



**Eric Forster** was appointed Principal of Mount Douglas High School in 1939. At that time, the school had only five classrooms and 140 students from grades 9-12. During World War 11, the enrollment fell to 89; challenging times, indeed.

A native of Macclesfield, Cheshire, England, Mr. Forster came to Canada when he was five, living first in Guelph, Ontario then in Montreal and its suburbs before making a brief trip back to England in 1915. Returning to Montreal, he attended high school for a year before the family moved to Vancouver and he enrolled at King George high school.

In his second year, he won the junior track championship for Vancouver schools and next year, won the intermediate title. "I was a sprinter," he said, "too light for field events."

Going on to the UBC, he obtained his BA degree at the old Fairview building and went into education. He taught first in Fernie, before moving to Magee High School in Vancouver, and then to Port Alberni. His next move was to North Saanich School, where he was principal of that all-grade establishment.

When Sidney, North Saanich, and Deep Cove combined their education facilities in 1935, Mr. Forster was appointed supervisor - a post he retained until invited to Mount Douglas.

In 1969, Mr. Forster retired, after thirty years as Principal of Mount Douglas. Although he spent most of his life in education, he also worked as a bank clerk and had a certificate in deep-sea diving. He collected Canadian books and had an extensive personal library. He was married and had one son, Michael, who followed in his father's footsteps to UBC.

In the thirty years of his career as Principal of Mount Douglas, Mr. Forster witnessed the tremendous population growth that took place after World War 11 and the transformation of a small, rural school into a large, urban educational institution.

*Courtesy of Pam Gaudio: Gone But Not Forgotten: A History of St. Luke's Churchyard, 2009.*

Eric was born June 21, 1904 and died March 29, 1994.