

Winter 2013 Volume 5, Issue 1

# Humberside Collegiate Alumni Association



## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

2013 will be a year of much preparation behind the scenes for the HCAA. We have a number of initiatives that have been on the back burner for the past couple of years that we will be working to bring to fruition this year – so stay tuned for more information as the year progresses.

In the meantime, there are many great articles in this month's newsletter, so I will let them do most of the talking for the organization – but I will say that there are a great number of plans being made for the 2017 quasquicentennial celebration, so if anyone is interested in getting involved, please reach out to the organization for more information about how you can get involved!

Regards,

Graeme Dymond

Chair, HCAA



## Message from the Editor

Welcome to 2013!

Another year is well underway with hopefully many exciting adventures for everyone.

One of those who will be having an adventure like no other starting this year is our own Alumni Chair Graeme Dymond, who will be Canada's first ever master LEGO builder! You can read all about his adventure and how that title came to be. We wish you all the best of luck in your new career Graeme.

2013 will be the year that the planning for the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Humberside will start, so stay tuned for updates and a survey for your input.

You may have heard about the Friends of Humberside, but not sure who they really are...read on and you will find out!

The history of Humberside will continue in this issue, but unfortunately no extracurricular activities to report about, so some flash back photos will be featured (ah how fashion has changed)! As well, some excerpts from WW I vets and their families who shared their experiences at Humberside's Remembrance Day services from last year, and some memories of when there were army cadets at Humberside!

If you have suggestions or ideas for the newsletter, please let me know. You don't necessarily have to write but we want to know what you want to see and read about in the newsletter. It can only grow with your input.

I hope you enjoy this edition.

Cheers,  
Jacquie

## Community News

### *Runnymede Public School*

Runnymede Public School will officially be celebrating its centenary on February 01, 2016 and they are looking to collect any pictures, crests, newsletters, clippings, etc... or equally valuable...recollections of life at the school that people are willing to share.

If anyone has any questions and /or donations, they can contact Marshall Leslie at [marshall@mleslie.com](mailto:marshall@mleslie.com) or [industrialarts@rogers.com](mailto:industrialarts@rogers.com).

### *High Park Zoo*

Enough funds have been raised through community donations and the Friends of High Park Zoo to keep the zoo open until October 2013! They are looking for volunteers for March Break and through October. If you are interested in helping you can join the Friends of High Park Zoo by emailing [friendsofhighparkzoo@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofhighparkzoo@gmail.com).

Visit [torontoparksandtrees.org/high-park-zoo](http://torontoparksandtrees.org/high-park-zoo) to donate.

## Alumni News and Upcoming Events

### Reunions

**Attention grade 13 graduates of 1983.** Our 30th grad reunion is coming up at the end of May. Please make sure you register at the web site so that you can receive up-to-date information on the reunion. Looking forward to seeing all those wonderful faces again! <https://sites.google.com/site/humberside1983>

### Humberside Golf Dates Posted

Gentlemen of the Garnet, Grey and White...and, if you're good or very lucky, the occasional Green in regulation! NOW while you are thinking about it...mark your calendars for these two dates at Cambridge G&CC with your old (and getting better!) Humberside buddies!! Don't put it off! June will be here before we know it, so get your foursome, threesome, twosome or onesome organized for June 18. 2<sup>nd</sup> date: September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013. MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW! Details coming in April.

Don and Jim

PS: Remember, we're not getting older...we're just growing up!



### MUSIC AT HUMBERSIDE

Here are the dates for the Music events for the 2013 year. Mark your calendars!

#### *Toronto Secondary Music Teachers' Association*

#### *Sounds of Toronto Concert*

Thursday April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 7pm at Massey Hall

#### *Humberside Music Nights*

Wednesday May 8, 2013 & Thursday May 9, 2013

At 7pm in Lismer Hall

### *Lismer Hall Seat Sale*

The seat sale to refurbish the chairs in Lismer Hall is still ongoing. The school needs your help to restore the seats to what they should be for this historic hall. New bottoms, redone backs and armrests are what is in store for them. The engraved plaques are due to go on in January. Make your history with Humberside permanent by donating \$200 and have your message a part of the school.



To Make a Contribution Go To:

<http://www.canadahelps.org/CharityProfilePage.aspx?CharityID=S19211>

This will bring you to the Friends of Humberside site which has charitable foundation status. Click Donate Now. Fill in your donation amount. In the Fund Destination drop-down menu choose "Lismer Hall Rejuvenation". In the message box please write in Lismer Hall Seat Sale and, if you donate \$200 or more, write in what you want engraved on the seat plaque (up to 40 characters). Alternatively, you could make out a cheque to Friends of Humberside C.I. with Lismer Hall Seat Sale in the note line and drop it off in the Main Office of the school. Tax receipts will be issued for donations over \$25.

## Humberside: The Beginning... Continued

What was it like inside? A tour is appropriate. Memory will be our guide and photos our verification. The entrance hall was a memorial to fallen Humbersiders. In 1949, plaques noting their names were installed. Marble steps and brass handrails gave the staircase a sense of grandeur. The Principal's office was off to the right, thereby validating the significance of the entry. Immediately past the stairs a four hundred-foot-long corridor linked the bits and pieces of the various additions. It featured an arched ceiling elaborated by a plaster motif of entwined leaves as a frieze that ran its length. Glazed tiles were contained at eye level height by a thin plaster moulding. Series of scholarship boards in natural oak heralded the academic excellence of the students of the school. Photographs of teams, many of them of championship calibre, were lined on the upper sections of the corridor. Occasionally, a hand-held school bell sat on a radiator in cases of emergency. There was no public address system in those days. The halls were used instead. A piano was rolled out of a niche on every floor of the school. At 9:00 am students were lined up "in two's" outside their home forms. A student would play "God Save The King" or later "God Save The Queen" and a senior teacher like "Streak" McLellan would bellow out the morning announcements. On the second floor Evan Cruickshank had the honor. The entire school recited the Lord's Prayer. No doubt the students were very attentive and there was no fidgeting! The key activity areas in the long front corridor were the boys' gymnasium and the auditorium. The Lismer Mural was firmly in place and faced its golden glow towards the rising sun in the east that rainbow-ed through the Memorial Window so recently completed by the Toronto firm of McCausland stained glass artists. History, French, German and Latin classes occupied the north wing on the other side of the auditorium entrance. Mr. Tancock, Mr. McHoull, Mr. Thornton, Mr. McQuarrie, and Miss Belcher were to be found there. Mr. Zeigler occupied the German classroom in the south section. The real veterans were the trio of Messrs. McLellan, Wooldridge and Tuer. The floors were terrazzo so to better echo the sound of footsteps and stentorian lessons about the past.



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The old 1911 west wing was much different in character. It was part of a different generation of school building. The feel was older, perhaps more graceful. The floors creaked and were heavily scuffed and marked. They were laid with planks. Wood was everywhere. Painted pine doors and wainscoting lined the entire length. Oak stairs sounded fitfully all day.

Maple banisters were timeworn by the touch of thousands of hands.

Bulls-eye mouldings terminated the trim around the upper transoms of each doorway to the high-ceilinged classrooms. Bulbous lanterns hung low from the wire-crossed, embossed tin-clad ceilings. Inside the rooms there was bright sunshine and more wood. Even the two science labs at the end were well illuminated- the better to show the wear and tear on the chunky lab desks with their chemically-stained sinks and tall taps. Throughout, umbrella racks were a remnant of long ago removed cloak rooms. The main floor of the wing was shared by science men such as Mr. MacInnes, Mr. Phillips and "Griff". Mr. Currie taught Latin here as well. There were also two typing classes and a French classroom that doubled for math.



The basement of this T-shaped old building was equally well used. It was grey. Cement stairs and floors were painted. It smelled of smoke and sweat. Each age group made its characteristic contribution. In the Boiler Room teachers met for the illicit pleasures of smoking between classes. The elevator was the means of transportation for teachers from the upper floors who were under severe time constraints. The original boys' gym which was at the extreme west end later became the rifle range. Later still this space became Mr. Bradley's art room, thereby intensifying its aromatic mélange. There was also a major collection of washrooms-swinging doors marked their presence. The Home and School room at the north end was converted in the fifties to a staff general purpose room. This "den of iniquity" became a place of casual meeting, cooking and ping-pong and occasional laughter. The basement was a very popular place.

The second floor was anchored by the new library. A pair of French doors opened onto a rectangular room framed by Gothic and Palladian windows on the far wall and elsewhere enclosed by oak shelving surmounted by bold semi-circles of plaster insets. Plaster beams defined the ceiling. Students sat in groups at large oak refectory tables. "No talking, please" or so it seemed! Further down there was an entrance to the upper gallery of the auditorium. To enter there and be able to see both the Lismer panels and at the same time the great stage flanked on the left by the Memorial Window must have been breathtaking. The Vice-Principal's office was on the same floor. At the point of juncture of the old west wing and the new south wing, in the same room where the business office is today, there sat, in the seat of discipline, the solitary, omnipotent but well-loved Vice Principal. Messrs. Couke, Griffith and McHoull were but a few who left their mark.



Along the second floor of the old wing there were arrayed a series of History and English classrooms. At the end of the west wing was the Guidance Office painted in hopeful shades of pink. It was flanked on either side by the math classrooms of the durable Mr. Norris to the south and Mr. Devitt to the north. The new Science rooms sported state-of-the-art equipment for the likes of Mr. Wismer, Major Toulton and Mr. Haist. Mr. Couke, Mr. Casson and Me. Clemence completed the collection. The elevator which was next to the stairway by the Vice-Principal's office was

off limits to all but the key holders. Only some teachers had keys. It was mainly to be used to move supplies to the third floor where the student cafeteria was located. The reader, like all good Humbersiders of the time, should ascend on foot.

The third floor was the blessed floor. It was the best place to be. The view was magnificent in all directions. In the spring and fall it was cool and afforded a dialogue with the changing seasons. In the winter it was cosy; everybody knows about the principle of convection. Some of the warm air came from the radiators but much came from the classrooms themselves. Frost and steam punctured by the sun's rays were the hallmarks of this season.

Joyous sounds emanated from the great music room. Sadly, it no longer exists. Across the entire length of the central structure a high and long room served as the centre for music education. It was above the roof of the old west wing which was only two storeys tall. The room had sky lights and trios of Palladian windows which opened out to the South and North. There arose the tradition of holding the annual staff Christmas party here. Mr. Coles, Mr. Couke and, of course Mr. Patterson, who normally taught just across the hall, were active teachers of music in this room. In an earlier time, Miss McNair conducted her art classes in the studio-like space.

Elsewhere along the perimeter of the relatively plain third floor corridor, Mr. LaPierre, Miss James, Miss Bearder, Miss Fugler and Mrs. Lent held court in French. Others on the third floor were Miss Longley, Mrs. Charlesworth, Miss Ricker, Mr. Burford and Mr. Sager. The Girls' gym anchored the north end and was placed above the auditorium. "Halls" must have echoed to the sound of competing footsteps from above much to the dismay of the rather stern Principals of the time. At the south end was the belly of Humberside. The cafeteria was entered through a set of double doors. The server was immediately to the right or left. The students ate at massive oak tables that were arranged below a pair of skylights. Large round topped windows set off the east side of this important social centre. There were up to three lunch periods and the sound of coming and going helped to keep the diners on edge and ready for the next stimulus. Once in you were there until your lunch was completed and then you were allowed to take the down staircase to the basement. All else was off limits.

Across from the cafeteria the staff had their male and female staff rooms where they escaped from the students and perhaps to some extent from each other for a few moments of quiet. The halls were also still. Students were not allowed to go to their lockers, which were set into large alcoves placed perpendicular to all the corridors throughout the school, until the bell was rung and the period change begun. You were not allowed to disturb. You simply were not there!

This very proper building lay undisturbed for a great many years. Time was not to pass Humberside by. In the 1960's, a great wave of change overwhelmed the educational establishment.....

Follow the conclusion to the "Beginning of Humberside" in the next newsletter. (Excerpt taken from Humberside: The First Century 1892-1992)

# *Life After Humberside...*



I have contributed many articles to the HCAA Newsletters in my tenure as chair, and although I'm not a big fan of writing about myself, I have been requested to submit one about a recent development in my life that might be interesting to fellow Humberside Alumni.

The development: being named Canada's first LEGO Master Model Builder.

What is a LEGO Master Model Builder? It is a full-time job where I get paid to play with LEGO all day and to share that love of LEGO with fans of all ages at the new LEGOLAND Discovery Centre that is opening up at Vaughan Mills Mall on March 1st. At the site, I will be teaching LEGO classes to kids to help them learn how they can become LEGO masters, maintaining the LEGO models on site, and helping develop and curate special exhibits at the site as well. Most importantly, I will be having a ton of fun!

How does one become a LEGO Master Model Builder? The interview process for the role was unlike any other that I have ever participated in – it was a two day competitive ‘build-off’ – four timed rounds of intense LEGO building. More than 200 participants from coast-to-coast came out for the contest to find Canada's first model builder, whittling the contestants down round by round. The contestants were not only judged on their ability to build with LEGO bricks, but on how they were able communicate their building ideas, as well as their ability to engage and interact with the crowd.

Why would I want this job? I have always been a LEGO enthusiast, and have maintained it as a hobby since my childhood (including through my years at Humberside), so to say that this was a dream job opportunity for me would be a bit of an understatement. The connection goes much deeper than just having a love for LEGO though, as I am also trained as a teacher and am passionate about providing dynamic educational experiences for youth, and have also spent many years volunteering with youth programs in the Humberside community.

Having been in the role for just over a month now, it has been quite different than my previous role of working for a large Canadian bank. But I do know that, in all honesty, so many of the skills and values that have allowed me to achieve this dream were fostered at Humberside, and for that, I am truly grateful that my education at HCI will allow me to live out my dreams getting to play with LEGO for a living!

Graeme Dymond

## Friends of Humberside

The Friends of Humberside Collegiate Institute is a charitable organization dedicated to providing funds to support students and programs at Humberside Collegiate Institute.

Its objectives include:

- Encouraging support of the educational needs of Humberside
- Generating income for the acquisition of capital equipment not generally funded by public monies and for the funding of special ventures such as the rejuvenation of Lismer Hall, specialized sports equipment and the funding of Scholarships.
- Enabling and encouraging bequests, legacies, gifts and donations.

The Friends of Humberside was granted a charter in 1985 when it began to raise funds for the Centennial Celebrations and the projects connected with that event. It has remained a viable vehicle through which members of the Humberside community can make donations to the school and for which a tax receipt is issued.

To make a donation to the school toward scholarships, Lismer Hall, the Physical Education program, the Music program or the general fund through the Friends of Humberside, use Canada Helps at [www.CanadaHelps.org](http://www.CanadaHelps.org). Enter The Friends of Humberside, search and select where you would like your donation to go. A tax receipt is issued immediately.

If you would like to make a donation by cheque, make it out to "Friends of Humberside" and send it to:

Friends of Humberside  
c/o Humberside Collegiate Institute  
280 Quebec Ave.,  
Toronto, ON  
M6P 2V3

Enter where you would like your donation to go on the memo line.

Please include your address so that a tax receipt can be mailed to you.

A donation to the Lismer Hall "Seat Sale" can be made by either of the above methods.

## Stories From World War One

At the 2012 Remembrance Day ceremony at Humberside, alumni and their families were asked to share stories they may have had from those who attended Humberside and who were veterans of the First World War. We commemorate what our soldiers did for our country on one day, but they should be remembered always, so we have decided to share some of these stories and names with you.

From Doug Hain, Class of 59

My three uncles served overseas in WWI; two were killed in action and the third, a ship's doctor, returned.  
All attended HCI; Allister and Norman Hain are on the war memorial at the entrance.

From Dave Perry, Class of 50

Both my parents were born in Toronto in 1894. When war was declared in 1914, Dad enlisted in the 48th Highlanders of Canada and saw action in the trenches of France. Injured, he was returned to England to recover. Treatment consisted of being "sandbagged" (to restrict movement). Dad managed to live to age 91 but changed bandages on both legs daily. Due to medical improvements, his condition could have been corrected by the 1950's but he claimed to have spent long enough in hospitals for one lifetime. He and mother (who had attended Humberside), enjoyed over 60 years of married life, most of which while living on Glenlake. His younger brother, Herb, was not so fortunate and was among the thousands of young Canadians buried in France.

They gave us the country we enjoy today.

## Did you know....

That in the 60's there was rifle range at Humberside as well as Army Cadets! Of course, those of you who were there at the time know this, but I was surprised to read about it. The range was located in the basement. The Army Cadets was a volunteer activity as well as was the range. These two activities were only around for a few years. Below is an article taken from the 1963 Humberside yearbook about the cadet program and a few words from some who participated.

### Rifle Range

*For those of us that were born in the late 40's or 50's we grew up playing cowboys and Indians, made pretend sticks into rifles and enjoyed spending time playing cops and robbers. We all has cap guns and has six shooters in holsters. As we grew up we graduated to Daisy BB and pellet guns. So when we got to grade 9 we were introduced to cadets.*

*Under the strict instruction of Mr. McCallum, we were introduced to converted British 303 Enfield rifles, used in past wars and converted into 22 calibre. In the basement of the high school was a qualified shooting range where there was excellent supervision. Here we were taught proper gun safety and the many different positions in which to aim.*

*In the field we had proper drill with rifles, "present arms" at ease. What an experience to obtain the proper respect of the rifle under such instructors.*

*It is a shame that such opportunity does not exist today. Thank you Humberside for this different type of education.*

*Dr. Tim Milligan, Class of 67'.*

### Military Memories

Over 60 years ago the annual cadet inspection was a dramatic May event. The students of Humberside C.I. poured from the school, to witness the annual march past of the Humberside Cadet Corps. In military uniform, the male students proudly strutted under the command of John Tolton before his dad, Major B.E.Tolton and Principal W.E.Taylor, to the rhythm of the H.C.I. band under the direction of Mr. K.G. Davidson. Airplane to ground communication by the Signal Corps was followed by weapon demonstrations of Bren gun, rifle as well as life-saving techniques, and gymnastics.

The Boys' Rifle Team at the rifle range in the basement of the old West Wing under the direction of Mr. Ralph Haist had resounded with echoing gunfire throughout years before ear protection was mandatory. Interestingly, The Girls' Shooting Club directed by Miss B. Longley and Mr. Haist met every Friday morning at 8 a.m." to learn how to handle rifles and to try their skill with them"

Each summer at least twenty boys from Humberside C.I. received six weeks military training at Camp Ipperwash on Lake Huron, for the princely remuneration of \$100, more than one might make with a summer job.

During the Second World War, Mr. John T. Norris had trained students in the identification of enemy aircraft that fortunately never arrived.

Thom Norris(1952)

### Militia

*One of my most vivid memories of Humberside was on a crisp fall day, when several hundred 'boys" were lined up on the Humberside football field all dressed in wool khaki uniforms, carrying Lee Enfield rifles (with firing pins removed). I think that most of us thought this was one of the 'coolest' things ever. We were not just playing at soldiers, but actually living it.*

*The shouted commands, the marching in formation and the drills appealed to our maleness. This experience appealed to our sense of adventure and our heroic aspirations.*

*Now as I write these words, my first thought was amazement at my innocence. The weight of knowledge of the horrors of war will never allow me to again marvel in uniforms and soldiering. My boyish enthusiasm has been replaced by the most profound respect for those of us who choose to serve in Canada's armed forces.*

*Al Juzukonis, Class of 67'*

## Cadets

The 1963 Cadet Inspection was new to Humberside in many ways.

With the formations and movements basically the same as in years gone by, the rifle-carrying cadets looked more soldier-like. Although the timing of the drill movements was not perfect, Mr. McCallum and the others who assisted in the training can be proud of having accomplished all that was done in such a short period of time.

The inspection was made by Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. Hilborn of the Toronto Scottish Regiment. In his address he commented upon the fine appearance of the cadets, which was largely because of the work of Mr. Thornton who patiently saw that each cadet wore a properly fitting uniform.

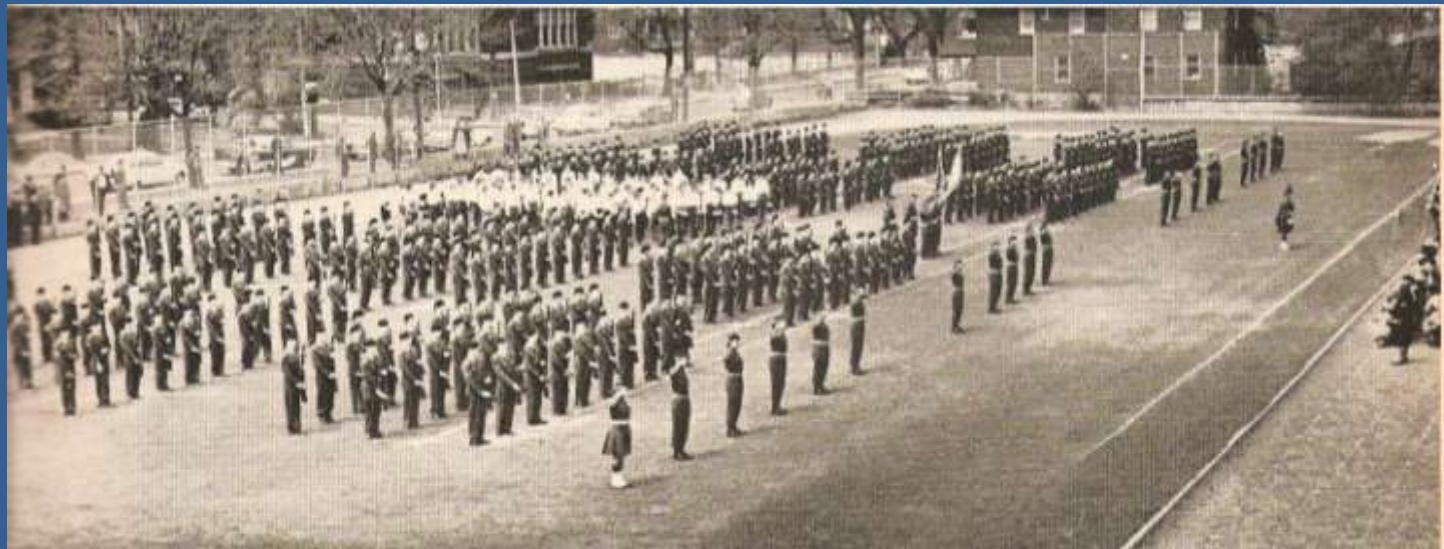
Cadet R. S. M. T. Valie had the distinguished honour of being chosen "Best Cadet" while "A" company under Major L. McCaig was duly recognized as "Best Company".

The most highly organized demonstration period that any of us have ever seen occurred in '63, with bren gun, radio, F.N., and drill lessons being presented simultaneously. The precision of the boys' box-horse team gave a fine example of teamwork that was equalled by the performance of the girls' box-horse team.

Cadet Lieutenant-Colonel P. Trent felt justifiably proud when the Colours were marched off and the final parade was dismissed. He and his 2.I.C., R. Klimowicz, will probably never forget this day when they truly shone as leaders of men.

It will take a lot of work and good organization to surpass Cadet Day '63.

Russ Constable



*Compliments of the Humberside Cadet Corps*

# FLASHBACK...SPORTS

Here are some photos of sports teams from decades past. Enjoy the 60's!



CHEERLEADERS



SENIOR FOOTBALL



SENIOR BASKETBALL



SOCER TEAM 1963



Girls' Senior Basketball Team



# HUMBERSIDE COLLEGIATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Chair- Graeme Dymond

Vice-Chair- Karen Maguire

Treasurer- Bob Savaryn

Secretary- Bob Walton

External Affairs- Donna Rasiuk Tichonchuk

Webmaster- Jim Drass

Newsletter Editor- Jacquie Raidl

(for submissions please email them to [jacqr@sympatico.ca](mailto:jacqr@sympatico.ca) )

## *Final Word*

*Well, I hope you enjoyed this first edition of the year!*

*With the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary coming up 4 short years from now in 2017, I'm excited to see the planning beginning. There will be a survey forthcoming and I urge all of you to take it. It will allow you, the alumni, to give input on what you would like to see happen. Volunteers will also be needed over the course of these 4 years and during the events- A perfect time to give back to the HumberSide community.*

*With each issue we hope to progress with more alumni involvement, whether it be in the form of written material, a photo, memory etc. The more we get the better the outcome. I urge you to support your alumni association by submitting items for the newsletter. With your support we can only grow!*

*I would also like to encourage all of you to pass the newsletter on to alumni who aren't members yet and encourage them to join.*

*Website: [www.hcialumni.org](http://www.hcialumni.org)      Contact: [committee@hcialumni.org](mailto:committee@hcialumni.org)*

*Thanks to everyone who submitted material for this edition!*

*Cheers, Jacquie*

*Email [jacqr@sympatico.ca](mailto:jacqr@sympatico.ca)*