

Another big step forward

The opening of Capilano College's multi-purpose building last week was just another giant stride forward for this young college now in its 15th year.

In those 15 years it has come a long way from the days when classes were held in West Vancouver Secondary School after school hours. The college was designed for those who couldn't go to university but wanted a higher education or some special education which they could not receive in an academic-oriented facility.

In the three years following the opening of classes at West Vancouver Secondary School, portable buildings were added, seven in all, and college enrollment doubled.

Warehouse space in North Vancouver was leased for an art program and in the fall of 1971 day classes were started in St. David's Church in West Vancouver.

In 1972 an area comprising 34 acres, known as the Lynnmour site, was obtained and the following year the first phase of the college at the new site opened with 1,965 students.

Enrollment kept rising by leaps and bounds, new portables kept opening and in 1976 the phase two facilities opened.

Upgrading proceeded on the site and in 1981 work started on the new multi-purpose building which was finished last year and officially opened last week.

By the summer of this year all the north shore offices will be on the Lynnmour campus.

Meanwhile, satellite campuses have been established in Squamish and on the Sunshine Coast while classes are also held at Mount Currie.

Approval has been given for the acquisition of the site at Squamish for a campus. It will be located on the old loggers' sports ground behind the high school. However, there is no word about construction at the site.

Hopefully that will be the next step forward and we shall soon see a new Squamish campus for Capilano College.

Meanwhile, the college has come a long way from its humble beginnings in West Vancouver Secondary School 15 years ago.