

Summer 2013 Volume 5, Issue 2

# Humberside Collegiate Alumni Association



This photo from the early 1900s shows the original building facing Humberside Ave.

*Felix qui potuit rerum cognoscere causas*

Happy is the person who has been able to learn the reasons of things



## Message from the Editor

Welcome to Summer!

Another school year is finished and everyone is off having fun in the sun, or at least I hope you are!

The history of Humberside will conclude in this issue. I hope that everyone enjoyed reading about the long history of Humberside and its effect on the surrounding communities. In 2017, another historical moment will occur. It will be Humberside's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! Celebration plans are starting to be made. Information will be updated in the newsletter and on the website when available.

The spring brought sports back to the school and many of the teams did very well and will be highlighted in this issue.

The Lismer Hall chair sale is still continuing and I have an updated photo of the chairs. They look great and I think you will be pleased at how they turned out.

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. Your input and suggestions can only make the newsletter grow!

I hope you enjoy this edition.

Cheers,

Jacque

## 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).

## EcoSchools Program

What is Ecoschools? The EcoSchools program describes where action needs to be taken so that schools can have the greatest positive impact on the environment. The design of the program has been informed by the collective experiences of hundreds of teachers, and affirmed by focus groups and best practice assessment. The program consists of closely interrelated sections including leadership and teamwork, energy conservation, waste minimization, school ground greening, ecological literacy, and healthy communities, that mutually support each other in contributing to solutions to the environmental issues that we face. (written with permission from the TDSB EcoSchools program)

Students at Humberside are involved in the program and have done very well by achieving the highest rating available for the program which is the Platinum level! Congratulations to everyone involved!



### **Bloor West Village**

#### **Upcoming Events**

#### **Ukrainian Festival & Sidewalk Sale**

Friday Sep 13 – Sunday Sep 15

#### **Halloween Festival**

Saturday, October 26

#### **Cavalcade of Lights**

Wednesday, November 20

#### **Free Pictures with Santa**

Saturdays, December 7 & 14

More information available at

[www.bloorwestvillagebia.com](http://www.bloorwestvillagebia.com)

### **The Junction**

#### **Upcoming Events**

#### **The Junction Movie Nights Every Second Friday in July & August**

July 5, 19 August 2, 16, 30

Screening Time: 9.30 PM

Location: The Junction Train  
Platform (Dundas St. West /  
Pacific Ave.)

#### **Junction Music Festival**

[www.thejunctionmusicfestival.com](http://www.thejunctionmusicfestival.com)

More information available at

[www.thejunctionbia.ca](http://www.thejunctionbia.ca)

### **Roncesvalles Village**

#### **Upcoming Events**

#### **Roncesvalles Polish Festival**

Friday Sep 13 – Sunday Sep 15

More information available at

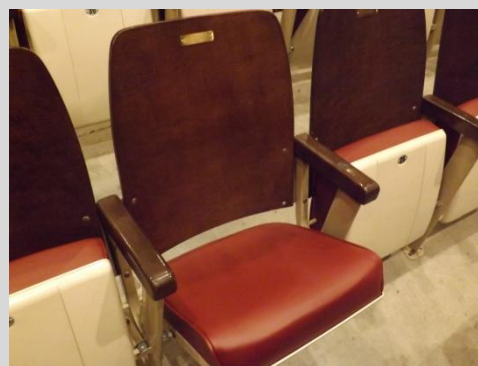
[www.roncesvallesvillage.ca](http://www.roncesvallesvillage.ca)

## *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 are in store for them. Make your history with Humberside permanent by donating \$200 and have your message a part of the school. I had the opportunity to see the refurbished chairs and took a photo, so those of you who have donated can see the beautiful results, and to encourage others to help the school. The engraved plaques are now attached to the chairs.



Before



After

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

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. The curriculum was attacked. The buildings were to be modernized as well. The style of the time was to prevail. It was not to be in keeping with the past at all. The evidence of this sentiment is now all around us. Efficiency and cost were the watchwords. The industrial design ethic of the modern functionalist architect overpowered the classical and collegiate style that had been part and parcel of the school architecture.

The old west wing was condemned. This was inevitable. It was beyond repair and certainly it had become, according to the fire marshall's code, a fire trap. It was the first to be demolished. The creation of a huge empty space to the west of the newer structures at the front allowed for the complete re-allocation of space usage. A new auditorium was to become the heart and soul of Humberside. It was lined with brick, and rose up in two distinct tiers. The stage was wide and the floor was sprung. It had lighting and sound panels to match the new technologies of the time. A music centre was arranged around the outer perimeter of the auditorium block. Air-conditioned music rooms made possible complete soundproofing and no disturbance of other teaching activities. No windows were to interfere with the efficiency and the austerity that were to be inherent to this block. A massive chimney was to dispel all the smoke from the burnt waste of the school. This was to be a very inappropriate symbol which effectively disturbed the noble vista afforded by the cupola of old.

To the south of the music block was the new cafeteria which, although placed on the ground floor, had a generous view over the south courtyard and was lit by the south and west sun. The cafeteria was perhaps to be the only humane aspect of the entire design.



To the north, a science and geography wing of two storeys framed the new courtyard and that was to be overseen by the administrative offices. Long horizontal strip windows truncated by slits at each classroom end provided the only natural light for this section. Cinder blocks on the inside became the classroom walls. Fluorescence was everywhere. The pale orange-red brick exterior was capped by an artificial stone trim that, instead of elevating the building, clamped it heavily to the firmament. A loading dock with steel doors and a solitary driveway framed by a very simple fencing created an inhospitable set-back from the school neighbours on the Clendenan side.

All the interior detailing was lost. Door knobs were changed. Wall furnishings were covered over. Ceilings were lowered to allow for the new and required infrastructure. Paintings and scholarship boards were removed, stored or simply lost. The great Lismer Mural was pulled down, cut up, squared off, partially re-hung and the leftovers dispersed. The Memorial Window was placed on the outside of a storage area and faced the dark, new auditorium.

A new two-storey library, placed in the shell of the desecrated auditorium, was a useful addition. It was the most modern and best-supported in the city. The old library became the new staffroom. The upper part of the old auditorium became a little-used large group instruction room and doubled as a centre for theatre arts classes. A new girls' gym was placed inside the old third floor cafeteria. The old girls' gym became a maze of classrooms for the English teachers. Teaching departments were rationalized. Each department was given a section of the contiguous rooms and an office for staff use. To this day, Humberside has the most rational space organization among the schools of the city.

Parking lots were moved around. A large space was cut off the ravine to the north east. Several houses to the north were demolished to make way for an expansion of the playing field. Humberside had assigned itself the role of barbarian seeking a new Rome to sack.



..Before..



The renovation of 1966 saw the removal of much detail and the introduction of simpler horizontal lines.



In the end, after the construction of 1966-1967, all was squared off. The roof, in many places, was flat. Dormer peaks were removed or obscured. Infill sections abounded. Simple windows replaced the more dramatic multi-paned ones of the earlier era. Some windows were blocked up, some were merely painted over. Humberside lost much of its sight and openness. Visual austerity was the chief characteristic of the decade to come.

In the 1980's an awareness of the old was resurrected. The additions of the 1930's were re-evaluated. How could the school be enhanced? The sesquicentennial of the City of Toronto afforded an opportunity to capitalize on this sentiment. A flowering Tree Park was established. Commemorative plaques identifying the historic quality of the school were hung. The art collection was resurrected and a plan of augmentation was established. The walls of Humberside are now arranged with both old and new paintings by Canadian artists. Every year the art students are commissioned to paint murals on the walls of the school. Their work is graceful, humorous and at times even daring. The Memorial Window has been re-illuminated. New scholarship boards grace the walls. Portraits of principals and teachers and students are found everywhere. The school has re-acquired a sympathetic texture that was

virtually obliterated by the renovations of the earlier decade. The Lismar Mural once again hangs in all its glory. The large group room has become a high-tech computer centre of three classrooms. The remaining space is now a mini-theatre. The school grounds are landscaped. Daffodils poke through the turf and flowering shrubs complement cherry and crab apple blossoms in the spring. It has become hard for Humberside to deny its informal label as the "country club" school.

Recently the School Board launched a study for the year 2000. Each school was assessed as to its future physical needs. Humberside may get a new field house. How shall we accommodate this? Change should be beneficial and gentle.

A school is a delicate organism. It should not be bashed about, torn and rendered. It has a responsibility to remain as an anchor to its students, teachers, community and alumni. Humberside has done this for a hundred years. We must maintain that trust by a judicious conservation of the school fabric. What is done for the moment becomes a memorial for the future.

By Mel Greif with help from Miss Virginia Stevenson and Mr. Gilbert Baker and support material from Krista Gaide, Morley Howell, Andrew Ilkiw, Joan Leeder, Elsie Nguyen, Oliver Scherer, Micah Stickel, and Mr. Dave Swerdlyk.

This now concludes the "Beginning of Humberside". (Excerpt taken from Humberside: The First Century 1892-1992)

I hope you enjoyed reading about the History of Humberside in the last few newsletters.

# Cherry Trees in High Park

Every spring, the cherry trees bloom in High Park. Thousands of visitors from all over come and visit High Park for the short bloom time of the trees. If you have never seen the trees in bloom, I highly recommend in the spring of 2014, you make a trip to High Park. You can monitor the blooming season by visiting the High Park Nature Centre where they watch the trees and inform the public when they will be ready to peak. On the website you can also read about the history of the trees, but I have received permission to use the information on their site for the newsletter. Be sure to bring your camera! Here are some shots from this year.

Jacquie



## History of Sakura in High Park

In 1959, the Japanese ambassador to Canada, Toru-Hagiwara, presented 2000 Japanese Somei-Yoshino Sakura trees to the citizens of Toronto on behalf of the citizens of Tokyo. The trees were planted in appreciation of Toronto accepting re-located Japanese-Canadians following the Second World War. Many of these trees were planted on the hillside overlooking Grenadier Pond (southwest of the Grenadier Café) and around the east shore of the pond.

In 1984, a grove of Japanese cherry trees were planted along a pathway west of the Children's Adventure Playground in High Park. The trees were donated by Yoriki and Midori Iwasaki as a special gift to the people of Toronto and "a joyful symbol of life".

Through the Consulate General of Japan in Toronto's "Sakura Project", 34 Yoshino 'Akebono' and Kwanzan 'Fugenzo' Sakura trees were donated to High Park in 2001 on the east shore of Grenadier Pond near the Maple Leaf garden. In 2006, 16 additional Yoshino Sakura trees were planted near the original 1959 planting site.

Plaques commemorating each of the plantings can be found under the cherry trees in High Park.

High Park Nature Center website is [www.highparknaturecentre.com](http://www.highparknaturecentre.com)

# *In Memoriam*

David McNaught  
Phys. Ed. teacher and swim coach

I attended Humberside from 1962 until 1967 and during that time had the privilege of being coached, and taught, by Dave McNaught. There were many early morning practices and many swimming events lead by a special person, someone who had a “zest for life”. David passed away on May the 8th after a long 5 year battle with colorectal cancer.

While in school Dave was loved and respected, and although not large in stature, he had a Vulcan death grip, that could put the largest football player in place. After graduation there were decades where I did not see him, but somehow we got together and over the last few years have enjoyed lunches along with a beer to enjoy conversation about life.

I grew to know Mary Ellen, his soul mate, and learn about their cottage on Lake Huron and their place in Collingwood, as well as Humber Valley United Church where they were both involved. Although Dave underwent many surgeries related to his cancer, he was always so positive and appreciated the help of Mary Ellen. He remained physically active, thinking of their next trip or researching restaurants he wanted to try out. When I heard that Dave had passed, I was saddened as I wanted to get together for another lunch and enjoy his special energy. I was not surprised that two weeks prior he was working out, and had enjoyed time in April in the Florida Panhandle and New Orleans.

On Thursday May 16th, there was an amazing celebration at Humber Valley United. When I arrived, there was no seating available - the entire church was full. I found a spot in the balcony to enjoy the warm loving words of his wife, family and friends. What I took away was something special - “LIVE IN THE MOMENT”.

A reminder to go out and enjoy the day and make sure you spend time with people you love.

Respectfully submitted by Tim Milligan.

Dave is in the front row, 2<sup>nd</sup> from the right





# SPORTS at HUMBERSIDE

Choik-atee-hoik Huskies Nation! Choik-atee-hoik!

Athletics and sports are a big part of Humboldt and while we can't bring you news on each and every one each issue, we will try our best. Focusing on specific sports and their impact on the school will be a large part of that. This issue it is all about RUGBY!

Rugby has been a part of the sports culture at Humboldt for a long time. When the first issue of Hermes came out in 1926, Humboldt athletes from the earlier years were asked to contribute their recollections of the turn of the century sports. From the "Humboldt, The First Century 1892-1992" book article written by John Casey about Men's Athletics, is the following excerpt contributed by Art Walton and Ralph Silverthorne about Rugby.

"Art Walton's memories were of 1903 and our first rugby team. The idea for a rugby team came from student Henry McKillop, recently emigrated from England, and who had brought with him a rugby ball and a uniform. Walton recalls playing two winless seasons: *"Oh boy! What a terrible team, but during those years the foundation was laid for the great teams that have represented the school since that time."*

As a Humboldt athlete of that same era, Ralph Silverthorne, (92 when this article was written) described his vivid memories of rugby games he played in during his years there from 1916 to 1920 when as a student he commuted daily by train from his family farm on Dundas Street at Etobicoke Creek. As Ralph recalls, rugby had developed into the main high school sport of the period. The home games were played on the field at the school's north end, the same one in use today. And the traditional opponents of Ralph's day are still familiar names - Harbord, Parkdale, Oakwood. The student body always turned out in large numbers for games and the cheering was loud, although then without exhortations from cheerleaders, whose time had not yet come. As well, schools wore no official uniforms. Ralph recalls rugby games in which he played for Humboldt around 1916. Being tall, though quite thin, he was assigned a ball-carrying role by his coach, Mr. Clarke. The games were played without helmets; injuries were inevitable and often severe. In one game Ralph ended up with a badly split lip, to which Clarke was ready to apply a sewing needle and ordinary white thread to speed up Ralph's return to battle - until Ralph decided otherwise!



The header above appeared in one of Humboldt's earliest yearbooks, when rugby enjoyed tremendous popularity as a high school sport.



Above, a picture of the 1927 Junior Rugby team, which made it to the Junior Finals, played at Varsity Stadium. Standing at the very left is coach 'Streak' McLellan. The player to McLellan's immediate right is Al Schreiber, to whose right Jack Milling appears. The sixth Rugby player from the left is George Watson, and the player standing at the very right is Izzie Usprich. Kneeling in front are, from left to right: Ralph Stubbings, Ev Sissions. The fourth player from the left is Bill Leachman; team captain Gordie Brydson holds the ball and to his left are John Casson, Gordie Turner and B. Powell.

In my memories from the 80's, Rugby was still a large part of the school team spirit and we had a visiting school team in from Winchester, England who were travelling to schools across Canada giving a demonstration of the sport. They were billeted by Humberside families for their stay. I have recollections that they had a lot of fun while visiting Humberside and interacting with the team.



HCI's 1987 Rugby team



## Now for some current Rugby News

Isaac Bowman, captain of the team and Senior Athlete of the Year writes:

This year Humberside fielded a rugby sevens team with very little experience. The majority of the team had never played a sevens game before, with most of the experience coming from fifteens. However, this didn't stop the senior boys made up of only grade twelves. Starting off with an exhibition game against Oakwood CI, the Huskies used as a learning experience, and won. Next up was the first tournament held at David and Mary Thomson which the Huskies won three and only lost one. They were a fairly confident group and with a much better sense of the game felt ready for the second tournament to which they advanced. Unfortunately, luck was not on their side, and they finished a disappointing one win and three losses. Overall everyone enjoyed the season. It was one of Humberside's best as far as rugby sevens goes. Come spring, all but one sevens players returned for a fifteens season; however due to lack of commitment there were not enough numbers to field a team.

## Dave Johnson, coach of the Rugby team

My perspective going back to my first year at HCI- 1999.

As an inexperienced Rugby coach I took on the job of coaching the senior rugby team that first year to keep the program going. As expected there were great senior leaders that year and they made the job easy, and it was a fun year. Throughout the years, gaining experience through Rugby Canada coaching clinics and with the help of outside coaches (parents of players experienced in rugby) the program has developed from having just one team to fielding both junior and senior 15's in the spring season and over the past number of years either a junior or senior 7's team in the fall. One group even had the opportunity to go on a March Break tournament in Bermuda. It was a small 7's tournament and a couple exhibition 15's games. We did well in the tournament and with that group went on to win the Tier II TDSSAA championship.

Over the years we have had strong seasons in both Junior and Senior divisions at the Tier II level, but have had difficulties over the last couple of years making the jump into the Tier I level. The athletes work hard but unfortunately we just don't have the same level of experience with other schools that have a number of athletes also playing club rugby. The athletes continue to work hard setting the goals for success at the Tier I level and more and more players are going on to play club rugby.

Thanks to Bill Brown we have an affiliation with the Nomads rugby program. Bill helped coach while both his sons, Danny and Ryan, attended Humberside and has continued his commitment to the program ever since. During those years Steve Ralphs helped coach as well while his sons, Tim and Iain, played. I would also like to recognize the efforts of Stuart Cowan over the last several years. His son, Charlie, will enter HCI this coming year.

The development of the program has also seen girls' rugby over the last several years thanks to the leadership of Darcie Vujacic, and the support of two other teachers, Andrew Mancini, and Julie Hoang (as well as various women's Nomad coaches). The girls' team has had success winning a Tier II championship as well.

Both programs this year had teams developing their skills in hopes of building on their experiences for better performances in the future. Unfortunately, this was the first year that we couldn't field a senior boys' 15's rugby team, but with the experience of the senior seven's senior and this years' junior players we look forward to again having a full program next year.

For **Ultimate Frisbee**, it was the first time we had two teams place in the playoffs. Our Tier I team lost in the regional semi-finals to Northern. In the Tier II regional final, our team came in second overall.

**Varsity Boys' Lacrosse** won the district semi-final vs. Birchmount Park 10-9 in OT at Lakeshore CI. The team advanced to the Tier 1 City Championships vs. Malvern later the same day, and ended up losing 6-2 to a highly favoured Malvern squad. Liam Burke, Eliot Jung & Brady Hoskins led the offense in both matches.

The **Girls' Lacrosse** went undefeated in their regular season. The team lost to Birchmount Park CI in the District Finals. As the finalist, the Huskies represented the TDSSAA at the Provincial High School Championships (Trillium Cup) in Welland, ON and ended up in the top 10.

**Girls Soccer** went undefeated during regular season. South Region Champions and City Champions. They went on to represent TDSSAA at AAA OFSAA in Windsor June 6-8 and took home the Bronze medal!

**Girls Rugby** had a fun year of rebuilding the team with lots of young, new recruits. The veterans played hard and took impressive leadership roles. The rookies played hard and learned a ton.

**Track and Field** Approximately 70 male and female athletes attended the City Track and Field Meet at Centennial Stadium, May 13 & 14. It was so cold many pulled muscles; it was even hailing at one point. Fifteen

athletes finished in the top four and continued on to Metros on May 22 & 23. Three boys competed June 6-8 in Oshawa at OFSAA: Jack Kennedy, Miles Avalos and Jake Carroll.

**Girls Softball** The Girls Softball Team had a successful, and very enjoyable, season. After finishing 5th in the regular season, they saved their best performances for the playoffs. In the quarterfinals, they soundly beat Harbord by a score of 17-8. Playing an undefeated team in the regional semifinals, they gave Leaside the toughest test they would face all season. Though they lost, they played extremely well against a team that went on to win the city championships. Things are looking good for next year.

Congratulations to all the teams for doing so well!  
Results taken from the "Huskies Highlights" for June

## 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))

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

### *Final Word*

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

*The 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is coming up 4 short years from now in 2017. The survey that was mentioned in an earlier newsletter should be ready this fall 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)*