



"Promoting and maintaining a sense of community among all Riverdallians."

Autumn/Winter

Season's Greetings

December, 2002



**THE SHEPHERDS VISIT THE INFANT JESUS.
MAY YOU BE BLESSED WITH PEACE & JOY AT
CHRISTMAS & THROUGHOUT THE NEW YEAR.**

Century Anniversary

May 11- 13, 2007

THANK YOU for your continued support and help in preparing for RCI's 100th Birthday.

Please join our planning meeting held at 7:00 P.M. in school staffroom on

Mon., Jan., 13, 2003

Tues., June 10, 2003

Wed., Sept. 10, 2003



Principal Linda Grieve Retires January 31, 2003

Thank you, Linda, for your constant support of the Riverdale Alumni Association's membership drive, newsletter, picture restoration and for your participation in our meetings. Best wishes in the years ahead.

June Election Results

The following offices were acclaimed:

President	Diane Carlton
Vice. Pres.	Etty Green
Treasurer	Howard Birnie
Secretary	Alex Fokine
Newsletter	Mick Spillane

The position for **Reunion Chair-Person** is still open.

If you would like to serve Riverdale in this capacity, please contact your Alumni Association and/or come to the next meeting, June 10, 2003.



Congratulations, Alumni Scholarship Winner, Elizabeth Chen

Elizabeth is studying science at the University of Toronto, St. George Campus.



Principal Linda Grieve

We are off to another great year at Riverdale! This year we welcome 330 new grade 9 students and 5 new teachers to our school. We have a total of 1260 students and 70 staff. I am pleased to tell you that two former Riverdale students have joined us as first year teachers - Tracey Bui (chemistry) and Kien Truong Duong (business, career studies). I am delighted to have both of these keen, enthusiastic, young teachers acting as role models for our students. I know they will continue to support the great values and traditions of Riverdale.

Once again, a huge number of teams, clubs and activities are up and running with R.C.I. staff and students fully involved in extracurricular activities. At the time of writing this article we have already won the Cross-country Championship and the Girls' "B" Field Hockey Championship. We are now in playoffs for boys' tennis and volleyball.

On November 15th, Riverdale celebrated the graduation exercises for the Class of 2002. One hundred and fifty students received their Ontario Secondary School Diploma. Sixty-three of those students were recognized as Ontario Scholars by obtaining an average of 80% or higher on their best 6 OAC's. Furthermore, twenty-nine received university scholarships. Truly, academic excellence continues at R.C.I. Thanks to the generosity of our alumni, the Riverdale Alumni Scholarship of

\$1,000 was presented to Elizabeth Chen. Your continued support is welcomed.

This continues to be a time of uncertainty in education. You are probably aware that the Toronto District School Board is presently under the control of a Ministry-appointed supervisor, Paul Christie. We are presently awaiting his decisions to deal with the \$90 million deficit. This will impact on the future status of our outstanding new swimming pool. In addition, this is the year of the "Double Cohort". This coming June, two groups of students will graduate in every high school in Ontario - those in the last group of the outgoing five-year program and those in the first group of the new four-year program. For us at Riverdale, this means we could have upwards of 300 students graduating in June. This is putting great concern and pressure on students who are worried about getting into post-secondary schools and programs of their choice.

Other significant changes are continuing to occur in our own school. At the end of October, we said goodbye to our vice-principal, Andrew Gold. We congratulate Andrew on his promotion to principal at Sir Wilfrid Laurier Collegiate (former Scarborough Board). During his three and half years at R.C.I., Andrew gained the respect and admiration of students, staff, and parents for his warmth, caring, organizational skills, and outstanding talents. Riverdale's loss is Laurier's gain! Replacing him as vice-principal is our own head of business - Tammy Greeley. Tammy has been a teacher and head at Riverdale for the past 8 years. Staff and students were delighted with Tammy's promotion. There is no doubt of Tammy's commitment and love of R.C.I. She will be a great addition to the administrative team.

Finally, I wish to inform you that on January 31st, 2003 I will be retiring as principal of Riverdale. These have been, without question, the best six years of my thirty-four year career. As a student at R.C.I. from 1960-65, my experiences here deeply affected my future career path. Wonderful teachers such as Kay Hoey and Wendy Wright inspired me to become a teacher. Involvement in intramural sports resulted in my becoming a physical education teacher. Ralph Peters provided me with opportunities in vocal music that led to private voice lessons and a life-long love and involvement in choral groups. Don Creighton later became my principal at Forest Hill C.I., and Howard Gotlib (Riverdale Principal from 1984 to 1993) were both instrumental in my promotion to vice principal and principal. I know that Riverdale has had and continues to have profound positive influences on our students. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as principal of this great school. I think of how fortunate I have been - out of more than 10,000 graduates, I am the only one to have had the honour of returning as principal. I hope that, in some small way, I have been able, as principal, to continue to support the values and traditions for which Riverdale has been known during these past 95 years. I can tell you from my long career that, "There is no better school than Riverdale".

I look forward to continuing my involvement with the Riverdale Alumni as we work towards our 100th Anniversary celebrations in May, 2007. My personal thanks and appreciation to all the staff, students, parents, alumni and community members who have made my time, as principal of Riverdale, the highlight of my career.

Sincerely,
Linda Grieve.

Riverdale Alumni Association

Howard Birnie

Our association has now grown to 627 members. There has been a consistent increase the past two years due to the wider distribution of the newsletter, the school web site, e-mail communications via Classmates.com and, of course, word of mouth. The life-time membership fee (only \$25) enables us to provide this newsletter to bring Riverdaliens together. It furnishes information regarding future events and news concerning alumni. It also gives you an opportunity to learn what is happening at today's RCI. If you have not yet joined, please consider doing so and let us know about other fellow alumni whom we could include on our mailing list. Support your alumni association; join now. **Please complete newsletter insert and mail, along with life-time membership fee of \$25.00. Do this now we need your support!!!!**

NEW MEMBERS

David Burley	1970
Bill Caldwell	1956
Hon Chiu Choi	1988
Meghan Earley	1980
Helen Eliopoulos-Alphonso	1981
Indura Gangasingh	1974
Barry Haldam	1976
Jim Hannah	1955
Eric Hui	1997
Walter Jones	1950
Tim Kuboniwa	1985
Alex Lee	?
Joyce (Smythe) Mason	1961
Herman Mayers	1976
Stanley McDowell	1946
Diane (Bates) McStay	1963
Allan Meuisi	1985
Helen (Kenyon) Milligan	1943



Remembering the '50's

Jocelyn Johnson, Marcia Ogilvie, Gail Chapman,
Maggee Brown, Dorothy Vernon, Terry Dinsmore,
Bob Halland, Gerry Jannett

Yong-Sam Park	?
Margaret (Vincent) Philip	'39
Robert Philip	1939
Herbert Sorensen	1948
Joan Berry) Waite	1950
William Wonders	1942

WHERE ARE THESE LOST ALUMNI ?

Douglas Cook	1967
Eleanor (Saunderson) Deyell	1946
Carol (Martis) Drisdelle	1961
Marietta (Kaempfer)Evans	'69
Marjorie Faudemer	1953
Donna (Luce) Gracey	1953
Helen(Brimblecombe)Gibb	'66
John D. Grills	1961
Michael Johnston	1987
Vivian Kirkpatrick	1935
Jean (Wells) Lockerbie	1947
Clifford Relf	1975
Ann Scott	1964
Ling Won	1987
Eddy Wong	1979

If you have a current address for any of the above, please contact Howard Birnie at (416) 485-1848 or <hwbirnie@sympatico.ca>



Vice Principal Clark Retires

Dave Clark's teaching career began in 1966 at HumberSide C.I. where he taught Physics and Chemistry. In 1977 he moved to Northern S.S. to become department head; later in 1986 he was promoted to vice-principal and in 1994 was appointed Vice-principal at R.C.I. Working at various schools, Dave felt that Riverdale stood out because of the variety of ethnic backgrounds and the enthusiasm on the part of the students for academic excellence, sports involvement and club participation, coupled with a "staff that is really amazing in energy and professional dedication". All the best, Dave, as you work on your golf game, visit family in British Columbia and enjoy a well-earned retirement. M.S.



Gary Ellis, '75

Riverdalian Gary Ellis was born and raised in Toronto and grew up in one of the larger public housing projects in the city. His life was greatly influenced by people from all walks of life, especially schoolteachers, church leaders, athletic coaches and others who took time to care and provide encouragement. For Gary, academics did not come easily; but his quiet resolve and determination both in the classroom and on the football field, coupled with a strong faith in God and a profound desire to be of service to his community, augured well for the future of this, then, young person.

Currently Metro Toronto Police Department Staff Inspector Gary Ellis is officially seconded with the F.B.I. Gary has had a varied police career that has spanned 24 years. He has integrated his policing career with his volunteer work in the community, directed mostly at youth, and was a recipient of the City of Toronto Volunteer Award in the year 2000. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy where he was the first non-American to be selected as valedictorian. He holds many other prestigious honours and awards for his police work and volunteerism.

He is currently pursuing his Doctorate in Education at the University of Toronto as well as juggling his responsibilities with family, work, and volunteer activities.

He has been on the Board of Youth Assisting Youth for the last year and feels strongly that our future lies with providing youth at risk with positive role models and giving them every opportunity to succeed.

Gary believes the smartest thing he ever did was marry his Riverdale sweetheart, Cathy Rahumeel, '75, twenty-four years ago. Cathy and Gary have a sixteen-year-old son Tyler.

Community involvement, life long learning, and striving to make the world better have been and continue to be the hallmarks of Gary's life, and we are all the recipients of his largess of spirit and commitment to excellence.



**Lilian (Markham) Salter, '37
& Daughter Barbara Patterson**

In 1940, modern-languages student Lilian Markham (BA 1941 UC) was awarded the Italian Prize, a gift from Italy to a U of T student exhibiting a talent for this romantic language. The award, however, was never presented to her as the Second World War was underway, and she left for service duty with the federal government in Ottawa.

Fast-forward 61 years to Oct. 14, this year. Lilian (now Lilian Salter), 82, is finally presented with a plaque from Dal Piaz, the associate to the consul general of Italy posted in Toronto. She is also awarded two books on Italy from the department of Italian Studies. "Lilian was bowled over when she found out we had arranged for her to finally receive her prize and really touched that Olga Pugliese, chair of Italian Studies, U of T, did so much to make sure this award finally found its way home to her," says Anne Urbancic, senior lecturer in Italian Studies.

Lilian has been no stranger to U of T: after the war, she held several administrative positions on campus. She retired in 1984 as supervisor of examinations at the Faculty of Arts and Science.

Lilian shared with us her thoughts on her days as a Riverdale student in the 1930's:

"When I was a student at Riverdale, one of the really bad offenses was chewing gum in class! Mr. King always insisted that the offender not only remove the gum but also take it over to the corner of Gerrard and Jones and throw it down the drain. He usually commented at the same time, "The only difference between a boy chewing gum and a cow chewing its cud is that the cow has a thoughtful look on its face."

"For three years Mr. King stayed after school to prepare us for the senior matriculation in Greek. He was always a caring and enthusiastic teacher whom I remember both for his dedication to teaching and his sense of humour."



RCI Cheerleaders, 1950

When I attended Riverdale from 1946 to 1950, R.C.I. provided a solid, rigorous and challenging education, which also included opportunities for participation and growth in sports and the arts. I particularly enjoyed my experiences as a choir member and as a cheerleader. It is to the credit of Riverdale that in the 1940's, when I was one of only three Afro-Canadians in the school, I was chosen as a cheerleader. The courses I took in Latin and French and in German as an extra subject, provided an excellent background for my college language study and graduate studies in anthropology. They continue to serve me well today when, as a senior, I have embarked upon the career of vocal recitalist performing European art songs and arias in French, German, Italian, Spanish and English, as well as African American spirituals.

Despite the fact that I left Canada for college in the U.S. and have remained there, I have kept in touch all these years with an alumna friend, Joan Thompson Fuller and her husband, Gord, also an alumnus - a testament to the enduring spirit of Riverdale for,

“There is no finer school,”
Joan (Berry) Waite, '50.



Outstanding Riverdale Football Player Ron Stewart, '52, Excelled in C.F.L. in 1960's

News from the Websites

Karin Normann

The good news is that our Riverdale Alumni website is getting a brand new look. We are updating and modernizing it. There will be a **“Where are they now?”** section, where we invite you to look for old school chums. Another feature we would like to add is **“Do you still have your old Riverdale Reveilles?”** A lot of people have lost their yearbooks and would be happy to just get a copy to relive old memories. The bad (not really so bad) news is that it's up to me to write the text for this new website.

This is where I need your ideas and suggestions. Please write to me at <karin_normann@hotmail.com> or call me at (905) 827-5163 with any helpful hints you might have. At <www.classmates.com> more people have signed up and many people have left. I won't bore you with the numbers this time. Sufficed to say, there are 1479 Riverdalian signed up at this time. One thing, that is a mystery to me and a few other friends I have made on the Classmates website: - some people sign up with Classmates, I send them a little message about the Reunion and the Alumni, they don't answer and some don't even read my note. Come on people, we need all of you! **2007** will be here before you know it! There was an ultimate 1980's Reunion in Toronto on Nov.15th for all the highschools as announced on the Classmates.com Message Board. Caroline Pahis from East York Collegiate organized it. 210 people showed up and had a great time dancing to the '80's tunes and meeting some real live DJ's from the "80's.



THE FABULOUS FIFTIES

Mereen Thompson, Norma Henderson,
Pat White, Pat Craig

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

Preston Woodward 1925
George Bird 1938
Ross Sneddon 1953



Pencil Sketch by KienV. Duong

**Christmas Auditorium
Seat Sale**

Diane Carlton

Solve the problem of what to buy for the person who has everything: **Buy Them a Seat in the Riverdale Collegiate Auditorium.** Or you may want to buy a seat for that special friend who shared those wonderful high school years. Or you may want to honour that teacher or person who had a great influence on your life. Whatever the reason, you may buy a polished brass engraved plaque and have it installed permanently on the back of an auditorium chair. This plaque will bear the name and year of the individual you wish to honour.

Fill out the enclosed insert; make out your cheque to the Riverdale Collegiate Institute Charitable Foundation for \$100 for each seat that you wish to purchase, and mail it to the school. You will receive an official tax receipt for income tax purposes. We will advise the person(s) of your choice - if you wish - that you have honoured them with the placement of the plaque. **Your donation will go to the Alumni Scholarship Fund and will also assist your Alumni Association in preparing for Riverdale's 100th Anniversary Celebration in 2007.**

Thus far 136 special people have been remembered with a seat in Riverdale's auditorium. Some of the comments we have received are printed below:

"Betty was my best friend who passed away shortly after graduation."

"Timothy Stone - For exemplifying the true spirit of Riverdale."

"John Ford - In memory of a wonderful friendship and shared commitment to activities for student growth and learning."

"To our mother and father for their support, guidance, love and friendship."

"Birthday present for my brother."

"Dawson Woodburn - to recognize a truly great teacher."

"To commemorate our time at Riverdale and to say, "Thankyou, Riverdale for all the great memories"."

The committee recognizes with appreciatio the following recent donors:

- | | |
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**Published twice yearly
by
Riverdale Collegiate
Alumni
Association,
1094 Gerrard St. E., Tor.,
ON M4M2A1 .
(416) 393-9820
fax: (416) 393-0988
<http://schoolstdsb.on.ca/
riverdale>**

**Sent to over 1000 alumni,
friends
& associates of the Institute.**

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