with five years of stability and greatly improved the credibility of the district in the community. The Elizabeth Street School, in his honor was renamed The Fred Ehman Center for Lifelong Learning by the Board of Education.

Mr. Fred Snow, the previous Assistant Superintendent of Personnel replaced Mr. Ehman. Mrs. Barbara Berthiaume became the Assistant Superintendent of Personnel and Dr. LeRoy Mabery became the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and

Instruction. Mrs. Lisa Sokol replaced Dr. Mabery as Director of Community Education Services.

During Mr. Snow's three years as superintendent two bond issues were held to build a new elementary school and high school. Both issues were defeated but the community became aware of the new student growth starting to reach the school district and the unacceptable condition of the old high school.

Mr. Snow retired as superintendent in 1991. He was replaced by Mr. Robert Bass. Mr. Bass had previously been superintendent of Jackson Parma Western School District and Sandusky.

Mr. Bass was immediately faced with a financial crisis. The district operating budget had been over budget for two, going on three years. In January a bond deficit vote was held to eliminate the 1.2 million dollar deficit. It passed and the district was on its way to positive fund balances under Superintendent Bass' leadership.

During the 1991-92 school year, Mrs. Barbara Berthiaume retired. She was replaced later in the year with Mr. Richard Kast. Mr. Kast had been the high school principal for 12 years.

By 1992-93 the district was experiencing significant student growth. The more than 20 new subdivisions were sending 75-100 new students each year. It had become obvious the districts' classrooms were full. This was especially true at the elementary level.

In anticipation of having to double shift the students at two elementaries a citizens committee was formed to study future facility needs. The vote for a new elementary, a new high school, elementary and middle school renovations, and technology needs were presented to the voters September 1994. Three bond proposals passed in the largest voter turnout of the district's history.

Orion Oaks Elementary
Opened August 1996



In 1995, Mrs Beverly Tepper became Principal at Pine Tree Elementary replacing Mrs. Linda Purvis who retired.

The new elementary, Orion Oaks Elementary, opened in August 1996. The first principal was Mrs. Christine Lehman. It was the first new school building in Lake Orion since 1972. The

existing five elementary buildings were renovated, as well as the middle school and junior high school.

Webber Elementary, Carpenter Elementary, and Blanche Sims Elementary were demolished inside and rebuilt.

The infrastructure for technology was installed and all K-8 buildings received new technology. The technology funds provided a great beginning for students in Lake Orion to start using technology as part of their daily instructional program. The district was on its way to becoming an exemplary district with technology integration.

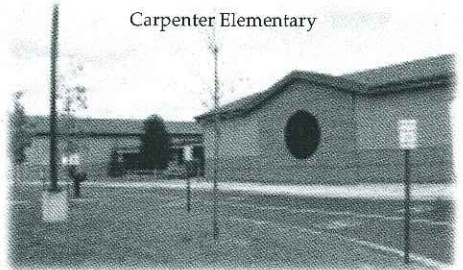
In February 1996 another bond issue to build a natatorium at the new high school site was approved by a 2-1 margin.

In response to parent and student surveys, research, and expectations defined by a district New Building Committee, a 4 by 4 intensive block schedule was implemented at the high school in the fall of 1996.

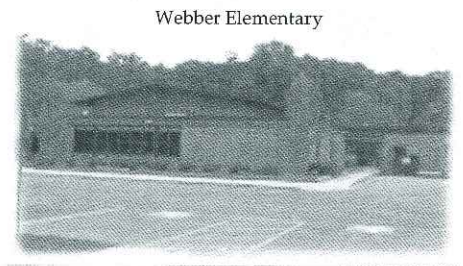
The new high school opened August 1997. The award-winning student-centered facility housed 1600 students in grades 9-12. It opened with the latest in technology and included a performing arts center, field house, and natatorium for student and community usage. These were first-time facilities for the Lake Orion community. The first principal was Mrs. Leslie Thirjung. Mrs. Thirjung had become the district's first female high school principal when she replaced Mr. Kast in 1992.



Blanche Sims



Carpenter Elementary



Webber Elementary



Lake Orion High School
Opened August 1997

The opening of the new high school included grades 9-12. It had been more than 40 years since Lake Orion had a 9-12 high school. The junior high school and middle school were now housing grades 6-8. They were renamed Waldon Middle School and Scripps Middle School. The middle school concept was a first in Lake Orion and the principals were Mr. Dave Beiter at Scripps and Mrs. Alice Seppanen at Waldon.

On February 8, 1997 the Administration Services Building burned. The cause was an electrical short originating in the staff break area. The building had been the central offices facility since 1967. The central office staff moved temporarily to existing space in the Ehman Center and six weeks later moved to a store front site in the Oxford Mills Shopping Plaza. The staff of central office moved back to the current site once a new building was constructed in the fall of 1997.

In 1997, in an effort to continue raising school standards and expectations, Pine Tree Elementary (principal Mrs. Beverly Tepper) became the first school in Lake Orion to receive Blue Ribbon Recognition as an exemplary school by the State of Michigan and U. S. Department of Education. School officials were recognized at a ceremony hosted by President Bill Clinton.

The next year, Lake Orion High School also received Blue Ribbon Recognition as an exemplary school for the State of Michigan and a finalist by the U.S. Department of Education. Students were offered a variety of programs at the high school a school within-a-school called MATRIX opened, a half-day OSMTech Academy for mathematics, science and technology were offered, and students had an opportunity to attend the International Academy. The latter two school choices being a part of various school districts joining together and forming a consortium to better meet the needs of students.

Student growth continued to grow at a 300-400 a year increase and was expected to continue at least three-five years. It was anticipated that eventually there should be 7,000 to 8,000 K-12 students in Lake Orion Community Schools. This growth would require at least one more elementary building and a third middle school, and additions to the high school.

In March 1998 the community approved a \$26,000,000 bond proposal to build a new elementary school on Indianwood Road, provide for more building renovations, place computers in the middle schools and high school classrooms, and renovate the athletic fields for football, soccer, and track.

In response to student growth and a changing educational climate, Lake Orion moved to have three elementaries become the district's first Schools of Choice. Carpenter Year Round provided year-round education; Orion Oaks provided a multi age environment; and Stadium Drive focused on Fine Arts. Mrs. Rose Edwards became the first principal of Carpenter Year Round, Mrs. Christine Lehman became the first principal of the Orion Oaks, and Mr. Jim Theunick became the first principal of Stadium Drive.

In 1998, the old high school became the Community Educational Resource Center, or CERC. Besides offering adult education and community courses and Learning Options, the Alternative High School; the building also houses support services such as Child Care and Pre-School, Food Service, Instructional Technology, Computer Operations, Buildings and Grounds, and Special Education. Due to enrollment demands, the Community Educational Resource Center began housing part of the Scripps Middle School sixth grade.



The end of the 1998-99 school year brought to the end an era of educational change and improvements. Robert Bass announced his retirement; Deputy Superintendent LeRoy Mabery and Assistant Superintendent Richard Kast also retired. Jim Theunick, Principal of Stadium Drive Elementary; William O'Neill, Special Education Director; Marlene Hendrix, Food Service Director; and Elizabeth Balch, Assistant Business Manager retired. In addition to the administrators, 33 teachers retired as part of the 1999 Board of Education retirement incentive program.

The 1999-2000 school year began with a new Superintendent, Craig Younkman; Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, David Beiter; and Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Christine Lehman. Along with the hiring of important teaching positions in 1999 Mr. Kenneth Gutman was named Principal of Scripps Middle School, and Dr. Jesse Baker was named Principal of Stadium Drive Elementary. A new era began at Lake Orion Community Schools as the new millennium began in the year 2000.

Enrollment continued to grow within the district. The student population was 6670. The Community Educational Resource Center continued to house the Scripps Middle School sixth grade.

On March 20, 2000 the community approved a \$77,7000,000 bond proposal. The bond was used to build and furnish a new middle school and remodel and refurnish school buildings, build a new transportation facility and purchase school buses, acquire land for site purposes and develop and improve athletic fields and sites.

FamilyPC Magazine and *Princeton Review* selected Lake Orion High School as one of the "Top 100 Wired Schools" in the United States. This distinction was based on the number of computers, how computers are being used in the classrooms, teacher training, and other available technology. LOHS was the only school in Michigan to be awarded this honor. In addition, the high school was selected as a 2000 New American High School by the U.S. Department of Education.

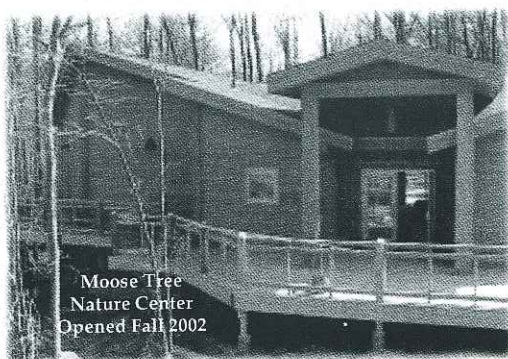


Paint Creek Elementary opened in the Fall of 2000. Mrs Beverly Tepper was named the building's first principal.

In the fall of 2000, Moose Tree Nature Preserve officially opened. The nature center offers 30 acres including eight ecosystems.

In January of 2000 Mrs. Diane Dunaskiss was named Principal of Pine Tree Elementary.

Stadium Drive received the 2000-2001 Blue Ribbon recognition as an exemplary school by both the State of Michigan and U.S. Department of Education.



Two new elementary principals were named in 2001. Mr. Eric Whitney replaced the retiring Mrs. Diane Benjamin at Blanche Sims Elementary and Mrs. Suzanne Price became Principal of Webber Elementary School.

The district continued to grow and the community once again passed a \$22,690,000 bond in 2002 to continue renovations at the middle schools and CERC, provide an additional twenty-four classrooms and technologies at the high school, and upgrade the district's playground and athletic facilities.

The district continued to grow and began the 2002-2003 school year with 7500 students.

Oakview Middle School opened in the Fall of 2002. Mrs. Alice Seppanen became Oakview's first principal. Mrs. Heidi Kast became the principal of Waldon. Scripps and Waldon Middle Schools will complete their renovations during the 2002-2003 school year and open new facilities in the fall of 2003.



The new Transportation Facility opened in the fall of 2002.

At a ceremony held on March 28, 2003, Carpenter Year-Round Elementary was recognized by the State of Michigan as a Blue Ribbon Exemplary School.



As the result of an Employee Severance Plan offered to the teaching staff, seven teachers retired at the end of the 2002 school year and another 35 retired in 2003. Four administrators also chose to accept the Employee Severance Plan and retire in 2003.

As a result of the worldwide economic downturn in 2003, state funding was reduced to all districts and necessitated lean budgeting. With the help of staff and community, Lake Orion creatively met this challenge while maintaining student programs and services.



DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS

| | |
|------|--------------------------|
| 1926 | A. J. Huggett |
| 1937 | John Jacobs |
| 1948 | T. R. Hood |
| 1952 | A. A. Reed |
| 1967 | Lewis F. Mundy |
| 1980 | Paul Rundio, Ph.D. |
| 1982 | Frederick P. Ehman |
| 1988 | Fredric C. Snow |
| 1991 | Robert W. Bass |
| 1999 | Craig A. Younkman, Ph.D. |





*Designed and printed by the
Lake Orion Community Schools Information Services Department*