



## Summer 2016

Another school year has come and gone, and the Alumni Association has continued its regular meetings and volunteering at the school. The faces are the same: Percy Casas (chair), Brian Burdy (vice chair), Valerie Pilhun (secretary), Deb Marantz (treasurer), Chris Dewar (archives), Sue Gibb (web site, archives) Greg Woloszyn, Lorraine MacLean, Ron Romanowski, Carolyn Rickey and Carole Kurdydyk. This year, we helped serve at Community Feasts in December and April, and the Aboriginal lunch in May. Sue and Brian presented alumni pins to the grads at convocation on June 29<sup>th</sup>.

Chris, Sue and Greg continue to work on the archives. New posters, programs and scanned yearbooks were received from Frank Unger (class of '76). Leo Steinfeld (class of '65) donated two of his St. John's shirts to the archives collection. As of May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2,800 alumni entries and 892 events have been logged. Additions to the collection are always welcome – especially yearbooks from 1961 – 68!

Construction on Alumni Wall is now complete. Displays are changed regularly, highlighting noted students past and present. Plaques can still be purchased by contacting Sue Gibb at [sue.gibb@live.com](mailto:sue.gibb@live.com).

New members (or occasional helpers) are always welcome. If you have a free afternoon, consider helping with the archives or scanning yearbooks. We're hoping to have a social event early in 2017, but need people to help organize it. The next meeting is Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the library. It would be great to see a few new faces.

### Alumni in the News

A new exhibition of the paintings of **Esther Warkov** is now on at the Winnipeg Art Gallery from May 28 to October 16. Esther attended St. John's from 1956 to 1958.



**Congratulations to Dr. Leanne Jablonski** (class of '75) on receiving the Canada Wide Science Fair Alumni Award on May 31<sup>st</sup> in Montreal. She is only the fourth recipient, the first woman and first from the Prairie Provinces to receive it. Leanne lives in Dayton, Ohio where she is Adjunct Faculty; HSI Scholar for Faith and the Environment at the University of Dayton.

Keep up-to-date with alumni news – [www.stjohnshighalumni.com](http://www.stjohnshighalumni.com)



Writer **Ron Romanowski** (alumnus '72) produced and performed in a Polish poetry event May 3<sup>rd</sup> at McNally Robinson Booksellers in Winnipeg as part of the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Polish Constitution of 1793. (For history buffs, it was one of the first European constitutions.) It was called *A Little Polish Poetry Symposium* and included readings in English by Liliana Romanowski and in Polish by Margaret Kellerman McCulloch. It was part of the 2016 MayWorks Labour & the Arts Festival.

Bravo to **Richard Yaffe** (class of '73) for his outstanding performance as Albin in *La Cage aux Folles*, this year's Royal MTC/MBA Lawyers Play. Richard is an active board member of many local and national arts groups, and was also the director of the centennial reunion alumni choir.



### **Class of 1986 Reunion – from Catharine Anderson**

It's been said that, "Good things come in small packages" and so it was as a small group from the Class of '86 got together to celebrate their 30th reunion this past June.

Held upstairs at the Garden City Inn's Tavern United on McPhillips, the cozy living room setting was the perfect venue to catch-up, reminisce and share in loads of laughs with old friends and classmates.

A nice surprise to the evening was that former teachers Sue Gibb, Larry Burdeny, Sheldon Mindell and Librarian Chris Dewar stopped by for a visit and to share a few of their own stories from the good ol' days, proving once again there are two-sides to every story.

Sue remembered to bring the old yearbooks and had everyone autograph our graduating year. It was amazing how none of us had changed...much.

As the night drew to a close, it was promised that it wouldn't be another 30 years, but instead to try and make it an annual event.

A great big thank you to Tracey Solylo (Gilbertson) who booked the venue, spread the word and made it all happen!



## 1994-95 Provincial Basketball Champs return to St. John's (by Sue Gibb)

On Friday, April 15, 2016, St. John's hosted two alumni basketball teams playing against the current varsity teams.

The games were very exciting. In the girls' games, the experienced players showed that they haven't lost a step (just their breath) and remembered everything Coach Stevenson and Graham drilled into them and were able to win. The boys game came down to both teams trading shots in the final seconds with the youngsters squeaking out the win. It was a very successful evening and there was talk of making this an annual event.



**Alumni** - Coach Daryl Stevenson, Jackie Presley, Adrianna Jedynak, Kim Lowe, Becky Chartrand, Lisa Schaefer, Heather Lowe, Kari Woodall, Flor-rita Padilla, Agnes Jedynak, Jackie Pierson, Taryn Votour, Monette Calixto and Coach Pat Graham

**Current** - Varsity Girls and Coach Kelsy Solarchuk



**Alumni** - Arnie Calixto, Gilbert Ramilo, Jeff Hernandez, Jason Coutu, Martin Tauber, Curtis Williamson, Garnet Desjarlais, Jesse, Gates, Chris Campbell, Patrick Cleodoro, Tyler Stewart, Nick Ortynski, Martin Genaille

**Current** - Varsity Boys and Coaches Adam Masi & Ian Harrysingh

## Still Showing their Tiger Pride!

What do Katharine Weber (class of '26), Len "Kroppy" Kropioski (class of '37), and George Romanowski (class of '47) have in common? They are members of a select group of alumni who have celebrated their 90+ birthdays! After meeting Katharine at the centennial reunion (when she celebrated her 101<sup>st</sup> birthday), the committee has tried to locate other nonagenarian+ers, and where possible, meet and present them with an alumni pin. There's a page on the alumni



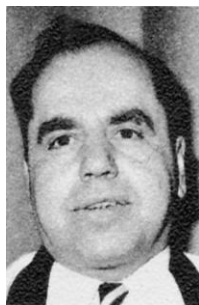
website honouring these individuals. If you know anyone in this group, please contact Sue Gibb at [sue.gibb@live.com](mailto:sue.gibb@live.com).

### **Alumni Graduation Awards** (\*contributed by Chris Dewar)

Since 2015, the Association has purchased five new trophies to be presented at convocation. They have been named for four outstanding St. John's teachers and one distinguished teacher/principal.



**Brian Burdy Award of Excellence in Science** - Brian Burdy attended St. John's, graduating in 1965. He returned in 1969 teaching Biology, Chemistry and Grade 10 General Science until 1983. He also coached the junior high and freshmen boys' basketball teams. He has held a number of professional offices (see the web site for more details) and was named the 1983 Science Educator of the Year. His commitment to St. John's still continues: he co-chaired the 2010 Centennial Reunion committee and is the current vice chair of the Alumni Association.



**\*Don Costantini Award of Excellence in Practical Arts** – Don (Dominic Enrico) Costantini taught drafting at St. John's beginning in 1946 until his retirement in 1969. He had earned degrees in civil engineering (1934) and education at the University of Manitoba. In 1951 he was awarded a Master of Education majoring in trade and industry by the Colorado Agricultural and Mechanic Arts College. In addition to his day job, he took on the principalship of the St. John's High School night school for nearly as many years.



**Harry Dmytryshyn Award for Excellence in Mathematics** – Born in Ukraine, Harry Dmytryshyn immigrated to Canada in 1949. He taught math at St. John's for 36 years, 25 of those as department head. He was also a very popular and respected senior high girls' volleyball coach. He was an active member of numerous Ukrainian cultural groups and was instrumental in the creation of the Holodomor Monument at City Hall. "His devotion to education and working with students gave him personal and professional fulfillment."



**\*Shirley Anne Teplitsky-Marantz Award for Excellence in English** – Shirley Anne Teplitsky-Marantz spent her whole life as a teacher at St. John's, 1967 to 1996. Her speciality was English Language Arts but she majored in kindness and respect for her students and colleagues. She acted as staff advisor on many yearbook committees. Her husband, Gary Marantz, is a St. John's alumnus. Shirley attended university in Saskatoon and Winnipeg. She loved to read, play bridge and travel but tops on her list of likes were people.



**\*George J. Reeve Award of Excellence in Social Studies** – George J. Reeve by all accounts was a remarkable teacher, principal and human being. The Manitoba Free Press had this to say of him on his appointment as principal of St. John's Technical High School in 1925: "Mr. Reeve, --- has for 12 years been considered one of the most capable high school teachers in Winnipeg", and "He is considered one of the finest history teachers in the province." Many of what we now think of as St. John's traditions originated during his 27-year watch as principal. He wrote two Canadian history texts. He spoke frequently to educators and parents on the intended outcomes of education. Following his retirement in 1952 he served as a school trustee in ward three.

One of the purposes of an alumni association is to communicate news and celebrate the accomplishments of the school and its alumni. We'd like to continue doing this – but we need your help. If you want to share a story about your school years, or know of a classmate or staff member who's making a difference, let us know. Your contributions to the alumni newsletter and website will enable us to be an important part of the St. John's community and to continue sharing our Tiger Pride.

**Have A Great Summer!**