



Autumn/Winter

Season's Greetings

December, 2003

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. 12, 2004
Tues., June 8, 2004
Wed., Sept. 15, 2004

Centennial Booklet
Submission Deadline:
December 31, 2005

Please submit pictures, anecdotes, sections, etc by **December 31st, 2005**. We will not be able to include materials submitted after this firm date.

Please, if possible, clearly identify and print names and dates on anything you send. We will make every effort to return your materials upon request.

We need your stories and pictures and comments to make the booklet reflect life during your Riverdale years.

Also, if you have large, old pictures, we would very much appreciate receiving them. We are putting together a beautifully framed collection depicting life at RCI during her first century of service to the community and will feature collection in 2007.



NATIVITY

Marten de Vos
 (1532 - 1603)

“Rex pacificus magnificatus est, cujus vultum desiderat universa terra.”

(Psalm, Dixit Dominus)

“The King of Peace, Whom the whole earth desireth to see, hath shown His greatness.”

And may we all know joy, calm and happiness in 2004.

R.C.A.A. PRIVACY POLICY

Jim White, '65 developed a draft policy governing the privacy rights of our members and presented it for discussion at our September 10th meeting. Please take a moment and examine the draft. **Forward your comments to Jim**

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 416 741-6178

<jwhite.jsw@rogers.com>

RCAA Privacy Policy (Draft)

The Riverdale Collegiate Alumni Association (RCAA) respects and protects the privacy of all individuals who have any dealings with the Association. Individually identifiable information about you is not wilfully disclosed to any third party without first receiving your express and specific permission, as explained in this Privacy Policy.

What Information Do We Collect?

The RCAA will collect unique information about you (such as your name, address, phone number, e-mail address, year of graduation etc.) only when you specifically and knowingly provide such information. In addition, any anecdotal information that you specifically and knowingly provide may be collected. From time to time the RCAA may conduct surveys of its

membership for specific purposes. The purposes of the surveys and the use of the information provided by the participants will be communicated before any survey is done.

How Do We Use The Information Collected?

The RCAA will use the unique, identifiable information about you only for the purpose of facilitating communication between the RCAA and you. Specifically, the information will be used on mailing lists for the distribution of newsletters, specific Riverdale promotional materials, and/or announcements.

Any information collected through surveys will be used in reports only on an aggregate basis. No personal, identifiable information will be released in any reports or analyses without the express and specific permission of the individual concerned.

With Whom Does The RCAA Share Information?

The RCAA will not share or sell any unique or identifiable information with any person or organization without the express and specific permission of the person or persons concerned.

Specific reports or analyses may be divulged publicly, but will contain only aggregate information that will not identify any individuals without their express and specific permission.

RCAA Website and Links to Other Sites

Any personal and identifiable information provided to the RCAA by you through the use of the RCAA website will be treated as described above.

Should you link to any other website from the RCAA website, the information that you provide to the linked websites will be governed by the Privacy Policy of those websites.

Changes to the Privacy Policy

The RCAA may decide to change this Privacy Policy from time to time. If and when we do, we will post those changes on the website and communicate the changes through the newsletter so that you are always aware of the information we collect, how we use it, and under what circumstances we disclose it.



Not Just a Virtual Classmates Meeting

Karin Normann, '59

Our new Alumni website was supposed to be up and running by September 1st. I apologize for the delay. I was surprised that I received no comments or suggestions about the site:

<<http://www.web.net/ericnh/rcaa/>.

Is it really so perfect? .

On a personal note and the reason that the website has been delayed: I just came back from a two-month holiday in Europe. While there, I looked up a Riverdale friend, whom I had met earlier on Classmates.com.

The generosity and hospitality extended to me was second to none and was the highlight of my holiday. I highly recommend that all Riverdaliens renew old friendships, make new friends and keep in touch no matter where in the world those old and new friends may be.



Happy Retirement, Helen Brandon & Fran Turpin

Helen Brandon has served RCI since 1981, joyfully meeting the needs of staff and students as Head Secretary for many of those years. Fran Turpin served since 1989 as assistant in the library and was very much appreciated by students and staff. Both ladies will be missed. We wish them the very best.

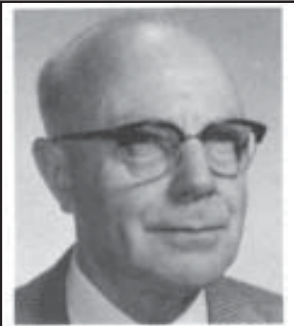
SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Your continued support of the Alumni Scholarship fund is very much appreciated and your Alumni Association says, "Thank you" to those who have contributed. Please be encouraged to support this very worthwhile initiative. Your contribution is invested and the revenue generated is used to guarantee a \$1000. bursary that is awarded annually to a deserving Riverdale graduate to help with the ever-increasing costs of post secondary education.

We would like to increase the number of bursaries offered, and we are asking for your support. You will receive a tax receipt for your gift. Please consider us in your annual charitable donations and make your cheque to Riverdale Collegiate Institute Charitable Foundation. M.S.

Writers In Our Midst

(Editor's note: Newsletters will include excerpts from R. A. H.'s article "Writers in Our Midst" to be published in the *2007 Centennial Booklet*.)



**Col. William T. Barnard
(1897-1992)**

Col. William T. Barnard taught Science at Riverdale Collegiate from 1931 to 1939 and from 1945 to 1963. Although teaching was his profession the military was his passion. "He was very committed to being a soldier," his nephew remarked in 1992. "He enjoyed the military life and the camaraderie that went with it." Barnard first saw military service in 1915, when, as a teenager, he joined the Queen's Own Rifles in Toronto. He rose from private to sergeant before the end of the First World War in 1918; he maintained his military links after the war and held the rank of captain by 1938; he rose from captain to lieutenant-colonel during the Second World War.

Barnard returned to teaching in 1945, but kept his love of the military life and even commanded his regiment in the late 1940's. When it approached its centennial year, he composed

a history *The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada* (1960), and presented a copy to Riverdale. He and Major Keffer led the cadet corps. The corps consisted of two kinds of cadet: the volunteers and the conscripts. The volunteers attended their meetings throughout the academic year and got further training - mostly in target practice and communications - at Camp Ipperwash during the summer. All boys who did not volunteer were conscripted into the corps, dressed in khaki uniforms, and drilled on the grounds just east of the school. But in 1963 - the last year of the corps - one class of conscripts refused to budge from their desks. Faced with a mutiny, the Principal asked the boys why they were shirking their duty to Queen and Country. The answer was not long in coming: the boys felt belittled, they said, because they had not been allowed to shoulder real guns! The mutiny collapsed within an hour.

Barnard peppered his lessons with stories about war. One of them was very effective during the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union. After the Nazis capitulated in 1945, some Canadian officers got an invitation to meet their Soviet counterparts in Germany. The meeting of officers had a festive tone, until two Soviet troops dragged a third soldier into the party. A Soviet officer ordered the man's boots removed in front of the guests, and another soldier

smashed the man's feet with the butt of his rifle. Barnard asked the translator what the man had done to deserve such punishment.

"He was caught smoking while: on duty," the translator said.

"But isn't smashing his feet a bit severe for the infraction?" Barnard wondered.

"Do not concern yourself," the translator replied. "The man will be shot in the morning."

Barnard would always pause at this point in the story. Then turning to the students, he would add "And I knew from that moment (that) we were going to have trouble with the Russians."

Barnard also told stories about the Nazis' love of precision. If the Nazis, for example, had to fire 180 shells in 30 minutes, the gunner would divide the number of seconds by the number of shells and fire one every ten seconds. By timing the interval between two or three shells, a Canadian would know that he could charge for eight seconds, fall to the ground on the ninth second, wait for the shell on the tenth second, then rise and charge for another eight seconds. "Canadian gunners were sloppy by contrast," mused Barnard, "and the Nazis never knew when a shell would fall on them."

He sometimes mocked their love of routine and order. In a Dutch town where Barnard was posted in 1944/5, the same Nazis used to collect copper from door to door on a Tuesday but arrest

suspects on a Friday. The donations of copper were supposed to be voluntary - signs of support for the Nazi war effort - although everyone knew that he would be placed on a list of suspects if he refused to tender week after week. While collecting copper, two Nazis learnt that a Dutchman had been listening to the BBC. This was a serious offence. Rather than arrest him on the spot, they made a note of the incident and took his donation of copper. They returned to his house on the following Friday only to find that the man had fled on the Thursday!

Barnard preferred teaching the boys rather than the girls. In the first place, the boys made a better audience for his stories, Some boys, in fact, would egg him on for most of the period, so that Barnard would have to rush the lesson in the last ten minutes of class. In the second place, Barnard presumed - like others of his generation - that the boys would use their science in industry while the girls would waste their science in housekeeping. He made his bias apparent, when he advised Joanne (Luce) Snowden, a grade nine student, about her score for mechanical aptitude. Her score was exceptionally high. "If you were a boy," Barnard said, "you should become an engineer. But as you are a girl, I don't know what to say to you."

Barnard, once he retired from teaching, worked as the curator of the Museum of the Queen's Own Rifles in Casa Loma.

Amongst the exhibits lies the the cadet corps flag of Riverdale Collegiate.

RCAA NEW MEMBERS

Howard Birnie, '55

To those who have not joined the RCAA, please be encouraged to fill out the enclosed application and mail to Riverdale along with once only life-time membership fee of \$25.00. We need your support!

Welcome new members:

- Mary (Shapardanis) Angelidis, '64
- Mira (Krndija) Baljak, '80
- Bud Brown, '62
- Heide (Linde) Fisher, '65
- Peter Henkel, '75
- Jim Jang, '68
- Ron Lawford, '54
- Lillian (Murphy) Lawford, '53
- Bruce Martin, '59
- Bruce Mather, '53
- Bob Nicholls, '47
- Ken Pearson, '56
- Margaret Pihl, '67
- Ralph Pirozzo, '68
- Wells Renwick, '47
- Daniel Rivet, '64
- Loraine St. Louis, '76
- Roswitha Seliger, Staff 1967-2003
- Jack Seto, '75
- Ingid Sevels, '64
- Velda Wheeler, ?

**HELP! THESE ALUMNI
HAVE MOVED. DO YOU
KNOW WHERE THEY
ARE?**

- Gail Carter, '61
- Marietta Kaempfer) Evans, '69
- Bruce Ewing, '55
- John Grills, '61
- Michael Johnston, '87
- Jean (Wells) Lockerbie, '47
- Lynn (Esson) McLaughlin '59

- Clifford Relf '75
- Liina (Reinhold)Veer '68
- Ling Won, '87
- Eddy Wong, '79

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

AUDITORIUM SEAT SALE

Diane Carlton, '57

THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN SEAT-SALE-SUPPORTERS. WE ALL HAVE SOMEONE WE WISH TO REMEMBER. SO FAR 160 SEATS HAVE BEEN SOLD AND THEY ARE GOING FAST. GET YOURS NOW AND HELP THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND AND THE ANNIVERSARY FUND. A SEAT MAKES A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS GIFT. TAX RECEIPT WILL BE SENT TO YOU. (See application insert).

DONOR: RECOGNIZED:

R.C.I. STAFF JOHN FALLIS

NICK SHCHERBAN
THE SHCHERBAN FAMILY

BARBARA WHITNEY
IRENE & GEORGE WHITNEY

CHRISTINE DOUGLAS
JOHN D. DOUGLAS

RALPH PETERS
GRETCHEN BOHME

R.C.I. STAFF BONNIE DRECHSEL

VIC KATAMURA FRED POLLARD

DANIEL RIVET



**British Veterans (Ron Bidwell, centre) Honour
Grave of Riverdalian, Private Kenneth Irving Austin,
Canadian Cemetery, Beny-sur-Mer**

R.C.I.'s WAR DEAD

Bonnie Drechsel

Staff 1982-2003 (retired Head of Library)

Whether you were a student in the “old” Riverdale building, or the “new”, you probably remember the War Memorial. In the old building, the three large bronze plaques were located in the main foyer as you entered the auditorium front doors. In the new building, they have been placed on the *Wall of Honour* to the right of the auditorium doors. Above the plaques are photos of those Riverdalians who died in World War II. Each day, as I walked to the library, I would see the plaques and photos but seldom really looked at them.

Earlier this spring, in conjunction with a grade ten history class library visit to look at our World War II resources, I decided it was time to focus our research a little closer to home. Veterans Affairs maintains a web site

<<http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca>>

with an entry for each of the war dead in all Canadian conflicts. Students in the class were each given a list of several names from the plaques and were to locate the information on record. Using our school records, which included middle names, we were able to confirm the entries the students found. From this, we produced a Memorial Binder which was presented to the school on Remembrance Day, 2003.

Coincidentally, the Juno Beach Memorial was being dedicated this past June. A small item in a local newspaper put us in touch with Ron Bidwell, a member of a legion in Littleport, Ely in England. A group was going to the Canadian Cemetery in Beny-sur-Mer and offered to visit the grave of any family member who

may be buried there. From our research, we identified one Riverdalian: Private Kenneth Irving Austin. He was a student at Riverdale from 1938 to 1940 and died July 13, 1944 at the age of 19.

When Mr. Bidwell and his legion fellows went to Beny-sur-Mer, it was more than just a visit. They honoured the memory of Private Kenneth Austin, and on behalf of Riverdale C. I., held a memorial service, at which a poppy wreath was laid.

In the photo (below) are almost visible five coins on the surface of the monument, which Mr. Bidwell identified as Canadian coins - perhaps left behind by visitors to Private Austin’s grave. Hopefully this article may be read by someone who knows of any family of Kenneth Austin. Kenneth lived on Harriet Street and had a sister named Patricia who attended Riverdale from 1937 to 1939. Perhaps it would be Patricia’s family who visited the grave and left the coins on the monument. I would like to pass along the photos that were taken of the service at the cemetery, and of course Mr. Bidwell and his legion would appreciate this as well. I can be reached at

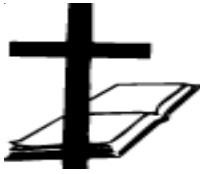
<bonndrec@netscape.net>

or by phone at 905-709-6121.

In the spring, Mr. Bidwell’s legion will be travelling to Holland to the Canadian Cemetery at Groesbeek, which is near Nijmegen. Riverdale has five students buried there: Robert James Orr Hamilton, John Gordon Kavanagh, Harlan David Keely, Hubert Oscar Milligan and William Robert Lloyd Wabb. I have asked Mr. Bidwell to include them in their ceremony.



Riverdale is proud of our long tradition of service and especially proud of those Riverdalians who gave their lives for our freedom. Please get in touch if you have any information about the families of the men listed.



Mr. Joseph Pomanti

1951 - 2003

After a long illness bravely borne, Joseph “Joey” Pomanti passed away peacefully on September 7, 2003 at the age of 52 years in the Palliative Care Unit of St. Michael’s Hospital.

Joey will be remembered by his students, colleagues, friends and family as an excellent teacher of French, a generous and caring colleague and a warmly sincere friend. His affectionate good humour, love of laughter and zest for life endeared him to us all.

IN MEMORIAM

RANKIN “SCOTT” TAYLOR
1957

Recollections of an Old Timer

W.R. “Bill” Pierdon, ‘30

When I went to Riverdale (1926-1930), T.L. Kennedy was the principal. “Skip” Hill was the football coach and C. Arnot was the Gymnastics coach. My recollections revolve around sports. “T. L.” didn’t think too highly of me or my accomplishments. He preferred his athletes to be scholars as



Bill & Greta on a hiking trip in the Don Valley in 1928

well. “Skip” thought I was O.K. When I played for R.C.I., the equipment was not as it is today. Helmets were not mandatory. We could wear headgear or not. I chose to wear a fedora. Ted Reeve was the coach of Malvern at the time, and he constantly coached the Quartermain twins to “get Pierdon”! They didn’t.

In gymnastics we had the rings, the box horse, the pommel horse, the high swing bar and the uneven bars. Most students enjoyed success on all but the swinging high bar. I also enjoyed

great success in track & field, especially the high hurdles and pole vault. I was at the British Empire Games in 1930 which were held in Hamilton, Ontario. I did not qualify because I “beat the gun 3 times” and was disqualified. I also was asked to represent Canada at the 1932 Olympic Games in track & field. I came in third in the high hurdles. Only those placing first and second went on.

Well, you can see academics were not my highest priority in my time at Riverdale. They came in third. Second, were the sports mentioned. My first priority was a certain Miss who kept pulling the blinds (roller blinds, remember them?) down and letting them flap back up again. Greta Wideman certainly caught my attention and still has it today. We have been married 73 years and now reside in Lindsey, Ontario.



My daughter also attended and met her husband at Riverdale, and now both of them are on the Centennial Committee. Lynne & Doug Slade will be at the celebration and with any luck my wife and I might be there too. Continued good fortune with your plans.



Riverdale Retiree Brunch Club, 2003

Left: Walter Lukowsky, John Wardle, Bob Breakey, Ann Cuff, Howard Gotlib, Mick Spillane

Right: John Anderson, George Salter, Olga Shuper,

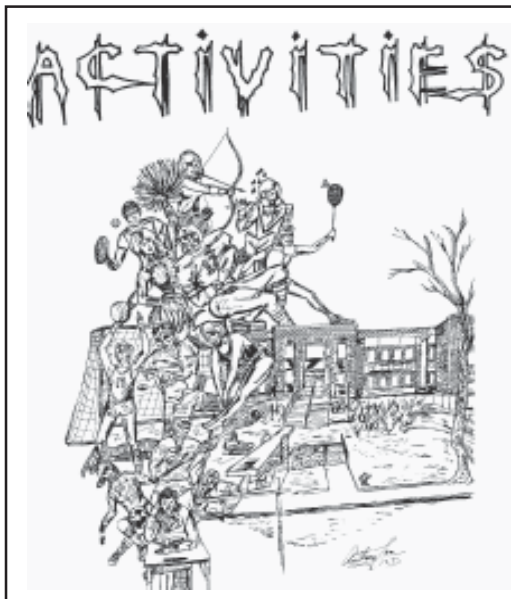
Lilian MacDonal, Linda Grieve, Bonnie Drechsel
 We meet 10:30 A.M. on the last Thursday of the month at Karas's Restaurant, 2024 Queen St. E. **Everyone is invited!**



Riverdale Debating Team, 1993

Back Row: William Chau, Kris Thompson, Kiel Tong.

Front Row: Bonnie Van Toen, Fatema Mullan, Mr. deVries, Julian Holland, Tommy Truong.



Art by Anthony Lam, 1976



RCI Senior Basketball Team Champions-TSSA and TDIAA, 1961

Back Row: J. Tuju, E. Pelss, A. Neidre, L. Neilson, A. Bennett, P. Pallopson, W. Cerovic, T. Vanaselja.

Front Row: C. Paliare, A. Smith, Principal J.H. Couke, D. Thorpe, Mr. Scott, J. Patkowski, J. Elia.

"Fantasy Island"

Hilda Harris, 1976

Waves wildly crashing
 In chaotic independence,
 Salty spray splashing my skin,
 I feel incredibly warm.

The moon in its gibbous
 Delicacy smiles -
 Seeing love come alive in the sand.

Memories slightly dim...
 I need a brighter light -
 Now, I can see your eyes ask me
 But you already know the answer.
 I'm glad I'm here with you... and your
 Smile.



Riverdale Choir, 1954

Under the Direction of Dawson Woodburn

Diane Kinsman, Sheila Wrightmeyer, Joan Chapman,
 Elsie Leitch, Carol Arnott, Joan Allen, Bev Thompson,
 Joan Shadlock, Liz Brennan, Barbara Crearer,
 Joan Tapley, Don Roberts, Albert Evans



Principal Ralph Nigro

This school year began on a very sad note as we lost two of our very own. Firstly, we learned of the tragic passing of Riverdale student, Jimmy Chiu. Jimmy was a very popular grade 11 student who touched the lives of many students and teachers. During the first week of classes, our longtime Riverdale French teacher, Joseph (Joey) Pomanti passed away after a lengthy illness. Mr. Pomanti was a very respected and caring educator. Anyone who worked with or was taught by Joey will remember him with great fondness. Our deepest sympathies go out to the Chiu and Pomanti families.

Our fall term has been very exciting with the start up of our clubs and sports teams. We have more clubs than ever and our sports teams continue to represent Riverdale's fine tradition.

On November 14th, we recognized our graduates at our annual Commencement exercises. Preparation had been underway for many months. A committee comprised of dedicated office staff and teachers committed countless hours that ensured our successful commencement. It was an honour

to celebrate the success of our graduating students with parents, guardians and members of our community.

Many staffing changes have occurred since September. Our warmest congratulations to vice-principal, Tammy Greeley, who gave birth to a baby girl on October 22nd. Replacing Tammy during her maternity leave is Jackie Desnoyers (until mid February 2004) and Marshall Henkle (from mid February to June 2004). Both Jackie and Marshall are extremely experienced vice-principals who are most familiar with the community. We also extend a warm welcome to teachers, Ingrid Resende (Moderns), Sophia Panousopoulos (Phys. Ed./Math.), Jennifer Rashotte (Business), Sabrina Giovannelli (Cafeteria Staff) and Rose Unger (Custodial Staff). Also, Lucy Elbe joins Riverdale on December 1st, as our new Office Administrator.

Unfortunately, we also say goodbye to our current Office Administrator, Helen Brandon and half-time senior office assistant, Fran Turpin who are retiring this fall. Between them, Helen and Fran spent 37 years at Riverdale. Their dedication and commitment to the Riverdale family will be valued for many years to come. Congratulations to both Helen and Fran.

I look forward to another exciting and successful school year for Riverdale community members and especially with the Riverdale Alumni as we prepare for our Centennial celebration during

May 11-13, 2007.

Sincerely,
Ralph Nigro
Principal

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