

## 1950 Lansdowne Road (1913-1914) - His Majesty the King in Right of the Province of British Columbia



The Provincial Normal School was opened January 4, 1915, with about fifty students. Its purpose was to train teachers for the elementary and high schools of British Columbia. The school drew its students from the islands, and the mainland east of Hope and north of Powell River. Teacher-trainees from the lower mainland and the Fraser Valley attended the provincial Normal School in Vancouver. The principal in Victoria was Donald L. MacLaurin and the head of the model school was Mr. McLean. The Young Building was named after the Hon. Dr. Henry Esson Young, Provincial Secretary and Minister of Education at the time. From 1942 until 1946, the school served as a military hospital. After the war, the campus was shared by the Normal School and Victoria College. They were united by statute in 1955 as Victoria College. The College moved to the new Gordon Head campus in 1967 and the young Building became the home of the Institute of Adult Studies. Three years later, as Camosun College, it became a two-year diploma-granting college, which has grown considerably in size.

The Young Building was designed by Vancouver architect W.C.F. Gillam, who won the competition from among sixteen architects. It was constructed by Luney Brothers of Victoria for about \$307,000. Although first designed in brick and terracotta, the provincial government requested that brick and stone be used, in order to give local employment and use local materials. Whitworth and Stewart of Vancouver did the masonry work with sandstone from the quarries of the Denman Island Stone Company. The roof slates were from a Welsh quarry. The building is in an eclectic Beaux Arts-style. The facade is symmetrical, with wings flanking the long horizontal mass of the main portion. This horizontality is emphasized by the contrasting sandstone first level and brick upper levels. These are divided by a sandstone string course, and the horizontal chamfering of the sandstone blocks on both the central entrance and the quoining of the wings. The monumental clock tower above the central entrance is visible for miles across the city, and the building is beautifully sited on the southern slope of Mount Tolmie. The symmetrical massing of the building is emphasized by the formal landscaping which includes a grand avenue of trees leading up from Lansdowne Road.