

BURLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL AND THE SEAHORSE MASCOT

Why is Burlington High School's mascot the Seahorse?

In the late 1800s, excavation of land in preparation for the building of the original Burlington High School (now the Edmunds Elementary Middle School) revealed fossils of seahorses. The fossils are approximately 12,000 years old and formed when the regions glaciers began to melt and when what is now Lake Champlain was saltwater.

According to the Lake Champlain Committee:

As the ice began to melt, the slowly retreating glaciers to the north limited the flow of the meltwater, forcing drainage to the south through present day Hudson River. Debris dams forced glacial waters to pool in a huge lake, Lake Vermont. At its height, Lake Vermont had a surface elevation about 500 feet higher than Lake Champlain's current level.

When the glacier receded north of the St. Lawrence Valley, the landmass it covered was below sea level-- a result of the huge weight of the glacier. Ocean waters flowed in from the Atlantic and formed the Champlain Sea. Saltwater animals such as the famous Charlotte whale frolicked in the region at that time. Subsequent rebounding of the land raised the lake elevation above sea level. Gradually saltwater flushed out and was replaced by fresh water from tributaries.

**Burlington High School is proud
to have the unique distinction of having
the Seahorse as our school mascot!**

