

HumberSide Collegiate Alumni Association



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

As 2012 comes to a close, I can look back with pride on a year of many accomplishments with the HumberSide Collegiate Alumni Association.

We have had two large reunions this year – the class of 1987 and the class of 2002 had their 25th and 10th reunions, and both were great successes. Already, the alumni association is working with the class of 1983, and has been approached by the class of 2003 (one of two that year, due to the double cohort) about assisting in coordinating their reunion as well. It is great to see the interest in reunions growing, and that HumberSide's spirit is continuing to draw people back together.

As well, the HCAA has had a great year in fundraising, and once again, thanks to your generous donations, we have helped raise enough funds to replace half of the seats in the Lismer Hall Auditorium. Some of the seats have already been replaced, while others will continue to be replaced throughout 2013. The coordination of the dedication of plaques is well underway, and is being carefully executed. There is still a need for more fundraising, and would encourage anyone interested to visit hcialumni.org for more information about how they can donate.

We have just upgraded our website, and have begun a project to digitize some archival materials from the school and host them. It is an ambitious project, but is one that we at the HCAA have targeted as a goal for 2013. We still have more work to do to restore Lismer Hall, and we can already see that interest in reunions is growing. I am excited to see what we all can put together as we approach 2017 and get ready to celebrate 125 years of HumberSide history.

Choik-a-tee-hoik,
Graeme Dymond
Chair, HCAA



Message from the Editor

Hello everyone,

Well, fall is upon us, another school year has started and as usual, our alma mater is busy with all the same activities we enjoyed and more! For those of you that were involved in music and want some nostalgia, come out to the Holiday Concert Wednesday Dec 12 at 7pm.

The Humberside Alumni Association would like to say a fond farewell to Principal June Stavropoulos for her many years of dedication and support, and welcome to the new Principal, Lorraine Linton. We look forward to working with her in the coming years. You can read more about June and her time at Humberside in the newsletter.

The Classes of 87 and 2002 both had successful reunions this past year, you can read about them as you scroll through the newsletter. Thinking of organizing one for your year? You should, it was a great experience and I wish we (class of 87) had done it sooner!

A recent alumnus went to Ghana to help.....you can read about her incredible journey, very inspiring and well done Ellen!

Know of an alumnus who has done something different, supported the community or has an interesting story? We want to hear from you! Want to write about a teacher that was a mentor to you, or have a suggestion of one that should be written about? Please let us know.

Your suggestions and participation will only help the newsletter grow!

Thank you for all your support!
Cheers,
Jacquie

Community News

Bloor West Village Cavalcade of Lights

Wed. Nov 21 at Jane and Bloor. HCI band usually entertains at the event.

Visit the Bloor West BIA at www.bloorwestvillagebia.com for more information.

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 or industrialarts@rogers.com.

Alumni News and Upcoming Events

Reunions

Class of 1983- 30 year reunion in 2013, contact Claire Laporte mikerobd8@yahoo.com



MUSIC AT HUMBERSIDE

Here are the dates for the Music events for the 2012-2013 year. Mark your calendars!

Humberside Holiday Concert

Wednesday December 12, 2012 at 7pm in Lismer Hall

Humberside Junior-Intermediate Music Night

Thursday January 31, 2013 at 7pm in Lismer Hall

Toronto Secondary Music Teachers' Association

Sounds of Toronto Concert

Thursday April 4th, 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.



Chairs as they are now

To Make a Contribution Go to:

<http://www.canadahelps.org/CharityProfilePage.aspx?CharityID=SI9211>

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.

Class of 1987 Reunion

When I was reminded in 2011 that it would be 25 years since my class graduated from Humberside, I had to check to make sure it really was 25 years! Hard to believe but it was true. Time for a reunion!

I sent out a post on facebook to see who wanted to help and Noor and Nadia responded with excitement and the planning began. We decided to make it easy on ourselves and choose a pub in Bloor West where everyone could meet and reminisce. We had no idea of who could attend so that was the best thing to do.

It turned out that we had 35 people come! Better than expected and it was great to see everyone. Some of us hadn't seen each other since we graduated and some for many years. To hear the laughter and stories resurface after all these years was awesome. It was amazing to see how much we hadn't really changed!



There were photos from our year books on poster boards and it sure helped to bring back some of those great times we had at Humberside. There were also poster boards with all the 80's trends and music we love so much, the hair!

In 2017 it will be Humberside's 125th anniversary and the class of 87's 30th-time for another reunion!

Thank you to everyone who came out and to Nadia and Noor for helping organize the reunion.

See you all in 2017! Jacquie



Class of 2002 Reunion

Not every year has a 10 year reunion – and even I wasn't too sure if the time was right yet for one as the clock struck midnight on January 1st, 2012.

Was 10 years enough time that people would be interested in a reunion?

As the planning began to mature, and the date of the event drew nearer, I still wasn't too sure. My generation is part of the first wave of Facebook and social media and all sorts of methods for instant communication. What could this night provide for connecting with old friends that all this technology could not?

Well, when the day finally came, boy was I proven wrong.



The class of 2012 had a very successful 10 year reunion, with nearly 90 people showing up to reminisce and revel in old stories and shared memories. I knew that the night was going to go well when, as we met at the Brazen Head pub in the Liberty Village district, I was greeted by the manager – a former Humberider.

The night allowed people to catch up with old friends who, even if they had been connected online, expressed how great it was to see each other again face to face, and to have the opportunity to connect more personally. People shared their favourite memories of the school, where life had taken them, and of adventures that they had since graduating.

In fact, in true 'high school' fashion, when the night wrapped up at 2:30 am., a host of people went on to an impromptu after-party back at someone's house, where the party was kept alive and going.

And also, thanks to the funds raised throughout the night, the class of 2002 was able to raise enough funds to help restore a seat in Lismor Hall, and has together purchased and dedicated one on behalf of the graduating year.

After all of my concerns for holding a 10 year reunion, and whether or not anyone would be interested, I was so pleasantly surprised to see just how meaningful the reunion had turned out to be for so many people. One of the most encouraging things I was told was when several people said to me that they can't wait for the 20th reunion - while some others even suggested holding an annual event!

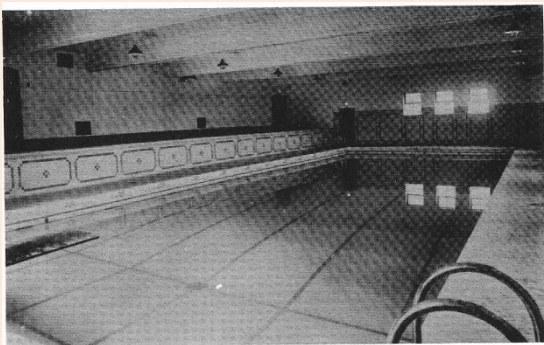
We'll see if anything becomes of the idea of a class of 2002 annual event, but one thing is for certain: even for the younger generation of Humberider Alumni in this modern age of staying connected, there is still room for a good old-fashioned reunion.

Graeme Dymond

Humberside: The Beginning... Continued

Further growth in population resulted in continual accretions to Humberside until the 1930's. It is a story of piecemeal decisions with unfortunate aesthetic consequences. In 1923 a three story structure consisting of six classrooms was added to the north side of the tower. It was reminiscent of the west wing and created an L-shaped courtyard and sun trap. The next year this north wing was augmented with a grand auditorium that rose two stories and was to be the home of the great Lismer mural and the War Memorial window. The new girls' gymnasium was set above the auditorium. The whole façade was set somewhat to the front and off to the west side of the tower that was left to mark the entrance of the school. Once again dormer windows with sharp peaks and supporting buttresses tied the entire roof line together. There was to be more in the next year. In all it was to be a decade of construction. Red brick must have lain all about. In 1925 the northern extension was completed with the construction of six more classrooms set back several feet from the forward thrusting fenestration of the auditorium.

In 1931, classrooms, a boys gymnasium of two floors and a skylighted cafeteria were established in a south wing that seemed to mushroom out of the slope of the ravine. A series of committee rooms and three science rooms were also a part of the project. In the basement a modern "swimming tank" was a significant innovation that is still in use to this day. (when this was written) Only the ceiling has been changed.



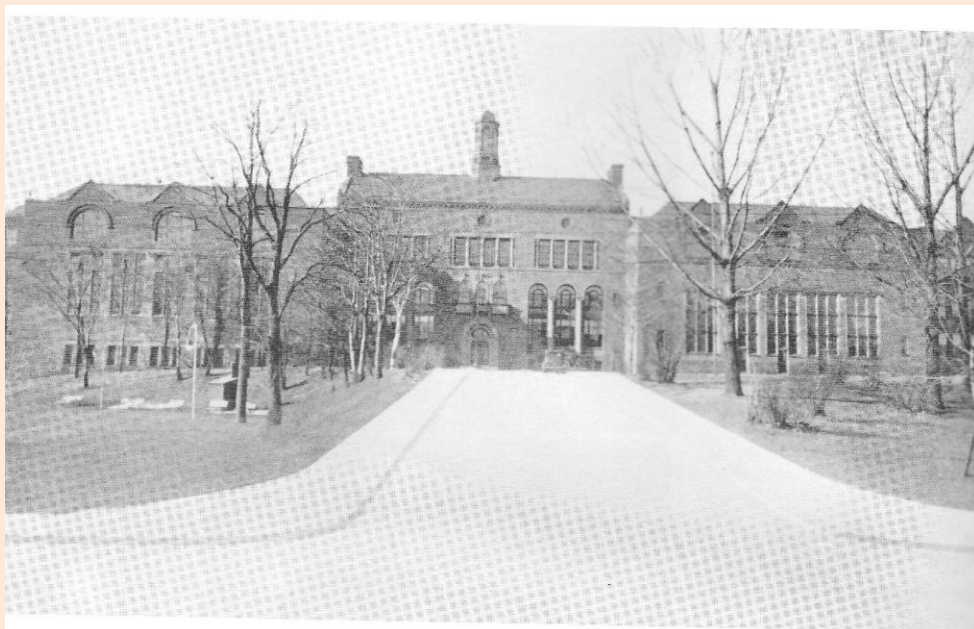
On the Glendonwynne side a castle-like façade of Italianate character was completed. Gothic lanterns lit up an elongated fortress-like elevation of windows that were framed by carved stone spiral columns. A sturdy wooden door with rounded windows above invited or, if you will, discourage casual entrance. The building now had a decided "T" shape with a long front axis of eight dormers and bays of windows and an equally long west section. It must have been a wonderful sight. Schools like this were never to be replicated. This addition to the school marks the sad destruction of the tower and its replacement by a Venetian Gothic centre as an anchor to the whole. It works well visually but the loss of the old tower will forever remain as a thought of what might have been. Some ascribe the design of the brick work pattern on the new front of 1931 to Arthur Lismer. He was at the school at the time creating his masterwork and it is therefore conceivable that he was consulted. Certainly the diamond patterned arrangement of brick has a subtle impact worthy of great art. Perhaps the answer lies at Harbord Collegiate where a similar pattern was included in that front façade which was also built in the same year.

To this day the 1931 center section remains as a powerful evocation of the Humberside of old. Noble Gothic windows above the front door signaled an important function within. The windows across the second floor identified the new library. The third floor windows were decorated with muted Corinthian capped columns. Oculi with flowing garlands set across their diameter identified the attic space above. The first and second floor side windows were tied together vertically by two-storey columns whose firm bases were linked by wooden flower boxes set on a wide ledge. Similar flower boxes were located on all upper windows sills as well. Two tall wrought iron lanterns enclosed the front door arch where the name of the school was firmly carved above.



The name plate arch was held up by columns with vaguely Runic inscription. The demi-lune window had a star-shaped iron decoration closing it in. Elsewhere there were details. Maltese crosses were set into corners. Circular breathing holes were closed in by complex grates. Brackets underscored the soffits. There was even an element of romance. A Romeo and Juliet balcony was attached to the space above the front door. A noble flagpole flying the Union Jack and the Ontario Ensign was surrounded by a circular drive. It was indeed an escapist and Gothic fantasy that would have made Sir Walter Scott proud. On all the upper ends where the roof met the brick on this newly finished school were graceful urns of Neo-classical vein. The cap was the cupola that was to be seen from all around, far and wide. It was the most inspiring school building to be imagined let alone completed. There was not to be another like it in Toronto.

And that is where we will leave it for now.....



Alumni Inspirations

The Yaw Bronya school has no electricity and had no running water. Students were expected to learn how to measure without a ruler, and how to write with nothing to write on. Despite these seemingly impossible trials, both the teachers and their students persist with personality and fervor. The Yaw Bronya community, teachers and students inspired me, and continue to inspire me.

My name is Ellen McDonald and I graduated from Humberside Collegiate in 2009. In 2011, I traveled alone to Ghana to improve the basic education system in Yaw Bronya, a remote village in the Ashante Region. The school is comprised of 11 class levels and 485 students taught by 18 teachers.



Collaborating with community members, the Ministry of Education and donors in Bloor West Village and across Canada, I founded a long-term educational initiative (www.AkwaabaEducationInitiative.com). Our goal is to ensure that every student at Yaw Bronya Kindergarten, Primary and Junior High School has the necessary tools to receive Basic Formal Education, and that their teachers have the supplies to lead them for years to come. In addition, we strive to encourage a sustainable change through a School Management Committee and Parent Teacher Association within the school to ensure the voices of the community are heard at the district and federal level.

On my first trip to Ghana, I had nearly two weeks to myself before meeting with the teachers at the school. I learned far more about myself, the human experience and how deeply rooted I would be in such a far away place for the rest of my life. My experience in Africa made me more real and gave my life deeper meaning. I now recognize every moment as a brand new chance to be the person that I want to be.

Two days after stepping foot on Ghanaian soil I knew that I had a lot to learn before I would be directing any meetings with the teachers. I made it my goal to get to know as much about the people of Ghana as I possibly could in 16 days.

I sat and listened to market ladies and their children and made friends with people from all walks of life. I bought countless cartons of juice and sat with elders on the side of the road listening to stories of old governments as we all sipped from dirty cups. I was surprised by how informed they were. Many of the people I spoke to came from homes with no electricity, yet they were somehow very worldly. Rather than clicking on the television, Ghanaians talk to each other. They simply have a desire to know.

I learned to laugh in situations that were far more difficult than anything I had experienced before and I learned that my unswerving opinions needed to have room to change and grow. They need to be flexible enough to listen and learn.

The people of Ghana lack basic things – things they need and want. Clean water, a stronger healthcare system, and a stronger education system are just a few. While I spent most of my time with the poorest of the poor, I also had the opportunity to meet with a number of affluent people, too. And, unlike many of us, they don't easily forget how lucky they are. The wealthiest Ghanaians still shop at the same market as the poorest Ghanaians, and they aren't embarrassed to pick up a friend from his mud home in the morning. Both poor and rich will take the time to sit and listen to each other, even if they have something to do.



A full year has passed since I first met the teachers at Yaw Bronya, and what a year it has been. In the first couple months, I felt overwhelmed with the possibility of failure to keep the promise I had made to provide the school with necessary materials. I struggled to find words to explain to family and friends how badly this community needed our help. But I quickly realized I was far from alone in my community at home. Together we have raised \$13, 376.91. Many, many people came together for this cause.

We truly could not have kept this year's promise without you.

We've come a long way in this past year. The Ghanaian government has repaired the broken borehole, and the finishing touches are being put on the brand new Yaw Bronya school building, which is complete with a space for a library, headmaster's office and classrooms. We have been able to provide every student at Yaw Bronya with a backpack filled with the tools they need for the 2012-2013 school year. We have provided the teachers with teaching materials that will last generations and storybooks to brighten and enforce their students' education. We have started to see changes and advances in programming and community governance at the school. While this is just the beginning of a very long road ahead for Yaw Bronya, this year brings great hope for the future. We are looking to build a sustainable school community, one that encourages education for both boys and girls, and one that can help the students achieve their goals.

The expression "the more you learn the more you realize how much you don't know," has never rung more true to me. Man, oh man, there is a lot I don't know.

Thank-you Bloor West Village, my home.

Ellen McDonald

Biomedical Undergraduate Student University of Guelph

Founder of Akwaaba Education Initiative



June Stavropoulos: Principal at Humberside from 2004-2012

This past June, the Humberside community said goodbye to its popular principal, June Stavropoulos, as she retired from a long career at the Toronto District School Board (TDSB). June was admired and loved by students, staff and parents. Nobody wanted her to leave but everyone wished her much happiness in her retirement.

During her nearly nine years at Humberside, June ran a tight ship. At the same time she knew how to have fun and encouraged others to have fun with her. Many staff and students have memories of her dancing to “Single Ladies”, sitting in the dunk tank, having a water fight with her staff, helping play practical jokes on “certain” staff members, singing in the Faculty Choir, helping students and staff in the scavenger hunts and the list goes on.



June helped make Humberside a welcoming place for all. She had an open-door policy for all students and staff and always had time to listen and give advice.

June took great pleasure in attending extracurricular activities like music concerts, dances, plays and sporting events. On her retirement, the Physical Education department gave June an Athletic H and a Humberside Letterman jacket for all her support over the years. She was one of the driving forces behind the Lismar Hall rejuvenation project, especially the Lismar Hall seat sale. When she left in June more than half the seats had been sold and, by the summer’s end, recovered and placed in Lismar Hall.

June had a long career with the TDSB . At her retirement party there were people from all stages of her career. All had very fond memories of a kind, caring, and dedicated educator who went above and beyond to help make school a caring place to be.

All of the Humberside community wishes June a long and happy retirement to enjoy with her husband, George.

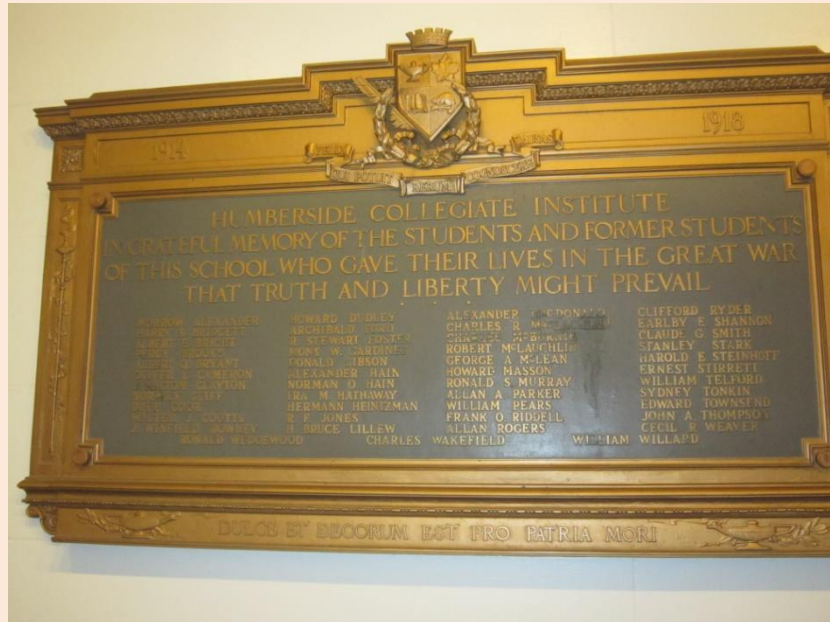




As you read this newsletter, we approach that time of year to reflect and remember all who lost their lives fighting for our country and our freedom and to acknowledge those who are still doing so right now, protecting our freedom and liberty. Hearing stories from a family member who fought in WW II, whose eyes still brim with tears really brings that message home and the proud feeling I have of another, younger member who wants to pursue a career in the military, really brings the message to heart.

There sits a plaque on the wall of the main entrance of the school which we have all passed by without a glance many times that lists those alumni who lost their lives protecting our right to attend Humberside without fear.

On this Remembrance Day, remember to include them in your thoughts as you pause for a moment on November 11th.



In Flanders Fields

by John McCrae, May 1915

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

HUMBERSIDE COLLEGIATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Chair- Graeme Dymond

Vice-Chair- Karen Maguire

Treasurer- Bob Savaryn (interim)

Secretary- Bob Walton

External Affairs- Donna Rasiuk Tichonchuk

Webmaster- Jim Drass

Newsletter Editor- Jacquie Raidl

(for submissions please email them to jacqr@sympatico.ca)

Members at large: Kevin Burke, Perrin Chong, Janet Keele, Thom Norrris, Howard Stanfield, Doug Wighton.

Final Word

Well, I hope you enjoyed this edition!

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!

Wear a poppy this November and remember those who fought for us.

Thanks to everyone who submitted material for this edition and whose advice and help is very much appreciated!

Cheers, Jacquie

