

RIVERDALIAN

PROMOTING & MAINTAINING A SENSE OF COMMUNITY AMONG RIVERDALIANS

ISSUE 22

RIVERDALE COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

DECEMBER, 2005

Centennial Anniversary May 11 - 13, 2007

*We need your support and
help in preparing for
RCI's 100th Birthday!*

*Please join our
planning meeting:
7:00 P.M.*

School Staffroom

Mon. Jan. 9, 2006

Tues. June 6, 2006

Wed. Sept. 13, 2006

Mon. Jan. 15, 2007

100th Anniversary Celebration: May 11-13, 2007

Centennial Booklet Deadline

EXTENSION:

March 31, 2006

Please submit your pictures,
stories and anecdotes by this
date for Centennial Booklet.



50th Jubilee Anniversary
May Day, 1957

Centennial Reunion Plans Update

Co-chairs:

Doug Slade '59

duglin@sympatico.ca

Linda (Emond '65) Grieve

lindajgrieve@hotmail.com

Doug Hobbs '65

doughobbs@sympatico.ca

REGISTRATION

Howard Birnie '55 has generously offered to chair Registration and will need many volunteers. Please get in touch with him directly (see masthead, p.8) to help in this effort.

ACCOMMODATIONS

We are investigating special rates with various hotels in the East End for our out-of-towners. More information will be available in the June Newsletter.

PUB NIGHT

FRIDAY, MAY 11, 2007

CASH BAR

Will be held at

EMBERS BANQUET Hall

(Located on Warden Avenue just south of Eglington Ave.)

The cost is \$10.00/person and will include free Sandwich Platters, Vegetable Platters, Nachos & Salsa and Pizza Bites.

**THERE IS LOTS OF
FREE PARKING AT AND
AROUND THE EMBERS.**

SATURDAY NIGHT GALA

MAY 12, 2007

CASH BAR

Newly renovated **EMBERS BANQUET HALL** will also host our main social function of the Reunion:

Meet, Eat, Drink & Talk Social

We will be served from various serving stations around the Hall a wide assortment of hot & cold buffet dishes (VEGETARIAN ALSO) and an interesting selection of desserts as well as hot & cold drinks. Tables & chairs will be available throughout the Hall for your convenience. More details will follow in spring newsletter.

cont. page 2

(contibued from page 1)

Registration Fee

Fee is still under discussion by your Reunion Committee members and will be finalized early in the New Year.

The registration fee/order/payment format will appear in the spring newsletter mailed in June.

Reunion Banners

The banners which will be attached on the exterior of the school have been finalized and will be hung in the New Year.

Thank you,

Doug Slade '59

A Very Special 'Thank You' to Alumni & Friends of RCI Who Have Helped with the Newsletter, Anniversary Booklet & Meetings:

(continued from past newsletters)

Akula, George	'74
Chow, Art	'55
Coulter (Chapman), Margaret	'54
Dalglish (Robertson), Shirley	'52
Duguid, Glenna & Brian	'64
Kaiser (Spilchen), Marlene	'62
Kaiser, Ronald	'62
Kapches, Vivian	'70
Langdon, Ken	'39
McDowells	'46
Miyaniishi, Ron	'78
Mogan, Bette	staff
Owen, Trevor	staff
Quance, Lloyd	'59
Romito (Simpson), Linda	'66
Scala, Frank	'72
Shaver, William	'49
Smith, Roy	'24
Strojevs, Ramona	'71
Sze, Elsie	staff
Zhu, Tommy	'99

Reunion Booklet

Update

Mick Spillane

The *Riverdale Reunion Booklet* will consist of approximately 200 pages and be part of the Registration Package, the fee for which has not yet been determined. There will be a limited number of *Booklets* available for sale at the school during the Saturday Morning Festivities at a cost of \$45.00. But again it is stressed that the number available will be limited.

The *Booklet* will have a beautifully designed cover in full colour (likely soft), attractive end sheets embracing the RCI Reunion logo, a Smyth sewn binding, several pages of colour and an assortment of interesting sections dealing with the following areas:

- Principal's Address
- Letters of Greeting
- Expressions of Gratitude
- Principals of the Past
- Staff list
- Riverdale Story
- Aristeia & Awards
- Decades
- Art
- War Years
- Cadets
- Sports
- Library
- Writers in Our Midst
- Drama
- Music
- Anecdotes
- Ads

You'll want this Booklet!

100th Reunion Decade Co-ordinator Needs Your Help

Alex Fokine '80

I regret having to consider giving up trying to organize the various Decades representatives, but I am one of those types of individuals that if I cannot do this job, it is better that someone else takes over. Part of my reason has to do with the fact that my work life has not been very secure. Graduates from the Class of 1980 and later know what I'm talking about, for from my experience the classes of 1980 and later have gone through a lot. I know that May 11-13, 2007 may sound like a long way off, but we do need to organize now so that all those alumni and staff that had any connection with RCI will not miss the 100th.

I know what I can handle and I cannot commit to any more. I need help; I need volunteers to look after the decades; I need your ideas on what should be done in the decade rooms, and I need your energy to implement these ideas to make Riverdale's 100th Anniversary worthwhile.

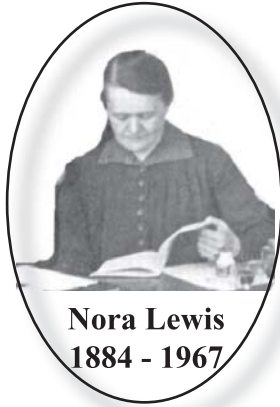
Without anyone coming forth and volunteering to serve their school there will be no decades rooms or anything connected with the decades. We need you now.

Editor's Note:

Alex Fokine has been enormously generous to RCI, giving freely of her time and energy to assure a successful and worthwhile 100th Celebration. She needs your help! Please respond generously. 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



Nora Lewis taught Latin at Riverdale for 30 years and led the Department of Classics from the mid-1930's to her retirement in 1946. Only a few of her students were still alive in 2004. All of them pictured her as a large woman clothed in a blue, brown or black dress and coiffed with a bun at the back of her head. She sometimes wore a string of beads which fell from her neck to her abdomen, but abhorred make-up of any kind, and when, in the 1930's, some of the girls started painting their fingernails red, she made her displeasure clear by referring to them as "sanguine fingernails". By the same decade, she needed glasses --- they had round lenses with thick black frames --- although she always removed them whenever she posed for a photograph.

Lewis loved teaching Latin and liked naming words derived from Latin roots. "The words 'docent' and 'doctor' come from the Latin *doceo*: I teach; and a teacher of theology is a theologiae doctor or ThD." Her students agreed that she was a paragon of kindness

and patience. Barbara (Smith) Wilson, a student of hers from 1933 to 1935, could only recount one episode when Lewis raised her voice in frustration. The object of her dismay was an annoying student who was repeating his year because of indolence. She castigated this student, saying, "Latin will not fall on you like rain!" By kindness, patience, and devotion to her subject, she won the respect of everyone in the class including the nuisance. One incident shows how well the students thought of her. After Lewis was hurt in a traffic accident, she required weeks of convalescence before she could return to work. She eventually returned to school, and the class --- without prompting --- rose and applauded as she entered the room. In the handbook for the school's seventy-fifth year (1982), Barbara (Smith) Wilson recorded another trait of Lewis, her love of hyacinths:

"February during the Depression... consisted of boredom compounded by a dreary succession of classrooms painted in a sickly green with dark blinds and stale air, heavy with the odour of wet wool. Then, suddenly each year, there appeared on Miss Lewis's desk, a bowl of three ... hyacinths. They brightened the room, scented the air, and lifted the spirits of myself and the other 180 pupils for whom Latin was compulsory."

Just as colourful as her flowers were her essays and short stories published here and there under the pseudonym, Penelope Wise. Lewis showed her love of literature in still another way, for she donated, in 1937, \$2000 in bonds to the Toronto Public Library. A gift of \$2000, respectable in 2004, was munificent for a teacher of Latin in the 1930's. Her job provided \$3600 per year, while the average house in Toronto cost \$6000.

Lewis probably got her sense of duty and her love of literature from her father, the Honourable John Lewis,

journalist, senator, and apologist for the Liberal Party of Canada. She was devoted to the man. She served as his cook and housekeeper in the evening, while she worked as a teacher during the day. She lived in the family's house on Silver Birch Avenue, until she reached the age of retirement at sixty-two. After she left Riverdale, she moved further east to Blantyre Avenue, where she succumbed to neglect in 1967. Such was the fate of one who had given so much in her prime. Magistram, auctoram, et benefactoram plaudamus nunc Noram Lewis.



(Provided by Dr. William Wonders '42)

Reveille Yearbook Search

Thank you for your response to our request for help in completing our yearbook collection. We now have most of the books.

According to our records, the 1927 *Reveille* is the first RCI yearbook; no books were produced in 1932, 1934, 1935, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, and 1960.

We are still looking for years 1957, 1958, 1968, 1973, 1979, 1980, 1996 and 1998.

If you have yearbooks for any of these missing years, we would very much appreciate receiving your copy. Thank you for helping us complete your *Reveille* collection.



Jane Robinson '64 & Staff
Remembers Grade 9 Band

Ah, September 1959. The excitement of the start of high school! And the added excitement of playing an instrument! We now knew which one. (For me: "Hold out your arm," said Mr. Robbins. "It's long enough. Try trombone.") Now we were to start. What did we get? A mouthpiece. We were to make squawks. How hard could this be? Well, the next day the majority of the class got the rest of their instruments, but three of us who were "squawk-challenged" were sent out to the instrument tunnel which ran along the side of the auditorium to practise some more with just the mouthpiece. We all finally succeeded and greatly enjoyed the ensuing years in the Riverdale bands.



R.C.I. Staff, 1915
 Mr. Munroe, Mr. Moore, Mr. Michell, Mr. Wren,
 Mr. Rogers, Mr. McKinley,
 Mr. ?, Miss Nicholls, Mr. Dunnett, Miss Willson,
 Mr. Watson, Miss Millar

Shirley (Robertson '52) Dalglish

RCI was the centre of my teenage life and where I turned onto learning and music, made friends, learned about the world and had fun! RCI gave me confidence to face challenges and an insight into who I am as I embraced the future which involved the nursing profession where I worked for 40 years, marriage, family and university. It has been a great life to date and Riverdale was in no small way an enormous contributor to that quality of life. Thank you RCI!



Mollie Christie '31
Shares Family Memories

May I begin by commending you all for your many efforts and commitment in commemorating the 100th Anniversary, an important milestone in the history of Riverdale Collegiate. Also, thank you for sending me your newsletter: I very much enjoy reading all the interesting items and look forward to receiving it.

I am depending on my memory here; so I may be out a year or two on some things.. There were five of us Christies at RCI.

William (Ted) '29 graduated from U of T's Victoria College.

Kay. '30 studied registered nursing at Toronto Western Hospital; joined the Royal Canadian Army Corps in 1940 with the rank of lieutenant and sailed to Hong Kong on October 26th with the Royal Rifles of Canada and the Winnipeg Grenadiers. On Christmas Day, 1941 the Japanese overran Hong Kong and Kay was one of two Canadian nurses ever to be taken prisoner and held captive for twenty months in the Stanley Internment Camp on the south side of the island. Kay survived the war and in her retirement dedicated her life to helping fellow veterans.

Berna '35 also graduated from Victoria College and pursued a career in education as both teacher and librarian, working for both the East York and North York Boards of Education.

James '39 joined the Merchant Navy and served for the war duration. He worked in group sales with Air Canada from 1946 until his retirement in 1980.

As for myself, after finishing Riverdale in 1931, I too graduated from Victoria College and then went on to U of T's School of Social Work.

I hope to be with you for the 100th and wish you every success for what I know will be a wonderful and Happy Anniversary.

Joanne Varty Bullen '64 - 71
Recalls Her Secretarial Years

I was hired by William Darbyshire in 1964. Gretchen Böehm was Head. In those days when Mr. Darbyshire had a Principal's meeting, I had to serve coffee and cookies. It was quite a ritual, complete with "Social Tea" cookies. Gretchen would give me the key to open the special staff room cupboard that contained a lovely silver tray and silver coffee urn. Serving hot coffee on a silver service was quite a daunting experience for a young 19 year old secretary.

I spent many happy years working with Elva Riley, Betty Johnson, Ruth Denny, Betty Malinsky and Gretchen. A few years ago I visited the old school and many happy memories came back of all the great teachers and friendly staff.

Academic Excellence

John Jerkovic '90

Academic excellence is something I began to acquire at Riverdale and at the same time began to realize that there is something special and much more than academic excellence that is part of the Riverdale experience: that special something is the Riverdale spirit which resides in all true Riverdalians - a very special connectiveness that binds us together.

French Memories

Karin Normann '50

It was French exam time and Mr Bremner was in attendance. He paced up and down between the rows and happened to glance over my shoulder to see what I had written. He started nudging me in the arm and continued every time he walked by until I had corrected the two mistakes that he had spotted. I remember how I appreciated his kindness and knew that he wanted to be helpful.



R.C.I. Staff & Students, 1915

Howard Smith '50 Recalls..

Like my Mom I too attended Riverdale and represented the third generation to live in our house at Pape and Wroxeter. My home room and science teacher in the fall of '45 was Lieutenant Colonel Bernard and my music teacher was Captain Dawson Woodburn, both of whom showed up at the beginning of the school year in uniform because they had not yet been demobilized from the army. Bernard was a hell of a guy. His previous job had been as a military governor of a city in Holland after the liberation. Dawson Woodburn was a great asset to the music programme at RCI. Later I had Mr. Bremer a superb music teacher, who at times would become frustrated with our learning skills and would occasionally grab someone's hair. Fortunately for us military brush cuts were in vogue and most of us escaped.

It was a great time and a great school!



Cadet Bill Shaver '50

In 1944 I started grade nine at R.C.I. All boys (except grade 13 boys) were in the cadet corps. Being familiar with Morse Code, I chose the signal corps. The next year I was a drummer in the Cadet Band. The following two years I was in the infantry and was promoted to captain in 1947.

In 1948 Col. Barnard and Major Keffer chose me to be Riverdale's Cadet Colonel. This was a great honour I will always remember.

I had the honour of serving on the Students' Council for every year (Gr. 9-13) I was at R.C.I. and ran for President in

1949, coming in second and thereby became the Grade 13 Rep.

In 1948 I was chosen to represent R.C.I. at the first T. Eaton Co. Eastern Canada Bursary Tour. One male was chosen from each high school in Toronto. This was a great experience and forms one of my many fond Riverdale memories.

A Lunch-time Incident

Willam C. Wonders '42

Those students living at such a distance from R.C.I. that they could not return home for lunch usually brought their lunches with them to school. A large room in the basement of the building was ringed with benches around the walls and here the students sat while eating from their lunch packets. (In better weather some, especially the girls, preferred to slowly saunter along Gerrard Street west of the school where there was a string of small shops, eating their lunches as they walked - and eying fellow students of the opposite sex when they met!)

Teachers were allocated responsibility to patrol the halls during the lunch hour break. The most officious of these was Charlie King as has been noted in recent issues of THE RIVERDALIAN. He patrolled like an ex-drill sergeant, barking out commands right and left. He invariably inspected the "lunch room" where students sat. Near the entrance there was a large bin in which lunch wrappers were to be deposited after the food had been consumed. Usually the loosely compacted wrappers filled the bin and students allowed them to overflow onto the floor. Equally invariably when Mr. King was on duty he would lecture everyone loudly on the need to compress the paper to accommodate all the discards. This was followed by him thrusting his leg into the bin to demonstrate how to compress the contents.

Knowing this habit of his, one day when we knew that he was "on patrol", some inspired individuals filled the bin with water and then floated a mass of wrappers

on top of the water to mask the contents. Everyone sat in eager anticipation of the appearance of Mr. King. In due course he did so, and followed his usual practice of giving us a lecture on the importance of compacting the bin material. He then thrust his leg into the bin and his trouser leg was completely soaked when he hastily lifted it out. The room rocked with student laughter and his face became mottled with surprise and anger - however, without a word he turned on his heel and departed quickly for parts unknown. He never made mention of the prank afterwards, but he never demonstrated his compaction technique either.



George Akula '74

I remember first and foremost the Bible readings over the P.A. system by Vice principal Ralph Peters. Especially fond are the memories of my tenure as Student Council President in my grade thirteen year. The memory of how Mr. Creighton in 1971 arranged the desks of his students to resemble the House of Commons during the F.L.Q. Crisis is a vivid one and one I'll not soon forget. Finally, as an inspiration for good health and self-discipline memories of cross-country-running and orientation on field trips to Claremont are unforgettable. There is no better school than Riverdale!

Roberta & Ken Langdon '39

We first learned of Riverdale's 100th Anniversary in 2000 and wondered if we'd be around in 2007. However, we are still here and now more than ever hopeful of being there!

John "Iain" Majoribanks' Tale of the Famous Riverdale Strike of 1938

In the fall of 1938 Riverdale won the TSSAA Junior Rugby Championship and logically the students felt they deserved a holiday afternoon; so rather than returning to class after lunch, they paraded down Gerrard Street, singing the school song, on their way to Malvern Collegiate, whose team had



Mick Spillane (staff) has coffee with John "Iain" Majoribanks '41 at Sunnybrook Veterans' Retirement.

won the senior title. Principal Walter Graham was not amused by these shenanigans and followed the crowd along Gerrard in his car, urging them to end their strike immediately and return to school. However, everyone continued onto Malvern.

The following day in the auditorium, the striking students were reprimanded by Principal Graham who pointed to a brass plate on the rear auditorium door which spelled



Principal Walter Graham drove up and down Gerrard Street, attempting to persuade the many celebrating students to return to class.

out the term "Push" and explained how necessary it is to "Push" yourself in your academics if you want to succeed in life. At this point one of

the male students got up to go to the washroom and noticed that the brass plate on the outside of the door said, "Pull". He turned to Principal Graham and said, "Sir, the brass plate on the opposite side of the door says, 'Pull.' What you need for success in this world is 'Pull'." Needless to say this brought down the house with great howls of laughter, as everyone headed to class.

MS

Auditorium Seat Sale

Diane Carlton '57

WHAT TO BUY FOR CHRISTMAS?

What a wonderful Christmas present! Memorialize your special individual long past Christmas, 2005. A \$100. donation to Riverdale Collegiate Charitable Foundation will buy you one seat in Riverdale's Auditorium, plaque and all, plus a charitable receipt. But hurry, they won't last long. Sixty-seven more plaques are going in to Riverdale's auditorium. Riverdale's Alumni Seat Sale will help defray costs for the up-coming 100th Anniversary Celebration in May 2007 while at the same time augmenting the Scholarship Fund for Riverdale's graduating students. Please use the enclosed "Seat Sale/Membership" newsletter insert.

Thank you to the following donors:

DONATED BY:

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MR. HARPER
GORDON HUGHES

Address Updates

Judy (Gribben '77) Endacott

Hi everyone!

Our 100th Anniversary data base is at 1650+ names. We know there are many more of us out there; so please contact your RCI alumni friends and make sure they are aware of the events planned for 2007.

I apologize to anyone who tried to contact me since June. As the newsletter went out, we changed our email address due to junk mail. I am now at:

<jendacott@look.ca>

Please check your address label: do we have the correct graduating year for you? Remember, if you left RCI after grade 12, you may wish to have the following year listed as your grad year since that would be the group you traveled with. Please let me know.

If there is no grad year on your label, then we don't have it. It will be important as your year reps will need to know your year to advise you of events your peers may plan. Please get that to me.

We also need your "Riverdale" name. When you send info to me, please include that.

You can also send your info to RCI addressed to the RCAA, if you prefer.

If you are reading this online and did not get a paper copy, we don't have an address for you! It is important THAT WE HAVE THIS INFORMATION so you can be advised of year activities.

Things are moving forward fast!
Contact us ASAP!

Thanks for your help!

New Memberships

Howard Birnie '55

Please join your Alumni Association for the one-time fee of \$25. The funds are critical for the continuation of our newsletter and support of our 100th anniversary celebration.

Welcome New Members:

Barbara Bain	1959
Arthur Blahout	1935
John Booth	1950
Doreen (Lindo) Bowie	1950
Bob Burgar	?
Allan Carswell	1952
Helen (Aird) Carswell	1954
Jim Eliopoulos	1976
Diane (Little) Finlay	1970
Coline Gardhouse	Staff
Chris Glowienka	1979
William Guest	1946
Austra (Kveps) Kirkup	1956
Julie Korderas	1971
Mary Lougheed	1994
Garth MacGirr	1953
Josie (Briante) Marles	1965
Wendy McBride	1964
Faye (Crawford) Mosher	1968
Augustin Nguyen	1989
Donald Quan	1981
Linda (Marks) Reffling	1967
Jeanne (Tinoshita) Robertson	1964
Art Smith	1947
Melvin Smith	1955
Roy Smith	1925
Dale (Leggo) Spraggett	1969
Annie (Klipina) Sukunda	1978
Thomas Veitch	1977
Elizabeth (Reilly) Wells	1951
Anne (Carswell) Wills	1947

WHERE ARE THESE PEOPLE? PLEASE HELP US FIND THEM.

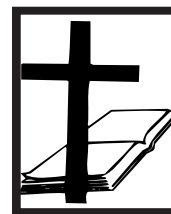
William Borden	1987
Douglas Cook	1967
Elizabeth (Woodbridge) Cooper '48	
Miguel & Karen Da Costa	1967

John Grills	1961
Bert Hamm	1943
Helen (Bird) King	1941
Jean (Wells) Lockerbie	1947
Susan McCabe-Forbes	1973
Mary (Cronk) Millard	1952
Clifford Relf	1975
Janis Symmers	1960
Liina (Reinhold) Veer	1979
Willam Wong	1987

If you have a current address for any of the above, please contact Howard Birnie:

(416) 485-1848

hwbirnie@sympatico.ca



Requiescat in Pace

Dr. Stephen Bedwell '49

Martin A. Davison '36

Marion Ruth (Wigmore)

Hudson

Dr. Thomas Pashby '32

Roderick A. Scott

Ruth E. Sutherland

Principal Kenneth Turner

Erratum

(corrections)

-Issue 20, Dec, '04, p. 7, column 2:
School picture dated 1908
at bottom of page should be dated
1910 (year of addition) or later.

-Issue 21, June, '05, p. 5, column 2:
Ed Bousfield '44

-Issue 21, June, '05, p. 5, column 3:
"Leonard Zvonkin who
taught English in 1946-47..."



Principal Ralph Nigro

Greetings Riverdalian:

It is hard to believe that almost 4 months have passed since I first welcomed back staff and students in September. All of us have been busy at work because there is so much that is happening this school year. On Friday November 18th we held our 98th Commencement ceremony and honoured 184 graduates. We are also very proud of our 81 Ontario Scholars and 38 University Scholarship Winners. We congratulate all of our grads and wish them well in their future endeavours.

I would also like to congratulate our Music, Drama and Social Science Departments for a wonderful and moving Remembrance Day assembly last month. Congratulations also go out to our Junior and Senior Boys Volleyball for winning the SW Regional Finals and the junior girls basketball for reaching the SW Regional Finals. Our student council had another very successful club fair. Riverdale C. I. boasts 45 different school clubs this year.

The 2005 RCI yearbook was distributed in late October and it is a visual and literacy masterpiece. This once again is a credit to the hard work and dedication shown by Mr. Simoneau and the entire Yearbook team.

The Planning for our Centennial Anniversary is moving right along. We are now entering a crucial phase in the planning and organization and we need the support of Alumni, as well as current staff and students to ensure that our celebration is well attended and successful.

To all Riverdale Alumni, I extend Season's Greetings and Best Wishes for a prosperous New Year.

Riverdale Website

Karin (Zahradnik '59) Normann
www.riverdalealumni.ca

This is the new RCI Alumni website. Look for your name on the list of paid up Riverdale Collegiate Alumni Association members. If you are not an RCAA member, please join us. Only \$25.00 for a lifetime membership! All paid up RCAA Members are listed on the website, but we have many more RCI alumni on record. If you are looking for someone you can't see on the list, let me know.

Click on the "Where are they now?" box. Is someone looking for you? Are you trying to find an old friend? Check the events section. Do you have a special Riverdale Reunion event or get together you would like to announce? Let us know.

All the issues of our alumni newsletter "The Riverdalian" and minutes of our meetings back to April, 1999 are listed on the website.

Look over the new alumni website often to stay informed.

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<<http://schools.tdsb.on.ca/riverdale>>

Alumni Web Page:

<www.riverdalealumni.ca>

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friends & associates.**

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